

# VILLAGE NEWS

Glendale Heights, Illinois

Village President Chodri Ma Khokhar

## 2023 State of the Village Report



Village President  
Chodri Ma Khokhar

On behalf of the Village Board of Elected Officials and the Village of Glendale Heights, I am proud to present the 2023 State of the Village Address as I highlight our many accomplishments over the past year. The Village has great leadership with eight elected officials. I'd like to introduce my fellow Village Board of Elected Officials:

Marie Schmidt, *Village Clerk*  
Bill Schmidt, *District 1 Trustee*  
Mohammad Siddiqi, *District 2 Trustee*  
Michael Light, *District 3 Trustee*

Pat Maritato, *Deputy Mayor & District 4 Trustee*  
Chester Pojack, *District 5 Trustee*  
Mary Schroeder, *District 6 Trustee*

As I look back on 2023, I reflect on a very positive year with many new accomplishments and goals set forth by the Village Board. I am so proud of each and every staff member, Committee and Commission member, our many volunteers, and those individuals in our community who have made a difference each and every day. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals who believe in making Glendale Heights a truly great place to live, to raise a family and to retire. We are full of diversity, culture, equity and providing a place

to call home. As I give an update in this State of the Village Address, I want to assure you that this is just a small fraction of everything that is happening within the Village and in the Glendale Heights community as a whole. Our doors are always open so I encourage you to get involved, stop by for a visit, and let us know how we can serve you, the residents of the Village of Glendale Heights!

## Finance Department

In reviewing the audited results of operations for fiscal year 2023 and comparing them to the previous year, the value of total Village assets increased 4% or \$9 million; rising to \$221 million from \$212 million. Total revenues declined slightly, from \$60 million in fiscal year 2022 to \$58 million in fiscal year 2023, due primarily to a slowing economy, and the transfer tax collected on the sale of an 1,100-unit apartment complex in fiscal year 2022.

Additionally, in fiscal year 2023, the Village's General Fund finished the year with a fund balance position of \$22.7 million, exceeding both the level recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the amount established by Village policy.

A total of \$4.57 million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been provided to the Village. The Village Board has pledged 100% of this money for water, sewer and wastewater Treatment infrastructure needs, which is one of the eligible uses for these funds.

Turning attention to water billing operations, the Village billed 729,527,000 gallons of water in fiscal year 2023, representing another decrease from the previous year's billing of 752,409,100 gallons. In the past year, around 106,000 individual water bills were generated, totaling \$12,161,342 in billed revenues.

The primary goal and responsibility of the Purchasing division is



There was approximately 729 million gallons of water billed in 2023

to obtain the best value possible for the taxpayer's dollar, within the rules and regulations that govern public purchase of goods and services. In this past year, purchasing managed 51 separate formal bids and contracts. Using the competitive bid process achieves open and healthy competition, transparency, and enables the Village to purchase at the lowest possible cost, consistent with the needs of the user department.

Residents will be pleased to know that for the second consecutive year, the 2023 Village Tax Levy contains no increase from the prior year. Overall, the Village's share of property taxes amounts to slightly more than 10% of the overall property tax burden.

As we look ahead to 2024, the Finance Department expects to roll out a suite of totally new financial management software applications. Among the upgrades will be a new utility billing module which will greatly improve the customer experience, enabling residents to see their water consumption, set usage alerts, and introduce more present-day payment acceptance options. We are quite excited about these enhancements, which will likely launch in the 4th quarter of 2024.

On June 23, 2023, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the Village with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, for its 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This is the 40th year in a row that the Village has received this award. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

On March 6, 2023, the Village was also recognized by the GFOA with a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget document. This marks the 10th consecutive year in which the Village has received this recognition.

## Police Department

The Glendale Heights Police Department has a combined staff of 110 personnel, including 57 sworn police officers, five part-time officers, four community service officers, records clerks, crossing guards and an Evidence Officer. The department has a strong volunteer pool of 18 members of the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA). In October 2024, the Glendale Heights Police Department lost our K-9 Lobo due to complications from an emergency surgery. The seven-year-old Lobo worked with Officer Jim Cahill for the past six years. The service and dedication Lobo provided our community was beyond reproach. Lobo will be missed by the members of our community, the law enforcement community, and members of the Glendale Heights Police Department.

