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Look how we have grown in District 35!
Read more on page 11
Village President’s Message

Dear Neighbor:

In my last President’s Message, I mentioned some of the important projects the Village is undertaking this year. One such project is a renewed focus on environmental sustainability. I am pleased to report that at its April meeting, the Village Board established the Sustainability Task Force. The task force, which is made up of representatives from the Glencoe Park District, District 35, the Glencoe Public Library, Chicago Botanic Garden, the Friends of the Green Bay Trail, Go Green Glencoe, and the Glencoe Community Garden along with members at large, will focus on discussing and recommending to the Village Board efforts that promote the conservation of natural resources and the environment, encourage environmentally sound and economically viable practices for the maintenance of buildings, landscape and structures in residential, commercial and public areas of the Village and serving as a resource for the Village Board and community through development of environmental awareness and programs. The task force held its first meeting in May, and will continue to meet monthly. I look forward to the work this group will undertake and encourage all residents to participate in its monthly meetings.

Spring has sprung in Glencoe! It is always a great feeling to see the trees and flowers bloom and our residents enjoying the wonderful amenities of our quaint Village. With the warm weather comes a busy spring and summer full of special events and activities. With so much to do in our Village at this time of the year, I felt it would be appropriate to highlight some of the upcoming special events and activities planned over the next few months.

After taking a year off to regroup and refocus, I am very pleased that the Glencoe Farmer’s Market will return as the Glencoe French Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays beginning June 11 through September 3 on Wyman Green. The market, sponsored by the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce, will feature produce, meats, eggs, cheeses and an assortment of artisan goods.

Other activities include:

- The 10th Annual Glencoe Grand Prix will take place on Saturday, June 4. This exciting community event will showcase world-class cyclists racing through downtown Glencoe, as well as amateur cyclists of all ages competing. The day will be full of races, food, and entertainment, including a Village-wide block party with a live band, Jose and the Cobras.
- What would summer in Glencoe be without Independence Day? The Village will celebrate the 4th of July with a day full of exciting events including the annual parade, Glencoe’s Got Talent, kids activities and fireworks at Lakefront Park. More information on the day’s events can be found on page 9.
- On July 30 and 31, the 8th Annual Glencoe Festival of Art returns to downtown Glencoe. The two-day event will feature a wide variety of arts and cultural entertainment. The festival will feature more than 120 artists from around the country with displays of paintings, photography, ceramics, glass and jewelry among others.
- Another popular summer event, Movies on the Green, is going retro this year featuring Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, The Goonies and Back to the Future. The movies will be shown on Fridays at dusk on June 10, July 8 and August 12 on Wyman Green.

This summer is certainly full of exciting things to do in Glencoe and I look forward to enjoying these events with you.

As our downtown is so important to the life of our community, I wanted to take this opportunity to mention our renewed focus on economic development. Even while we eagerly await the final report of our Plan Commission on the Downtown TuneUp, the opening of Writers Theatre has increased interest in available downtown retail spaces. In fact, we anticipate that exciting new retail and service businesses opening in downtown later this summer! In an effort to continue to promote Glencoe as a shopping, dining and entertainment destination, the Village recently joined the Chicago North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau which will allow Glencoe attractions to be promoted regionally, nationally and internationally. We have also been hard at work developing business attraction and retention programs and are in the process of developing a downtown promotion strategy. These are all important aspects of the Village’s goal of enhancing and improving our business-friendly environment.

I am happy to report that substantial progress has been made on the storm water upgrades at the Skokie Ridge and Terrace Court project areas. These upgrades will alleviate the impact of residential flooding in these areas and were approved as part of the April 2015 bond referendum. Work will begin next summer on two other areas impacted by flooding. I am very proud of Glencoe’s long history of addressing flooding issues.

Finally, in 2019 the Village will celebrate its 150th year of incorporation. In order to plan an appropriate celebration of this truly significant event, we are looking for residents to participate in a Sesquicentennial Committee who will be tasked with planning a series of events to commemorate this milestone. If you would like to participate or want to learn more about the committee, please contact the Village Manager’s Office at 847-835-4114 or by email at info@villageofglencoe.org.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Levin
Village President
Public Works & Public Safety Open House

The Departments of Public Works and Public Safety will be hosting their Annual Open House on Saturday, July 23 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on Village Court. Children and adults will have the opportunity to meet department staff, learn more about Village operations and climb into equipment during this interactive event. Enjoy free refreshments and souvenirs, and be sure to bring your camera!

Public Works Project Updates

Residents can find regular updates on all infrastructure improvement and construction projects on the Village’s website by scanning the QR code.

Storm Water Improvement Project

Construction on the 2016 storm water improvement project in the Terrace Court and Skokie Ridge basin areas began in early April. This project is designed to help reduce flooding issues in the Terrace Court and Skokie Ridge basin areas through the installation of nearly 7,000 feet of new storm sewer pipe. This $2.5 million improvement is part of the $10 million bond issue that voters approved last April to fund infrastructure improvements in the Village. Work has been completed in the Terrace Court basin area, and storm sewer installation on the Dundee Road section of the Skokie Ridge basin project area will begin in early June. This will require closing Dundee Road to thru-traffic between Forest Way Drive and Green Bay Road for approximately two weeks. During this closure Dundee Road traffic will be detoured via Hohlfielder Road to Westley Road to Green Bay Road. The Village anticipates that the entire 2016 storm water improvement project will be completed in mid-July.

Sidewalk Replacement Program

At the May 19 Village Board meeting, the Village Board approved a contract for residential concrete sidewalk and curb replacement. This year, work is expected to be targeted in area one of the Village’s sidewalk replacement plan which will include the area north of Dundee Road and north of Beach Road. This work is expected to be completed by early fall.

MWRD Manhole Repair

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is constructing a new access manhole for its interceptor sewer that crosses under Old Green Bay Road north of the Glencoe train station. The new 50-foot deep manhole structure is being constructed to the west of the existing manhole in the off-street parking area, requiring the closure of Old Green Bay Road to through traffic from Park Avenue to Maple Hill Road. Cyclists and pedestrians using the Green Bay Trail are being routed to the sidewalk on the east side of the work zone. All work is expected to be complete on this emergency repair, and Old Green Bay Road reopened, by early July.

Village Hall HVAC Improvement

At the May 19 Village Board meeting, the Village Board approved a contract for the Village Hall HVAC upgrade project. This $2.5 million improvement is being funded by the $10 million bond issue approved by voters in the April 2015 referendum. The Village Hall HVAC upgrade project will include a new air chiller and air handling units, high efficiency boilers and a new control system. The project will replace systems that have reached the end of their service life, and will result in significant energy performance improvement and much better space comfort and air quality within the 24-hour Village Hall building. The Village Hall will remain open for business throughout the project. Work will be underway in early June and is anticipated to be completed within 12 months. There is a limited amount of asbestos material in some of the original pipe wrap and duct insulation that will be abated prior to the HVAC upgrade.

