

# Bear focal point of Centennial Plaza

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**Village President Nancy Firfer**

The Bear is back, as “hairy” as he was 82 years ago when he made his first debut.

The symbolic representation of Glenview was unveiled atop a refurbished fountain in a new centennial plaza at the southeast entrance to Jackman Park, to the cheers of school children and village dignitaries gathered last Thursday to welcome him back.

“Hug the Bear acts as our personal reminder that individually all of us and collectively all of us should continue the acts of giving and serving and caring about the community,” Village President Nancy Firfer said. “That is why this gift of the newly restored Bear fountain in this magnificent centennial plaza is such an appropriate and meaningful gift to the community.”

The Bear was forced into hibernation last year when it was decided his removal and restoration would make a perfect centennial project.

The fountain donated in 1917 by steel magnate Edwin Stanton Jackman had featured animals and nature scenes around a column topping a large trough for horses, a smaller trough for dogs and a spigot for children. But coatings applied to preserve the deteriorating reinforced steel and concrete over the years obscured the details, making the Bear seem bald and rendering the animal scenes unrecognizable.

Refurbishing the landmark truly became a community project. The Glenview Park District Foundation raised \$69,000 to recast the Bear and the fountain, a job undertaken by Glenview resident Terry Dowd and artists Mike Baur and Mari Stanis. Large donations were made by the  
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Julie Fabiszak/Pioneer Press



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Pam Norman of Glenview joins in the domestic scene created by the “Big Sister” sculpture, which was dedicated last Thursday along with the renovated Bear statue.



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The wind started the unveiling of the refurbished Bear statue; Village President Nancy Firfer and other dignitaries pulled off the rest of the plastic covering.

Glen Grove School pupils Katy Holihan (left) and Natalie Clinton listen as the Glenview Anthem is performed.

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Glenview Chamber of Commerce and the village. about."

The project expanded as more local businesses and groups stepped in. Plans were developed to construct the new plaza, with Northern Trust Bank contributing \$7,500 for landscaping. Glenview State Bank contributed \$25,000 for the construction of a second statue, a bronze sculpture of big sister reading a book to her younger brother, who holds a train, permanently seated near the fountain.

Sealing the project's success was Glenview contractor Angelo DiPaolo's \$75,000 contribution in services and materials to build the circular plaza.

DiPaolo's generosity was noted during last Thursday's ceremonies. "I know why he did it, because I know how much this man loves Glenview and I also know what a kind heart this quiet man has," said Jim Smirles, chairman of the Glenview Centennial Commission. "His answer to our prayers to find an angel was what I feel truly exemplifies what Glenview is all

DiPaolo, an Italian immigrant, has been hired for many public works projects by the village since he moved to Glenview in 1963.

He was modest in explaining his gift. "The village of Glenview has played a big role in my life, both personally and professionally," he said. "When Jim Smirles told me about the centennial plans and projects, I thought to myself it would be an excellent opportunity to say thank you to the village and the people of Glenview."

Bill Attea, former superintendent of Glenview School District 34, concluded the ceremonies with this thought: "We hope that this little park that we dedicate today will be around for the next 100 years, so that the children that are born in the next 100 years can enjoy it as we have enjoyed it and that they and their children can come here and contemplate about us, those that preceded them and helped make Glenview a better place for them in the future."