I am immensely proud of the Glendale Heights Police Department for maintaining the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Accreditation. The police department earned their first accreditation in 2008 and was most recently re-accredited for the sixth time in 2022. CALEA Accreditation serves as the Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies. Our police department is one of about 800 law enforcement agencies in the country who earned CALEA Accreditation



The Glendale Heights Police Department is one out of approximately 800 law enforcement agencies with CALEA Accreditation

status. CALEA standards are rigorous, and ensure the department is following best practices in law enforcement. Part of the CALEA standards require the police department to review each incident in which force is used ensuring that our officers are using the appropriate response for the situation and within legal parameters. CALEA standards also ensure citizen complaints are investigated thoroughly and timely. In October 2022, CALEA assessors performed a remote compliance review of the police department standards. The police department met all CALEA mandated standards and was found to be in full compliance with all the CALEA requirements.

In 2023, Officers have doubled the amount of foot patrols this year as compared to last year. With over 2,000-foot patrols, officers enhanced community relationships and interactions, strengthening our community policing efforts. This year the police department deployed an additional 17 Flock license plate reader camera systems throughout the community to detect and capture evidence, input hot alerts for investigative leads, and receive real time alerts on vehicles related to criminal actions. The police department now has 27 Flock cameras deployed throughout the community.

The police department continues to enhance employee opportunities through training and specialized positions. This included training given to both sworn and non-sworn department members to enhance skills, train other agency members, and further develop specialties. Advancements in technology have provided an opportunity for officers to better serve our community while advancing these skills. Six officers are trained as drone (unmanned aircraft system or UAS) operators. This allows the drone to be accessible during every patrol shift. Other specialties positions have also been implemented. These positions include two officers added to the Problem Oriented Intelligence-led Neighborhood Team (POINT). This

newly established unit will concentrate on crime prevention and special investigations due to increased criminal activity. In addition, one more officer was added to the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Unit, one officer has been assigned as a general Detective, and one civilian staff member was trained as a Comfort Dog Handler.

The police department also introduced a Bloodhound unit to better serve our community in thanks to local Cannabis Dispensary Ivy Hall. This Bloodhound unit will be utilized to track criminal suspects, persons with dementia, along with locating missing and runaway children.

The police department continues to train our officers to the highest standards. In addition to the monthly online training, officers participated in hands on training with scenario-based role play in subjects such as de-escalation techniques and crisis intervention. Every eligible sworn officer has been trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). This training provides a community-based approach to improve the outcomes with encounters of those having a mental health crisis. Officers also attend specialty training such as evidence recovery, proper use of force, lead investigator, and mental health awareness.

In June, the police department facilitated an active shooter tabletop exercise. This tabletop exercise included stakeholders from the Glenside Fire Protection District, Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS), Queen Bee School District 16, University of Chicago Medicine, the Glenside Public Library, AT&T FirstNet, ETS Security and Intelligence, all departments of the Village of Glendale Heights, and Village of Glendale Heights elected officials. The tabletop exercise promoted a collaboration of all attendees to ensure communication, information, and operation in any large-scale event.

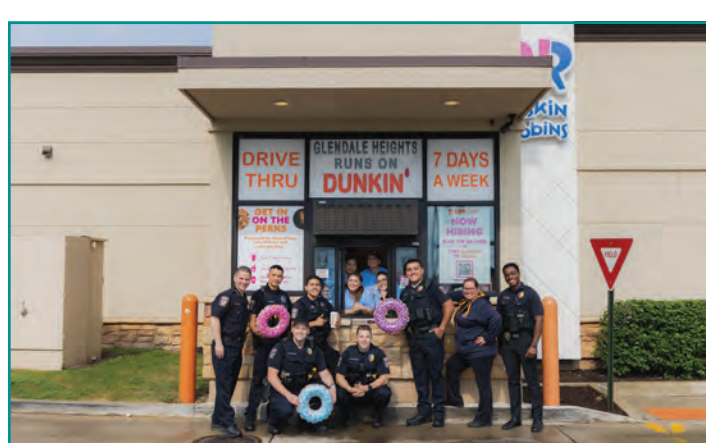
Our state certified School Resource Officers spent the school year teaching Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) to 5th grade students and addressing school-related concerns. There are three School Resource Officers, one for each District Glendale Heights children attend. They work to build student and police relationships, and they investigate police related incidents within the schools.