Village Tree Program

Glencoe has been designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA Foundation since 1984 and works carefully to maintain a sustainable and diverse urban forest. For over 40 years, the Village has offered a 50/50 cost sharing parkway tree planting program in which the Village shares the cost of planting a parkway tree with interested residents. In recent years, the Village has expanded the program to offer residents the opportunity to purchase trees at the Village’s price for planting on private property and take advantage of the competitive prices negotiated by the Village with its vendor. Residents are responsible for the full cost of trees planted on private property, plus an additional planting fee.

As a result of the removal of a significant number of dead ash trees from the Green Bay Trail, the Village is planning an extensive tree-planting program along the Green Bay Trail south of Harbor Street, focusing on planting new native trees over the next four years. To supplement this effort, the Village is partnering with the Friends of the Green Bay Trail (FGBT), a non-profit organization that has been actively working on maintaining this segment of the trail for the last five years. The FGBT is promoting a new 50/50 tree program, Trees for the Trail, that invites residents to donate trees to be planted on the Green Bay Trail. Residents interested in the 50/50 tree programs are encouraged to visit the Village website for applications or e-mail ahall@villageofglencoe.org.

4th of July Fireworks Safety Reminder

With warm weather and family events, the 4th of July can be a fun time with great memories. But before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause injuries. The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals. Though they can be exciting and festive, fireworks are also dangerous. In 2014, an estimated 10,500 people were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries (Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2015).

- **When do these injuries happen?** 60% of injuries from fireworks occur in the month surrounding the 4th of July.
- **What types of fireworks cause injuries?** Firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets accounted for most of the injuries seen in emergency rooms. Sparklers were associated with over half of injuries in children under 5 years old.
- **Who is likely to be injured?** During the month around the 4th of July, children 15 years and younger sustained 35% of injuries related to fireworks. Nearly half of the injuries were to people younger than 20 years old.
- **What kinds of injuries occur?** Injuries from fireworks most often affect the hands, eyes, head, face, and ears.

Additionally, all fireworks pose a significant danger of starting grass or brush fires that can easily spread to structures in dry weather conditions. Always remember to leave all fireworks to professionals who have firefighting personnel standing by during displays. For more information contact the DepartPublic Safety at 847-835-4112 or msaikin@villageofglencoe.org.
The Glencoe Golf Club is your neighborhood golf course. Join us to take advantage of the best conditioned golf course on the North Shore right in your backyard. Competitive daily greens fees, junior golf camps, private golf lessons and clinics are available along with a full menu for you to enjoy in our restaurant. We encourage everyone to come out and take advantage of our first class golf facility.

Summer junior golf camps begin the week of June 7 and offer a variety of skill levels to fit your child’s playing ability. Half-day camps take place Tuesday through Friday. All camps are taught by PGA instructors and include on-course training time to teach course management and etiquette. Each participant also receives five FREE rounds of golf at the completion of camp. Sign up today to reserve your preferred week of camp.

Kids play FREE at the Glencoe Golf Club this season! What’s better than playing golf with your kids while teaching them honesty, patience, and a game they can play for a lifetime? How about doing it for free! All kids 14 and under will play free this season after 5:30 p.m. when accompanied by a paying adult. This is a great way to spend time together while teaching your children a lifelong game. Complimentary junior rental golf club sets are available. Make this your year to learn to golf or improve your score. The Glencoe Golf Academy offers private lessons, clinics and lesson packages taught by PGA instructors. Our PGA staff will design a personalized lesson program to help you achieve your scoring goals by utilizing the latest in teaching technology. Clinic dates and rates for all Academy programs are available online.

Please contact the pro shop or visit our website at www.glencoegolfclub.com for more information or to register for any of our programs.

We hope to see everyone out at the course this season!

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Glencoe’s Commitment to Providing Safe, High-Quality Drinking Water

The Village of Glencoe maintains a safe, high-quality drinking water system. As a public water utility, the Village is subject to rigorous, routine testing and monitoring to ensure our water complies with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safety requirements. The Village publishes its annual water quality testing report online to provide detailed public information about the Village’s drinking water and its compliance with safety standards.

The Village’s water distribution system does not contain any lead pipe or material. Even without lead material in the water distribution system, it is possible for lead to enter drinking water in a home or business, typically through private lead service lines (which connect a home or business to the Village’s water mains), lead plumbing material (such as fixtures or pipes) inside a home or business, or copper service lines with lead solder joints. Though federal legislation and changes to the plumbing code have restricted the use of new lead plumbing materials, some may remain in older homes and buildings. The number of homes with lead service lines in the Village has decreased over the past 20 years, but the Village estimates that there are still approximately 600 properties within the Village that have lead services. Water services are maintained by the property owner, and property owners may choose to replace an existing lead service with copper piping, a safer alternative. To assist residents with replacing lead services, the Village waives the permit fee for water service line replacement. Furthermore, the Village proactively takes steps to reduce the potential of lead entering customers’ water from lead plumbing material through the use of phosphate, a corrosion control treatment chemical.

Beginning in 1992, all public water supplies were required to comply with the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule. The rule was enacted to control the presence of lead and copper from entering the water supply primarily through plumbing materials and requires public water utilities to conduct routine testing. Under this rule, the Village samples and tests drinking water from 20 sites every three years to monitor drinking water at customer taps, such as water faucets in a home. To do so, the Village collects samples from residences that have lead services, where the homeowner has volunteered to participate in the sampling program. According to EPA standards, if lead concentrations exceed an action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) in more than 10 percent of the customer taps sampled (in the Village’s case, more than two samples), the system must undergo a number of additional actions to control corrosion.

Since 1992, the only testing year in which the Village exceeded the EPA standard of 15 ppb (as sampled at properties with lead water services) was in 2008. In 2008, three of the 20 properties with lead services that were sampled had levels of lead that exceeded 15 ppb, which caused the Village to exceed the EPA standard in 2008. As a result, the Village sampled 40 sites every six months for lead and copper testing in 2009 and provided increased public education. Re-testing at the conclusion of the standard testing confirmed that the Village was in compliance with EPA lead standards in 2009, and the Village has remained in compliance with EPA lead standards since that time. A recent Chicago Tribune article discussed lead in public water utilities, which included a data table in the article that listed the Village, along with 170 other public water utilities in Illinois that have experienced at least one year since 2004 where test results exceeded the EPA standard for lead. The data table shows that the Village’s test results only exceeded the EPA standard in 2008, and since that time Village testing has had results well below EPA standards.

The Village continues to provide safe, high-quality drinking water to residents. Homes with lead services are encouraged to have their water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. For more information on having your water tested or replacing a lead water service line, please contact the Glencoe Water Plant Superintendent Alex Urbanczyk at 847-835-4183 or via email at alexu@villageofglencoe.org.

Water Quality Report

Each year the Village is required to provide an Annual Water Quality Report to let consumers know how well the Village’s drinking water meets established state and federal drinking water standards. All water customers are encouraged to review this report with important details about the source and quality of the water delivered to you in 2015. You can request a printed copy of the report by contacting the Water Plant at 847-835-4183 or by visiting Village Hall. It is available online at www.villageofglencoe.org/departments/public_works/water.aspx.
Lawn Sprinkling Regulations

The Village Code prohibits seasonal lawn sprinkling between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. from May 15 to September 15. Residents are permitted to water lawns during the off hours on an odd/even alternating schedule based on street address and calendar day - odd addresses on odd days of the month, even addresses on even days. Homeowners with newly seeded or sodded lawns can receive a waiver to the restriction for a limited period by contacting Public Works.

Lawn sprinkling can account for up to 30% of the total water usage for the average Glencoe water customer, so be thoughtful about water consumption this summer. Automatic sprinkler systems can be equipped with WaterSense irrigation controllers and rain sensors to reduce unnecessary water use. Questions? Contact Public Works at 847-835-4111.

Considering Hiring a Contractor?

With construction season in full swing, it is important to follow some safeguards when selecting contractors for repairs, remodeling or new construction. When first selecting a contractor, it is important to do your homework. A simple search on the internet will provide basic information regarding general contractors, including websites that may provide ratings, reviews or qualifications such as licensing. Before selecting a particular contractor, it is important to get multiple written estimates for the proposed work from different qualified contractors. In Illinois, a written contract with all costs enumerated is required for any home repair or remodeling work over $1,000. This written contract is required by law to clearly state the total cost, including materials, parts and labor, for the scope of work. In addition, the contract is required to include the name and address of the person engaged in the business of home repair or remodeling. If the contractor uses a post office box, mail service, or agent to receive business correspondence, the agreement must include the contractor’s home address. According to Illinois law, a homeowner has a three day cooling off period during which they can legally cancel a contract. Residents considering any major contract work are encouraged to visit the Illinois Attorney General’s home repair and construction webpage.

For larger remodeling and new home construction projects, consider interviewing multiple contractors and requiring several references for comparable work. Hiring a qualified construction manager to assist in this process from the start is also advisable. While the Village cannot make any specific recommendations regarding contractors, the Public Works Department can assist in directing residents who are interested in having work performed to available resources. Look for further information on tips for residential construction forthcoming on the Village’s website or contact Public Works at 847-835-4111 or ahall@villageofglencoe.org.

South Avenue Street End

In early 2015, the Village began meeting with representatives of the Glencoe Community Foundation, a group formed with an interest in improving access to a number of public right-of-ways, including the South Avenue street end. The Foundation plans to use private funds to help create an overlook at the east end of South Avenue where neighbors can enjoy views of the lake on publicly owned land. The Village worked with a landscape architect to develop a conceptual site plan for potential improvements to the overlook that include both hardscape and landscape improvements. The hardscape improvements include a crushed granite path leading to a flagstone paving area with a stone wall at the top of the bluff that is intended to replicate (in a smaller scale) the design at the street end at Hazel Avenue. The flagstone area would include three benches and the adjoining area would be planted with native, hearty perennials, shrubs and trees to provide a more natural landscape area. The proposed improvements will provide public access to the top of the bluff, but not access to the beach area below. The tentative timetable for completing these proposed improvements would be early fall of this year. For more details on the proposed improvements visit the Village website at www.villageofglencoe.org.

Glencoe Business Spotlight

Have you visited these Glencoe businesses?

- Full Circle Fitness, 55 Green Bay Road - health and fitness studio
- District 667, 667 Vernon Avenue - family friendly bar and grill
- Happiest Hound Around, 331 Park Avenue, Suite 2E - dog walking and dog sitting services
- Aspire Auctions, 378 Park Avenue - arts, antiques and luxury goods auction services
- Karen Malkin Health Counseling, 630 Vernon Avenue, Suite B - health coaching services

Glencoe Chamber of Commerce News

The Chamber has plans for you this summer!

Buy a ticket to win the Chamber raffle! We are raffling an Electric Bicycle; see it on display at North Shore Community Bank. Tickets are one for $10 or three for $25, sold at North Shore Community Bank, Grand Food Center and Books on Vernon. The winner will be drawn on July 7.

Come to opening day of the Glencoe French Market on Saturday, June 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Market is back on Wyman Green and will run every Saturday through Labor Day. See the new and expanded offerings.

Browse and shop the annual Glencoe Sidewalk Sale on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25. Find great buys among all the merchandise offered by our own Glencoe businesses and additional vendors who come to town for this fun event in downtown Glencoe.

The Glencoe Festival of Art is on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31. Over 100 professional artists will be showcasing their work in a variety of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry and more.

Travel to Cuba on a Chamber-sponsored tour. A trip is being offered in November 2016. For full details, including the itinerary and pricing, please contact the Chamber at glencoechamber@yahoo.com.

Village Employee Spotlight

Diane Klimowicz, Accountant

In May, the Village welcomed a new accountant, Diane Klimowicz, to the Finance Department! As the accountant, some of Diane’s responsibilities include maintaining the Village’s financial accounts, preparing important reports to the State and leading the preparation for the annual audit process, among others. Diane has extensive accounting experience in the public and private sectors and has already begun working on monthly financial reports for the Village. She graduated from DePaul University with a degree in accounting and went on to obtain a master’s degree in business management from Northern Illinois University. The Village is excited to welcome Diane to the Glencoe team!
Dear Glencoe Friends and Neighbors:

I want to talk to you about one of the most available and inexpensive public programs we have in Glencoe. It is also a program with immediate, lasting and effective benefits for you, your family and friends, the local economy, and our village. You may think of a certain NBC show or conjure an idea of fun and games when you think of parks and recreation. It’s a common misconception, but parks and recreation is more than that.

You entrust us with the care of your children and we value that trust. We develop their lifelong motor skills as toddlers and young people by organizing programs specifically with instruction and coaching developed for their age groups. We also help you become and stay fit, and build programs to promote family unity. We also expand your skills and knowledge, increase your self-esteem, and reduce your stress. In short, we make you feel great!

Our park and recreational facilities are point of pride for the Glencoe community. They add quality to our environment, they maintain the value of our homes, they bring in tourism dollars to local businesses, and we keep the air and water clean by preserving open spaces. For example, picnickers buy charcoal, food, and coolers. Other park patrons purchase shoes and sporting equipment to engage in physical activities in our facilities, such as playing tennis or walking on our multi-use paths.