The police department is dedicated to its mission and working with the community to continue building relationships and trust. In 2023, the police department helped organize and participated in many events for all ages to continue to build relationships throughout the community. For over 25 years, the police department has held week-long classes at Safety Town for children five to seven years of age. The classes are held over the summer and taught by officers from the police department and representatives from other community organizations. For children in 5th through 8th grade, the police department hosted the 15th annual Junior Police Academy. Participants experienced various aspects of police work from the initial testing process to evidence processing, traffic stops and officer safety skills.

The police department also organized a seasonal market in 2023 providing locally sourced food, produce, art, crafts and more. The goal of these events is to bring the community together, both as vendors and as customers, increasing interaction and dialogue with our Village residents.



In thanks to Ivy Hall Cannabis Dispensary, the Glendale Heights Police Department introduced a new bloodhound named "Ivy"



Cop on a Rooftop is held every May benefitting Special Olympics Illinois

Many of our officers participated in several fundraising initiatives including Polar Plunge, Cop on Rooftop at our local Dunkin Donuts, Autism Awareness Badges, and No Shave November. All the money raised from these programs was donated to Special Olympics Illinois. Through these efforts, the Glendale Heights Police Department received the coveted Flame of Hope trophy for the commitment to the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Officers also participated in the Brittany's Trees event placing 46 Brittany's Trees throughout Glendale Heights. The money raised from the sales of Brittany's Trees goes towards the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes foundation. The police department teamed up with the Village and other entities to host the Glendale Heights Charity Golf Classic. The Charity Golf Classic helped raise funds for the police department FOP Lodge #52 Community Enrichment Fund, which helps to support the annual fishing derby, Heroes and Helpers, and other community involved events.

The police department also hosted the Annual National Night Out in August of 2023. The event was held on the Village of Glendale Heights Civic Center campus, and residents were offered free food and games. National Night Out is held to raise



crime and drug prevention awareness and strengthen our police and community partnerships. We want to thank the many other community groups who help make this event a tremendous success each year! The police department also hosted Movie Night with a Cop, held in July, August, September, and October. The annual Cops and Bobbers Fishing Derby occurred in September in conjunction with Harvest Fest. Kids of all ages gathered at Lake Becerra to eat hot dogs and see who could catch the biggest fish.

In 2023, the police department hosted our own Heroes and Helpers event to assist local youth with purchasing Christmas presents for their families. The police department partnered with the Glendale Heights Target Store to raise enough funds to take twenty kids shopping. Police officers picked up each child at their residence and drove them to Ki's Restaurant where they enjoyed Breakfast with Santa. Officers drove the children to the Glendale Heights Target Store, where upon entering the parking lot, the police emergency lights and sirens were turned on to make the kids feel like celebrities. Target team members greeted the children and officers, and the shopping began. Target team members helped wrap the gifts for the children at the event's end. This annual Heroes and Helpers event is a special day for the children and officers.

The police department also strives to keep our residents informed of important crime prevention tips by hosting Neighborhood Watch meetings and providing a monthly newsletter. These meetings rotate throughout the community every month to provide a more relaxed and intimate setting for residents in each area. The police department continued to provide training to local businesses and places of worship on active violence awareness. This training provides employees and citizens with options if a violent event occurs within their vicinity. In the fall of 2023, the Glendale Heights Police Department hosted our 25th Citizen's Police Academy, which offered our residents an opportunity to get a realistic view of police work through instruction taught by officers from the Glendale Heights Police Department.

The police department increased the proactive initiative for mental health services through collaboration with Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS) to provide the highest quality of service for our residents. NEDFYS continues to do the co-responder bi-weekly in person visits with officers along with overseeing over 700 social service referrals. The police department's comfort dog Benjamin continued to provide support for our community members. Benjamin worked with the Glendale Heights community to bring comfort and calmness to those dealing with crisis, trauma, tragedy, and any other demanding situations.

## Community Development Department

A major change in the Community Development Department in 2023, which will impact all of the following functions of the Department, is the new Enterprise Resource Planning software called Cloudpermit. Cloudpermit will allow the department to bring all departmental activities in a fully-online and digitized environment. This will allow staff to retrieve information faster, resulting in improved workflow times and reduced expenditures for operational resources. Cloudpermit is expected to be fully operational by mid-2024.