Through participation in organized activities, we provide the opportunity for social interaction, promote sensitivity to cultural diversity, eliminate loneliness, create memories for your later reflection, and provide you with space to have fun, relax, and enjoy life. The benefits of parks and recreation span every age and demographic of this country and affect society at both an individual and as a whole.

With the rise of internet and social media usage, there are a lot of people (young and old) who are spending large amounts of their free-time in front of a computer screen. Promoting the benefits of unplugging from this trending pastime will be crucial as the need of park and recreation agencies evolve. We must continue to connect with all users by making recreation fun and engaging to all. Park and recreation programs are a means to providing families with opportunities to spend important quality time together. They contribute to a proactive way for adults to better their health, prevent debilitating illness, and increase individual life spans. They provide youth with a social outlet. Most importantly, park and recreation agencies are inexpensive and convenient for everyone in the community.

Recreation programs and activities available during youth high-risk times between 3 and 7 p.m. for youth include: gymnastics, tennis, soccer, volleyball, basketball, karate, ice skating, ice hockey, dance, theater, art, music, cooking, and many other specialty courses. Research on the effectiveness of park and recreation programs for young people include: enhanced self-esteem, development of self-awareness, more disciplined attitude, greater awareness of health and hygiene, gains in confidence, peer group socialization, and interaction with a positive, caring adult role model.

A key to increasing the exposure of youth in recreation activities is to have active and encouraging adult role models. It makes sense that kids growing up in households with active adults are likely to adopt an active lifestyle too. Parents must take the opportunity to seek out activities that can be shared with their child, or with the whole family.

“Direct a child to exercise and few will respond with enthusiasm – if they respond at all. But issue an invitation to join the fun, and most will accept eagerly.”

There are countless ways to enjoy recreation with a child, starting from toddler through the teen years. Glencoe Park District offers activities for all ages and levels, during hours convenient for everyone, even the working person. These activities range in price, but are comparable to taking the family to the movies, or out to lunch, and the benefits of enjoying recreation as a family are immeasurable. Ancillary benefits include exercise and improvement to their general health.

This summer, the Glencoe Park District will be focusing on ways to Unplug and Play. We invite you to join us for outdoor concerts, movies, camps, classes, special events and campouts designed to celebrate warm weather and recreation. In addition to a fun summer of events, we will be sharing unplugging stories and ideas. We invite you to join the conversation on social media and tell us about your outlet with the hashtag #UnplugGlencoe.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sheppard, CPRP
Executive Director

Lisa Sheppard, CPRP
Bobby Collins Brings Competitive Sailing to Glencoe

The Glencoe Park District is pleased to welcome Bobby Collins to the district as the new Beach and Ice Rink Facility Manager.

“Bobby brings a great deal of experience and ideas to the Glencoe Park District. We’re excited to have him on our team,” said Mike Lushniak, Director of Recreation and Facilities.

Growing up in Ireland, Bobby was a competitive sailor and coach. He represented Ireland at five world championships, finishing fourth at Mirror Sailing World Championships in Australia and coached the Irish International Mirror team. During college, he captained the University College Dublin Sailing Team. As a sailor, he was also was the Irish Junior Helms Sailing Gold Medal Champion, J24 and Mirror East Coast Champion, awarded Royal St. George Yacht Club ‘Champions Award’ and awarded National Yacht Club ‘Cadet of the Year’.

For the past four years, Bobby Collins worked as the Sailing School Director for the Chicago Yacht Club, one of the top competitive sailing schools in the country. He led the largest high school sailing program in the U.S., which included New Trier High School. During his time at Chicago Yacht Club, the aquatic program grew by over 50%.

Bobby is heavily involved with safety and instructional training with U.S. Sailing. He is seen as a leader in the industry and presented at the last two U.S. Sailing Leadership Forums. Last year, he was appointed the Regional Training Coordinator to the Midwest. In this volunteer role, he coordinates all area Instructor Trainers to schedule and improve the quality of training.

Bobby is also a US Sailing Coach Levels 1, 2 and 3, a Powerboat Instructor, a Sailing Instructor Trainer and a First Aid, AED and CPR instructor. In previous years, he has trained staff for the Glencoe and Wilmette park districts, the Northwestern Sailing Center and other Midwest yacht clubs. Bobby has a business and finance degree from the University of College Dublin, Ireland.

“I’m looking forward to continuing the tradition of exceptional services at Glencoe Beach and Watts Ice Center,” said Bobby.

In addition to managing beach and boat operations, Bobby will be teaching select sailing classes this summer. The sailing curriculum has been enhanced to include more hands-on activities and lessons designed to give students a new appreciation for the sport. Enrollment is now open for all sailing classes.

Recharge at Glencoe Beach

Spend your summer at Glencoe Beach! Our community beach is packed with amenities for the entire family to enjoy, including:

- Paul & Ada Safran Sprayground for children to enjoy climbing, splashing, sliding, swinging, and playing
- A large, shaded trellis and five sun shelters available to rent for private picnics, weddings, parties, or special events
- Rent a paddle board, kayak, sailboat, chair or umbrella by the hour at the Rental Hut
- Full concession operations, with food from Glencoe’s own Little Red Hen
- Two sand volleyball courts, which will host a youth volleyball competition this summer. Registration is now open at the Beach House for the 2-on-2 tournament.
- Year-round storage for kayaks, paddle boards, and sailboats at the Glencoe Boating Beach
- Complimentary beach cart service (Weekdays, 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.; Weekends, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.)

Set Sail at Glencoe Beach

Learn to Sail!

Learn to sail at Glencoe Beach! Our new curriculum includes plenty of hands-on activities and on-water experiences designed to teach you to sail in a fun way. Sailboats and life jackets, along with expert instruction, are provided.

Beginner Sailing
12:30-3 p.m. | Monday-Thursday | Starts June 6, June 20, July 11, July 25
Learn basic skills to sail successfully in our week-long camp. Instructors teach on dry land and on the water to give sailors a solid background in safety and technique (including capsizing skills). Students will be required to take a swim test.

Intermediate Sailing
12:30-3 p.m. | Monday-Thursday | Starts June 13, June 27, July 18, August 1
Refine your basic sailing skills while expanding to more complex skills, such as roll tack, gybes, mark roundings, sail and boat trim, and heavy air sailing. Dry land and on water skills as well as capsizing skills are included.

Adult Sailing
10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Saturdays or Sundays | June 12- July 23
Learn basic seamanship and skills to start sailing! We’ll introduce you to the Lake Michigan sailing community, and take care to ensure you enjoy your new experience. Expect to learn basic knots, sailing maneuvers, safety procedures, wind-sensing, right-of-way, and nautical terms.