The department reviews building permit applications and inspects construction projects for compliance with adopted building codes and industry best practices. In 2023, the department received 2,459 building permit applications for industrial, commercial and residential construction projects that had an estimated combined project value of nearly \$57 million reinvested into the community. A vast majority of the building permits applications were for residents who are making improvements to their homes and increasing property values in their neighborhood. Additionally, the Department issued 41 permits for utility work in the public right-of-way.

The department also manages regulatory stormwater management needs for the Village. The Community Development Department works in close coordination with other Village Departments, the DuPage County Stormwater Management Department, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure both public and private development activities meet their regulatory obligations for stormwater management. Activities include, public education and outreach, public participation and involvement on matters pertaining to stormwater impacts and regulations, illicit discharge detection and elimination, stormwater review and permitting, post construction runoff controls and inspections, pollution prevention and good housekeeping programs. In 2023, the Village of Glendale Heights issued 15 stormwater permits/certificates for various projects including, but not limited to, residential home construction,



The majority of the permits reviewed are for residents making improvements to their homes and increasing property values

accessory structures such as decks, sheds and patios, driveways and parking lots, and new commercial building additions.

The department reviews and issues several types of operating licenses for business, rental establishments (single family and multi-family), contractors, vending machines, tobacco establishments, video gaming and elevators. In 2023, the Village of Glendale Heights issued just over 2,500 licenses. Just over half of those at 1,317 were for single family rentals, 549 for business licenses, and 286 for contractor licenses.

Code Enforcement personnel perform inspections for rental properties, real estate transfers, property maintenance concerns, and back up the building inspectors to provide overflow inspections. In 2023, Code Enforcement issued 465 Notice of Violations to properties for code non-compliance. They also represent the department in the administrative adjudication of cases and facilitate monthly Property Enhancement Committee meetings as well as quarterly Landlord and Property Manager meetings. These meetings serve to train and educate the public on the rights and obligations of owners and tenants with respect to the department's rental and crime-prevention partnership programs, and in doing so, serve to promote safety and uphold property values within the Village.

Economic Development is critical to community health by promoting structured and orderly growth, improved shopping and dining offerings for Village residents and visitors, and increased tax base through sales and property taxes; all of which contribute to improved property values for Village residents and businesses. The department utilizes all available resources, to include the management of seven Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts to promote commerce and economic development within the Village.



Sumitomo Drive Technologies broke ground for a new 44,000 square-foot building expansion

The department's planning and zoning functions facilitate all of the land use, business enterprise, and private development activities within the Village as defined by the Village Board. The Planning and Zoning Commission is the Village body that hears all use cases not-provided for in the Code of Ordinances, and makes recommendations to the Village Board for consideration. In 2023, the Planning and Zoning Commission conducted 13 public hearings for various amendments to the zoning ordinance, planned unit developments, conditional uses, re-zonings, and subdivision requests needed to support development and new business activity throughout the community. Notable cases include a 44,000 square-foot building expansion for Sumitomo Drive Technologies, a 12,000 square-foot Cannabis Craft Grower/Infusion facility, and the redevelopment of an existing 3,000 square-foot commercial building into a multi-tenant center with a drive-through Jimmy John's restaurant.

The Village also welcomed 67 new businesses in 2023 that occupied a combined building area of approximately 1.2 million square feet of existing commercial, industrial, and office space that was either vacant or previously occupied. A selection of the new businesses include: Clyde's Donuts, Vasa Fitness, Big Blue Swim School, Al-Fatah Meat Shop, Kern Precision, Old Second National Bank, Mitsubishi Turbocharger and Engine America, Umbra Window Tinting, Ivy Hall, Alexander Daniels, Biologos, Tony's Fresh Market, Northern Tool and Equipment, Sudz Car Wash, Convenient Valet (US Spice), Rechilien America, Crescend Technologies, the Lawless Group, the Flooring and Design Center, and Two Men and a Truck.

The Village has a pro-business posture. In 2023, that approach has resulted in the full occupancy of the recently constructed business park developments at 760 E. North Avenue and 1 E. North Avenue with industrial businesses such as OMG Inc, DH Pace, Coda Resources and Delmar International. Additionally, the Community Development Department worked with several property owners along the North Avenue corridor to remove several vacant buildings and structures, in order to establish green fields for future redevelopment.

## Public Works Department

In 2023, local road infrastructure was improved throughout the Village as part of the In-House Road Program overlaying Paddock Circle, Clifford Street, Van Meter Drive, Newton Avenue, and Polo Club Drive. The project involved the removal and replacement of deteriorated and structurally damaged curbs and sidewalks along with base repairs to the roadway before the new asphalt surface layer was applied. The In-House Road Program repaved over 7,000 square yards of surface roadway, replacement of 200 linear feet of curb and 4,200 square feet of sidewalk.

The Village has committed to increasing sidewalk improvements by nearly doubling budget funding. With the increased



funding, six streets were improved through the contracted Sidewalk Removal and Replacement Program with over 20,000 square feet of damaged or hazardous sidewalks being replaced.

The Public Works Department worked on numerous infrastructure projects to improve the Village's Storm Sewer System. The Village's contractor has completed the lining of 1,260 lineal feet of storm sewer under Jacobsen Avenue. This should give the



existing storm sewer an extra 50 years of life. Construction of improvements to the storm sewer system in the Pearl Avenue/ James Court area are complete. The Village was awarded a DuPage County American Rescue Plan Storm Water Grant for the sum of \$252,419.

Street Division Staff responded to 14 snow and ice events throughout last year's winter season, plowing and de-icing 76 center lane miles of roadway and 147 courts. The Street Division also responded to 38 separate flood control events including clearing of storm inlets and streams to alleviate standing water on roadways.

The Division provided contract supervision and construction observation for large projects. One such project was the 2023 MFT Road Program that included the reconstruction of thirteen streets, at a total cost of approximately \$4.6 million dollars.

New lining of 1,260 lineal feet of storm sewer under Jacobsen Avenue should add an additional 50 years of life

The Village's contractor continues to maintain vegetation in the recent East Branch DuPage River Tributary Project and Klein Creek. Invasive species were removed and native plants were added to create a healthy and sustainable streambank area. Besides offering stabilization to the creek, the vegetation improved the habitat for wildlife and filters pollutants from the water. The overall creek improvements included streambank stabilization, dredging, vegetation management of invasive species, and the planting of new trees and shrubs. These projects are now in the phase of planting and managing native species. The Village previously received \$400k in a Community Development Block Grant and \$650k in Water Quality Grants to build these projects.

Public Works is continuing to pursue future grants to continue to improve the waterways of the Village. The Department has sent in a grant application for the restoration of Armitage Creek located behind the Shell Gas Station at Glen Ellyn Road and adjacent to Nazos Park. The Village is also in the process of creating a grant application for the restoration of Lake Becerra located in Heritage Park. If the Village is awarded these grants, construction is planned to begin in 2025 for these projects.

The Department was awarded substantial funding for a bicycle and pedestrian feasibility study in the Village from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). CMAP has provided technical consultants to prepare a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This could lead to further projects and grants to create safe bike and pedestrian routes in the Village and potentially connect to regional bike routes.

Public Works has completed the design of the resurfacing of Fullerton Avenue from Bloomingdale to Schmale Road. The Village was awarded a Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) Grant for this project. The total cost for this project is \$1.7 million with \$900,000 coming from the federal grant and the Village contributing \$800,000. Construction is expected to start the spring of 2024.

The Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) processed over 1 billion gallons of wastewater this year within IEPA guidelines and regulations. This total discharge is similar to last year's 1.2 billion gallons the plant processed.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant completed an industrial user inventory as part of a condition of its Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Discharge Permit. The information provided from this inventory will ensure that all local businesses follow federal and local regulations when discharging wastewater into the Village's collection system. The Village also undertook a local limits study, subsequently amending 13 pollutants to ensure local businesses are discharging appropriate waste concentrations.



The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is working with the Glendale Heights community on a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan



The WWTP was successful in passing the annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Testing (DMRQA) as required by the IEPA. This annual testing ensures the Village's in-house laboratory procedures and methods meet or exceed the standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Numerous capital improvements projects were completed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Capital improvements continue at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with the second phase of projects for the removal of phosphorus from the wastewater. Due to IEPA mandates, beginning October 1, 2026, the WWTP must meet a 1.0 mg/L discharge limit as required by the Village's IEPA Permit. The first phase included Rehabilitating Digester #2, which began in August of 2021, and was completed in 2023. The second phase includes modifications to the existing aeration basins by adding separate zones needed for the biological removal of phosphorus. This project also includes the rehabilitation of Digester #1, to help optimize the Plant's sludge processing.