PRIVATE LESSONS
Private sailing lessons are available in one hour increments June 6 through August 14. To schedule, please call 847-835-8910 three days in advance. $65/hour
Why Preschool Matters

We know that play is a child’s most important teacher. But we also know that play designed and supported by experienced teachers results in the highest quality of integrated, multi-dimensional learning.

“There’s increasing evidence that children gain a lot from going to preschool,” says Parents advisor Kathleen McCartney, PhD, dean of Harvard Graduate School of Education, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “At preschool, they become exposed to numbers, letters, and shapes. And, more important, they learn how to socialize - get along with other children, share, and contribute to circle time.”

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), children who attend high-quality preschool enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills than those who do not.

“Every child should have some sort of group experience before he starts kindergarten,” says Amy Flynn, director of New York City’s Bank Street Family Center. Music and gymnastics classes are great, but what preschools do that less formal classes don’t is teach kids how to be students. Your child will learn how to raise her hand, take turns, and share the teacher’s attention. What’s more, she’ll learn how to separate from Mommy, who often stays in a music or gym class. All of this makes for an easier transition to kindergarten. “Kindergarten teachers will tell you that the students who are ready to learn are those who come into school with good social and behavior-management skills,” Smith says.

In addition to strengthening socialization skills - how to compromise, be respectful of others, and problem-solve - preschool provides a place where your child can gain a sense of self, explore, play with her peers, and build confidence. At the Early Learning Center our goal is not just school-readiness, but also life-readiness: the ability to problem-solve, work with others, feel confident, and meet new challenges.

The Early Learning Center follows the Illinois Early Learning Standards, a set of developmentally appropriate benchmarks designed to guide classroom experiences and activities as well as provide a solid foundation for developmental and experiential learning.

The best way to understand the importance of preschool is to visit a classroom. “When we incorporate project learning and constructivism in our classrooms, you will see children playing. What is less apparent is the depth of learning that takes place as children test materials, make observations, record stories, and expand their creativity,” said Naomi Garvett, Early Childhood Manager.

To schedule a tour, please call 847-835-7534. Enrollment is now open for morning and afternoon preschool programs for children ages 2-5.

Plan Your Visit!

Picking the right program can be overwhelming. Here are a few questions parents frequently ask when visiting the Early Learning Center.

• How do the students interact with the teachers? Our teachers talk with the children, asking lots of questions and patiently answering theirs. We seek to know your child as a person so that we can provide optimal support during these important preschool years.

• What does the parent-teacher connection look like? At the Early Learning Center, parents receive monthly newsletters, weekly lesson plans, and access to a password-protected photo-sharing site. Parent conferences and family events are planned throughout the school year to encourage interaction. Our Preschool Parent club also offers social opportunities for families.

• Does my child need to be toilet-trained? The Early Learning Center respects the unique development of each individual child. Children are not required to be toilet-trained to participate.

• What’s the daily routine? The Early Learning Center philosophy is that children learn best through meaningful interactions with the world around them in a secure environment. Learning is an active process, whether it happens during a teacher-guided group experience or during free choice play.

Park Project Updates

Shelton Park

Elanar Construction will begin the replacement of the Shelton Park Playground in mid to late June based on equipment availability. The playground will remain open until the new playground equipment arrives. Installation of the new equipment is expected to be completed within four weeks of the start of construction.

Kalk Park

Elanar Construction will begin phase one of the Kalk Park renovation in late May. Phase one will include sidewalk replacement and installation of the new drinking fountain, which is scheduled to be completed by June 24. Phase two of the project is the replacement of Lizas Gazebo, which will take place during the month of July. Park sidewalks will be open during the gazebo construction. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 at Kalk Park.

Berlin Park

The Glencoe Park District will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at Berlin Park on Monday, June 6 at 6:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend the celebration. Claus Brothers is slated to begin construction at Berlin Park the week of June 6 through August. The official reopening of the field will take place in the spring of 2017.

Why Preschool Matters

We know that play is a child’s most important teacher. But we also know that play designed and supported by experienced teachers results in the highest quality of integrated, multi-dimensional learning.

“‘There’s increasing evidence that children gain a lot from going to preschool,” says Parents advisor Kathleen McCartney, PhD, dean of Harvard Graduate School of Education, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “At preschool, they become exposed to numbers, letters, and shapes. And, more important, they learn how to socialize - get along with other children, share, and contribute to circle time.”

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), children who attend high-quality preschool enter kindergarten with better pre-reading skills, richer vocabularies, and stronger basic math skills than those who do not.

“Every child should have some sort of group experience before he starts kindergarten,” says Amy Flynn, director of New York City’s Bank Street Family Center. Music and gymnastics classes are great, but what preschools do that less formal classes don’t is teach kids how to be students. Your child will learn how to raise her hand, take turns, and share the teacher’s attention. What’s more, she’ll learn how to separate from Mommy, who often stays in a music or gym class. All of this makes for an easier transition to kindergarten. “Kindergarten teachers will tell you that the students who are ready to learn are those who come into school with good social and behavior-management skills,” Smith says.

In addition to strengthening socialization skills - how to compromise, be respectful of others, and problem-solve - preschool provides a place where your child can gain a sense of self, explore, play with her peers, and build confidence. At the Early Learning Center our goal is not just school-readiness, but also life-readiness: the ability to problem-solve, work with others, feel confident, and meet new challenges.

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The best way to understand the importance of preschool is to visit a classroom. “When we incorporate project learning and constructivism in our classrooms, you will see children playing. What is less apparent is the depth of learning that takes place as children test materials, make observations, record stories, and expand their creativity,” said Naomi Garvett, Early Childhood Manager.

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Special Events

FREE! Tots-N-Tunes On Tuesdays
10:30-11:15 a.m. | Tuesdays June 28, July 12, July 26 | Takiff Center Front Lawn
Your tot will be dancing and singing along as talented children's performers take the stage! Rain location: Takiff Center Community Hall.

FREE! Park-a-Palooza
6-7 p.m. | Thursdays July 16, July 14, August 4 | Watts Park
Magic, balloons, music and fun! Each month, a new variety act will perform at Watts Park during Park-n-Play! Rain location: Watts Center.

FREE! Park-N-Play
6-7 p.m. | Thursdays, June 23-July 28
Each week, we’re bringing art and games to a different Glencoe park. In the event of rain, Park-n-Play will be canceled. Visit www.glencoparkdistrict.com for list of parks.

NEW! Spike & Splash Youth Beach Volleyball Tournaments
11 a.m.-4 p.m. | June 12, June 29 & July 29 | Ages 10-15 | $30 per person
Play in our new 2-on-2 beach volleyball tournament. Each team will play four matches, with single elimination playoffs. Please register in person at Glencoe Beach.