Through its membership in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW), the Village participates in the implementation of a chloride reduction program to improve local stream water quality. Additionally, the DRSCW is finalizing a Nutrient Implementation Plan for the Village and other municipal members, which will determine future phosphorus limits needed to meet applicable dissolved

oxygen criteria. This is also a requirement of the Village's IEPA Permit, and will assist the IEPA in determining future discharge limits that will be achievable for treatment facilities.

The WWTP has three IEPA certified Class 1 Wastewater Operators. This is the highest-level wastewater certification recognized by the IEPA. Additionally, all staff receive ongoing technical training to stay current with the latest advancements in wastewater treatment.

The Village continued its commitment to improving water and sewer infrastructure in 2023 with the replacement of approximately 4,000 feet of water main, rehabilitation to the Village's oldest water pumping station, rehabilitation of the West Burdette elevated water tower, retrofit Mill Pond Lift Station and sanitary sewer repairs in the North Avenue Catchment Area. These projects totaled \$8,500,000.

The East Schubert Avenue and Norton Avenue Water Main Replacement Project costing \$1,500,000 was partially funded through a \$600,000 DuPage County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Also completed was the West Fullerton Avenue Water Main Replacement Project costing \$1,500,000 which was funded using ARPA as well. The Water Supply Facilities Rehabilitation Project costing \$2,800,000 is being funded by securing an IEPA low interest loan.

This year, the fifth water distribution storage tank was placed on an annual maintenance program with Utility Service Group (USG). This company provides annual inspections and maintenance repairs to the water storage tanks.

The Mill Pond Lift Station Retrofit Project costing \$1,800,000 and funded with ARPA proceeds, began this fall and is scheduled to be completed in spring 2024. This rehabilitation will eliminate the need for confined space entry, new equipment and use energy efficient pumps to reduce electrical usage at this station. Additionally, the North Avenue Catchment Area I&I Repairs Project – Phase II included the sealing and spray lining of 105 manholes with approximately 1,000 feet of sewer main replaced or scheduled to be lined as part of the project. This will significantly decrease groundwater entering into the sanitary sewer system and cut down on the cost of water treatment at the Village's WWTP.

Utilities Division staff continued to perform maintenance to the public water infrastructure system by responding to 33 water main breaks, seven fire hydrant replacements, 34 fire hydrant repairs, 42 b-box repairs, and 12 main line valve repair/replacements. Additionally, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) mandated water sampling was completed and I



The Mill Pond Life Station Retrofit Project is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2024



The Public Works Department added a 7th Peterbilt Aerial Man Lift Truck to the Fleets Division for various uses including snow removal

am pleased to report that all 616 IEPA samples resulted in no violations or water quality issues. Additionally, 30 lead and copper samples were completed with no lead detected over 15ppb.

The Fleets Division internally services all Village Departments. Fleets was able to save the Village approximately \$10,000 by completing a fabrication to the K-9 unit vehicle. Our oldest Cat Backhoe needed to be repaired, which we were able to accomplish in house, saving the Village \$5,000 in labor costs. Public Works has taken delivery of a 2023 Peterbilt Aerial Man lift truck which is the 7th Peterbilt truck in the Fleet. The Fleets Division is master certified and is undertaking current training on hybrid vehicles, and provides CDL training for other village staff. Over the last year, Fleets has completed 676 preventative measures and 747 corrective measures. In house repairs and maintenance by our highly trained mechanics enable quick turn around and much lower costs.

## Leisure Services Department

The Recreation Division offers a wide variety of programs for all age groups from tiny tots to adults. The Department strives to provide activities, programs and events that are affordable, fun and engaging in a safe environment. Program and event information can be found at [www.ghrec.org](http://www.ghrec.org) and in the Activity Guide that is mailed in May, August and December.