FREE! Movies on the Green
Movies Begin at Dusk | See back cover for dates and movies | Wyman Green
Grab a blanket and enjoy a movie in the park! Rain location: Village Hall.

Sailing Regattas
12 p.m. | Saturdays June 25, July 2, July 16 | Glencoe Boating Beach | $10 per boat
Participate in challenging, hands-on races set up by beach staff. To participate in a regatta, please register at the Glencoe Boating Beach the day of the event.

NEW! At the Beach with Dory
7-9 p.m. | Wednesday, July 20 | Glencoe Beach
Spend an evening at the Beach, searching for Dory and her friends! The evening will include games, inflatable fun, and time with Nemo's favorite friend. Recommended for kids ages 3-8 years old. Adult must accompany their child. Food is not included, but the concession stand will be open for purchases. Advance registration required by July 15.

Beach Camp Out
6 p.m.-9 a.m. | Friday-Saturday, July 22-23 | Glencoe Beach
Camp at Glencoe Beach with your family! We’ll start with an early evening cookout and, after the sun sets, enjoy a movie night on a large projection screen and roast marshmallows. All children must be accompanied by a parent; children under the age of two are free. Participants must pre-register by July 18. In case of inclement weather, the make-up date will be August 12. Refunds will not be issued to participants unable to attend contingency dates. More details are available on the online registration page.

FREE! Sand Sculpting Contest
1-2 p.m. | Sunday, July 31 | Glencoe Beach
Bring your buckets, cans and sand shovels to our Family Sand Sculpting Contest! All ages welcome; prizes will be awarded.

NEW! Doggie Dip
6-7 p.m. | September 16 | Glencoe Beach
Bring your dog to the Glencoe Beach for a whole lotta doggone fun! Owners can watch their dogs swim at Lake Michigan all while enjoying the company of other dogs in this fun-filled free event! Aggressive dogs, dogs in heat, or dogs under four months old will not be allowed. Owners must clean up after their dogs, baggies will be provided. Dogs must wear flat buckle/snap collars while on the beach (no prong, choke, or training collars). All dogs should be up-to-date on their vaccines to participate. Dog owners must be 18 years of age or older. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

4th of July in Glencoe!

Join us for our annual patriotic celebration, which will include the following family-fun festivities:

8:00 a.m. | 2-Mile Rotary Fun Run at the Train Station
10:00 a.m. | Preschool Games at Veteran's Memorial Park
12:00 p.m. | Glencoe's Got Talent at Wyman Green
2:00 p.m. | 4th of July Parade in Downtown Glencoe
6:00 p.m. | Park-N-Ride trolley starts and food sales
6:30 p.m. | Live Music: Spoken Four at Lakefront Park
9:00 p.m. | Fireworks Show at Lakefront Park

Fireworks at Lakefront Park
Please note, the Glencoe Beach will be closed on July 4 in order to safely shoot the fireworks off from the sand. Season tokens will be honored at Elder Lane Beach and Maple Street Beach in Winnetka on July 4.

Street Closures and Parking Restrictions
Hazel, Park, and Longwood Avenues will be closed on July 4. Parking will not be allowed on Hazel, Park, and Longwood from 10:00 p.m. on July 3 through 6:00 a.m. on July 5.

Trolley Service
A trolley will shuttle residents from the Glencoe Train Station parking lots to Lakefront Park beginning at 6:00 p.m. on July 4.
Dear Community Members,

The cover of this issue highlights the collaborative work being done in the West School garden, which serves as a literal and figurative symbol of growth in our schools. Most recently our fourth graders worked together to amend the soil and prepare the garden beds for the third graders to complete their spring planting. Collaborative tasks in the garden have helped to promote deeper learning, critical thinking, and a stronger sense of community with our students. The students have been actively engaged with the garden, using it as an outdoor learning laboratory for our newly developed Science units of study. Our budding scientists compared the structure and growth cycle of broccoli, lettuce, swiss chard, and kale. Classes also researched and engineered cold frames to extend the growing season and their studies. The final days of our school year provide a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the incredible growth both in the garden and across the District.

On June 2, we say farewell to 169 graduating eighth grade students. It is with mixed emotions that we watch these young men and women cross the stage; we know they are well prepared for the next step in their educational journey. Our Central School graduates will move forward and represent the Glencoe community in a most positive way. As we bid farewell to this eighth grade class, we look forward to welcoming our first full-day Kindergarten class to South School in August. We are scheduled to open six sections of full-day Kindergarten with 120 students registered for the fall. The full-day Kindergarten program reflects another important growth opportunity for our schools.

As this school year comes to a close, we also support a transition and growth opportunity for our Board of Education. We send a heartfelt thank you to Michael Sherman who contributed to the quality and decisions made by our Board of Education during this last year. We would also like to welcome our newly appointed Board member, Melissa Estes, who began her one-year term as she was sworn in on May 2, 2016. Congratulations to Melissa!

Please join me in expressing gratitude to our Board of Education, the teaching teams, support staff, and our students for dedicating time and energy toward continual growth in our schools.

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”  ~Benjamin Franklin

Enjoy the summer days ahead and time to refresh and renew. “The children made their time here special.” In this issue, we celebrate Kris Grant, Jill Lapin, Nadine Levin, Robin Martens, and Gerri Tyre. Our retirees have spent a combined total of 103 years educating the children of Glencoe. We thank them for their dedication to our children and their colleagues. We wish each of them the happiness in retirement they so richly deserve. It is now their turn to move forward and experience new growth opportunities beyond our schools.

Our five retiring educators are all unique, yet their favorite memory of teaching in Glencoe has a common thread… the children made their time here special. In this issue, we celebrate Kris Grant, Jill Lapin, Nadine Levin, Robin Martens, and Gerri Tyre. Our retirees have spent a combined total of 103 years educating the children of Glencoe. We thank them for their dedication to our children and their colleagues. We wish each of them the happiness in retirement they so richly deserve. It is now their turn to move forward and experience new growth opportunities beyond our schools.

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Enjoy the summer days ahead and time to refresh for the 2016-2017 school year. ■

Sincerely,

Catherine Wang
Superintendent

Board of Education
Mrs. Julie Ackerman
Mr. Robert Bailey
Mr. Edward Chez
Mrs. Melissa Estes
Mrs. Jean Hahn
Dr. Marc Glucksman
Mr. Gary Ruben - President

Superintendent
Dr. Catherine Wang

Contact Information
Board of Education
Glencoe School District 35
620 Greenwood Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022
Phone: 847-835-7800
Fax: 847-835-7805
Website: www.glencoeschools.org

Coming Events:

8th Grade Graduation
Thursday, June 2 | 7:00 p.m.
Misner Auditorium

Last Day of the School Year
Friday, June 3 | Early Dismissal

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, June 6 | 7:00 p.m.
Young Auditorium

Summer School Begins
Tuesday, June 7
West and South Schools

Summer School Ends
Friday, July 1
West and South Schools

First Day of School for 1st-8th Grades
Thursday, August 25

First Day of School for Kindergarten
Tuesday, August 30

Glencoe District
The Board of Education is pleased to welcome Mrs. Melissa Estes. Mrs. Estes and her family have been residents of Glencoe since 2011. Mrs. Estes earned a Bachelor and Masters degree in Theatre from Northwestern University. She previously taught in both urban and suburban schools in Texas and for 15 years at Stevenson High School. Through her years in education and volunteer experiences, Mrs. Estes has shown strong skills of collaboration and consensus building.

In identifying her desire to serve on the Board, Mrs. Estes shared, “Public education is at the core of what will make our society grow and improve and I want to make my contribution at a deeper and higher level than I have been able to do thus far in Glencoe.”

Mr. Michael Sherman served a one-year term on the District 35 Board of Education. It is with sadness and gratitude that the school community bids farewell to Mr. Michael Sherman as he relocates with this family to New Jersey. We thank Mr. Sherman for his work on behalf of the students and families of Glencoe School District 35 and his service to the school community.

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Quinn in 2010. Since that time, District 35 has taken steps to ensure alignment with the new requirements. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, PERA requires the establishment of a valid and reliable performance evaluation system for certified employees to assess both professional competence and student growth. The performance evaluations of the principals/assistant principals and teachers must include data and indicators of student growth. The District has formed a Joint Committee comprised of equal representation of teachers and administrators. Implementation steps have included teacher training and assessment trials across our grade levels. While a required step, we have found the inclusion of student growth measures has added value to our conversations and focus on student learning. We thank our Joint Committee for their dedication to prepare for this shift across District 35.

Congratulations to Retiring District 35 Staff Members

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our five retirees for their service to the District 35 students and school community.

We welcome parents and community members to send letters or cards on behalf of the retirees to our school offices.

As we conclude the school year, we asked each of our retirees to reflect on their time in District 35.

Kris Grant
Social Studies Teacher at Central School
1985-2016

“I know how fortunate I have been to work the majority of my career in Glencoe. How many teachers can say that they are accorded intellectual freedom and professional respect; that they have been encouraged to teach with passion, creativity and individuality? I am indebted to the community, the administrators and the board members of Glencoe who have collaborated to maintain this unique educational environment that nurtures both students and teachers. Thank you for allowing me to challenge myself, to learn and to grow in a variety of positions.”

Jill Lapin
Spanish Teacher at Central School
1998-2016

“During my 18 years of teaching in District 35, I have been blessed with many opportunities for enhancing both my teaching and intellectual skills. Serving as Student Council Advisor for many years I have had the chance to give back to the Glencoe community as well as to others less fortunate. With a note of poignancy due to retiring I leave District 35 with wonderful memories of my years of service.”

Nadine Levin
Teacher Associate at South School
2003-2016

“My favorite thing about South School has been the unconditional love from the children. Walking through downtown Glencoe I feel like a celebrity, because children are always coming up and saying hello with their families. It has been wonderful raising my children in Glencoe, being a room parent, serving on the PTO board, and working at South School. It has been quite a journey, and I look forward to my future.”

Robin Martens
4th Grade Teacher at West School
1994-2016

“I have felt proud to teach in a school district that is on the cutting edge of implementing new techniques of educating and servicing students. Throughout my 22 years in Glencoe, the encouragement and training for developing new skills and growing as a teacher have always been there. The district has consistently offered opportunities for using technology as a learning/teaching/displaying and communicating tool. I am grateful for the support of administrators and colleagues in stimulating growth with implementing curriculum, in relating to parents, and in always finding the best way to support each individual student’s learning.”

Gerri Tyre
7th and 8th Grade Health Teacher at Central School
1997-2016

“I have many fabulous memories of working at Central School. Teaching great students, working with caring parents, and having excellent materials and resources along with supportive administrators and colleagues have made my experiences here exceptional! Also, having former students take the time to visit or email me with their thoughts, updates, and memories has been and continues to be very rewarding. I am so grateful for having been given the opportunity to work in District 35.”

Student Growth in our Schools

The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Quinn in 2010. Since that time, District 35 has taken steps to ensure alignment with the new requirements. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, PERA requires the establishment of a valid and reliable performance evaluation system for certified employees to assess both professional competence and student growth. The performance evaluations of the principals/assistant principals and teachers must include data and indicators of student growth. The District has formed a Joint Committee comprised of equal representation of teachers and administrators. Implementation steps have included teacher training and assessment trials across our grade levels. While a required step, we have found the inclusion of student growth measures has added value to our conversations and focus on student learning. We thank our Joint Committee for their dedication to prepare for this shift across District 35.
Summer Explorations

The 2016 Summer Explorations program will be held at West and South Schools. The classes begin Tuesday, June 7 and continue through Friday, July 1. Community members are asked to be mindful of the student foot and bicycle traffic on these dates during the morning hours. Glencoe Public Safety will assist with student dismissal at West School.

Residency Information

Parents of school-age children who have either moved to a new home or have a lease that is expiring before the start of the 2016-2017 school year are asked to reestablish residency. Please contact Roseanne Nelson (nelson@glencoeschools.org) in the Board of Education Office to provide updated residency information. This information is required for the school district to verify enrollment and complete class assignments for the coming school year.

Arbor Day

Each year the Village of Glencoe recognizes Arbor Day by planting a tree at a District 35 school. Mr. Oberlander’s first grade class assisted with this year’s planting of a tree at South School. District 35 thanks Mr. John Houde, Building and Zoning Administrator for the Village of Glencoe, for his time and efforts to make this annual event possible for our students.

Caring for our Earth

While many students participated in the Village of Glencoe and Glencoe Park District Earth Day Clean-Up on April 22, throughout the spring there were other opportunities for students across the schools to reflect on ways to take care of our earth.

Our 6th graders continued with the annual Walk & Bike to School day, in which all students were encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to school. As they engaged in the study of climate and environmental impact, students learned that they could affect pollution levels if more students walked or rode a bike to school. Our 6th grade science classes researched and prepared public service announcements and flyers used to advertise the event across the classes at South, West and Central. Survey data indicated that more than 50% of Glencoe’s students participated and the impact was obvious in that bike racks were overflowing across the three schools and carlines were noticeably smaller. This same day the 6th graders engaged in additional activities to impact the Glencoe community. Students worked on the Green Bay Trail with Friends of the Green Bay Trail, completed garden work at the Glencoe Community Garden, and engaged in cleanup and planting work at the Central School garden. We are most thankful for the community partnerships to make this work possible.