The PATH Summer Camp program had 688 enrollments over the summer. Campers enjoyed arts & crafts, movie days, athletic activities, games, swimming at GH2O and weekly field trips. In 2023, we offered our first End of Summer Family Pool Party for campers and their families. The event included snacks, music, raffles and games. Planning for the 2024 summer season is underway and we hope to see all campers back in 2024!

Throughout 2023, youth athletic programs continued to see an increase in participation. Youth leagues experienced an overall growth of 48% with over 1,085 participants. We are excited to offer new youth athletic programs in 2024 which include Track & Field, Beginning Golf, Flag Football Fueled by USA Football and My First T-ball.

In 2023, the Recreation Division added Movies and Concerts in the Park to the special event offerings. Our Summer Concert Series was a huge success with a variety of music offered all summer long. We look forward to bringing back our Concert in the Park series in 2024.

The gym floor at the Sports Hub was refinished in the fall of 2023. Included with the refinishing were the addition of lines for both basketball and pickleball. The Hub offers pickleball on weekdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The Center for Senior Citizens was renamed in September to honor the late Village President, Linda Jackson. The newly named Linda Jackson Center for Senior Citizens took her vision to build a space to allow senior residents a place to thrive in the community. The Center received over 8,000 member visits in 2023 while exploring multiple new programs in fitness, travel opportunities, educational seminars, arts & crafts and more.

The Center also broke ground on an expansion project partially funded by a DCEO Grant in 2023. The much-needed space will be used to expand the Medical Lending Closet program, office space and safer areas to store various Center equipment. We look forward to this project completion in the Spring of 2024.

The 2023 National Council on Aging Senior Center Month theme was: Discover Yours. We celebrated with a variety of pop-up events to encourage senior residents to try something new. The Center hosted a conference with the Association of Illinois Senior Centers in September. We shared our accomplishments throughout 2023 and collaborated on the best ways to



Pickleball is one of several new programs offered in 2023 with several new programs anticipated for 2024



serve the senior population in our communities. With over 45 Senior Center Managers in attendance, we gained valuable knowledge and successful programming ideas to share with the senior residents of Glendale Heights.

In the fall of 2023, the turf field project began at Camera Park. This field change will convert the Camera lighted soccer field to artificial turf. This field will assure that recreation participants and public members can have a field that is playable in all weather conditions with minimal wear. This project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2024.



New baseball/softball fields were completed at Nazos Park which included regrading of the infield and outfields

In addition to the turf soccer field, infield work was completed at both the Nazos Park baseball diamonds. Regrading, replacing material and improving the fence areas of each of these ball diamonds should offer players at Nazos Park quality baseball diamonds for many years to come.

Golf continues to thrive at the Glendale Lakes Golf Club with over 25,000 rounds of golf in 2023. The Glendale Heights Charity Golf Classic was held on Friday, August 25th and raised \$18,000 for six worthwhile charities. The charities included the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Family in Faith Food Pantry, the Glendale Heights Christmas Sharing Program, the FOP Lodge # 52 Community Enrichment Fund, the Glendale Heights Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

Fund and the Glendale Heights Foundation. Please contact the Glendale Lakes Golf Club to find out how you can get involved in the 2024 Glendale Heights Charity Classic which will be held on August 28, 2024.

Several projects and purchases were completed in 2023 at the Glendale Lakes Golf Club. A new fleet of 77 golf carts arrived in May with new energy efficient batteries. Bunker work was also continued on the golf course at two large fairway bunkers. The large fairway bunker at Hole #1 and Hole #9 was completed, as well as the large fairway bunkers on Hole #11 were converted from sand to grass. Work on these was completed in the fall with both being ready for grass seed in the spring.

## Summary

The Village of Glendale Heights continues to progress in a positive direction. The future is truly bright as we have achieved so much as a community while overcoming every day challenges. The collaborative efforts of our community members, Village staff, local businesses, committees, commissions, volunteers, and many others, will continue to be the driving force for this Village. With a shared vision and collective determination, we can all look forward to a future filled with community pride.

I encourage all of you to get involved this year. Volunteer, join our team, and make a difference in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, your district trustee or any of our qualified staff if you have any questions, comments or concerns about the Village. Thank you for believing in us to serve you, the residents of the Village of Glendale Heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chodri Ma Khokhar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chodri Ma Khokhar  
Village President



"With a shared vision and collective determination, we can all look forward to a future filled with community pride."