Our 7th graders were also out enjoying a day of Science & Service as they worked in the Skokie Lagoons with The Backyard Nature Center. The students rotated through four opportunities to serve as citizen scientists:

- Carbon impact data collection
- Water quality testing
- Invasive plant removal
- Observational nature walk

We thank Mr. Couturier, Mrs. Dwan-Collins, and Mr. Sitz for coordinating these learning opportunities to connect to their ecosystem study. The data collected will also be compared with data Wilmette students gathered earlier in the school year.

Last Day of the School Year

The final day of the 2015-2016 school year for Kindergarten through 7th grade is Friday, June 3. Each District school will be participating in Field Day events and ending with an early dismissal:

- South School: 2:00 p.m.
- West School: 2:15 p.m.
- Central School: 2:25 p.m.

8th Grade Graduation

On Thursday, June 2, District 35 will honor the graduating class of 2016. The Commencement Ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Misner Auditorium. Following the graduation ceremony a reception will be held for family and friends. The annual 8th grade student party will follow the reception and conclude at 10:25 p.m.

Our thanks to PTO Graduation Committee, Julie Miller, Kathy Deveny, and Andrea Heiman for their planning and preparation for the graduation events. Appreciation is also extended to Dr. Mollet, Mr. Kim, and the 8th grade advisors for their assistance and support.

Move-In Days for the New School Year

Planning is already underway for the start of a new school year. The annual Move-In Day for District 35 students is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24. Move-In Day provides students an opportunity to visit the school building, deliver supplies, and locate their new classroom and locker.

Move-In Day Schedules on Wednesday, August 24

- South School and West School: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Central School: 5th Grade Open House 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, August 25, is the first day of student attendance (full day) in grades 1 – 8. The first day for kindergarten children is Tuesday, August 30.
Dear Friends and Neighbors:

In this issue of the Quarterly, FSG focuses again on transitions. Board Member and Communications Chair Lisa Cardonick writes on kids and summer – their pulling away from parents to embrace some small measure of independence. FSG Therapist Chuck Hutchcraft responds to an “Ask the Therapist” question on extended adolescence with millennials and the issues young adults face with growing up and leaving home. Guest essayist Polly Hansen writes on the importance of grieving for first-time empty-nesters. In all of these situations, children and parents are dealing with challenges that life stages bring.

I’m a high control person. I admit it. Not proudly, but not with shame either. It is part of who I am and like most things in life, sometimes this character trait serves me well and sometimes it doesn’t. It is most challenging in the difficulty of letting go. Learning to let go is a task we all face in life at different times and in different situations. Maybe I am kidding myself, but I believe a high-control person like me has a harder time than others in situations where letting go is good and necessary.

One of my biggest issues has been to let go of control over my kids’ lives. When I ask my 26-year-old son if he went to the dentist or if he made an appointment to get his taxes done, he quite rightly ignores my text. Or when I drive into Chicago on a Sunday night to help my 24-year-old daughter get her car started and swapping cars with her so I can get hers to the shop, causing more disruption to our lives than necessary, and all because I think I know best.

William Bridges in The Way of Transition: Embracing Life’s Most Difficult Moments writes about guys like me. “We resist transition not because we can’t accept the change, but because we can’t accept letting go of that piece of ourselves that we have to give up when and because the situation has changed.” Even in my struggle, I sense the wisdom in these words. The situation has changed—my kids are now adults and fully capable of handling things I used to help them with or handle for them. Rather than fighting it, I should be celebrating their ability to manage their lives because my wife and I taught them well. Instead, I flounder around trying to hold on to that piece of myself that needs to feel needed.

The good news is I can talk about these concerns with friends, family, and colleagues, and I read books, and articles where experts can offer good advice. I can learn to change. It does not happen suddenly. Change for me is usually like wading into cold water; I go agonizingly slowly one inch at a time.

Providing support through life’s sometimes difficult transitions is a specialty of FSG counseling staff. Please remember that if you encounter a situation where your usual support network is not enough, our compassionate and caring staff are here for you.

At the heart of our community,

William (Bill) Hansen, MSW
Executive Director
william@familyserviceofglencoe.org
Summer’s Independence

As summer approaches, your kids will be faced with a lot of unstructured time. How great! The advantages of this type of play are vast:

TIME MANAGEMENT
During the school year, children are constantly being directed and observed by adults. They have teachers, coaches and tutors planning their time. Summer affords them the opportunity to manage their own time and friendships. Do you remember the freedom you felt hopping on your bike and heading out to find your friends? Maybe you went to the pool or had a pick-up basketball game. Your kids will benefit from making plans without much guidance. For the elementary school crowd, give them some autonomy after camp to just hang out with friends and choose their activities. Middle schoolers can head to town, bike from house to house, or go to the baseball field. If you make them responsible for their own plans, they become responsible for their own plans.

LEARNING TO PROBLEM-SOLVE
A forgotten lunch. A missing shin guard. We so often come to the rescue when our kids leave items at home. During summer vacation, the stakes are much lower. Use this time to allow your kids to make mistakes. What if your child forgets his towel? Or has no money when she walks into town with her friends? Help them brainstorm options rather than giving them the answer. This serves several purposes. First, your children learn that you have faith in their judgment and ability to deal with the issue on their own. Second, your children develop an ability to deal with disappointment. Third, they are forced to think of solutions and put those ideas into action. There will be some trial and error, but the act of problem-solving will boost their confidence and allow them to trust their instincts.

ENGAGING IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION
You are there at the playground. Teachers are there at recess. Coaches are there on the field. Kids have little opportunity to resolve issues amongst themselves without outside influences. This summer, make it a point to take a step back if you hear conflict in the backyard. Allow your children the gift of hands-off parenting for a bit to see if they can work out conflict without adult intervention. When they learn to manage their interactions with other kids, they become better teammates, classmates and siblings.

THIS WORKS FOR THE YOUNGER CROWD – BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TEENAGERS?
Teenagers are other animals entirely with different needs than the younger crowd. It is a teen’s job to pull away and seek independence. But how much freedom is too much? That depends upon the individual. Look at the big picture when deciding summer rules. Does your teenager have a summer job? Is he or she successfully (even if not willingly) completing required household tasks? If your children are handling all of their responsibilities at work and at home, then they are demonstrating the maturity needed to effectively problem-solve and make good decisions. Allow your teens to earn their independence by showing you with their behavior that your trust is warranted.

All of these skills – time management, problem-solving, conflict resolution, and acting responsibly – are abilities that need to be learned. While there may be no classroom instruction during these months, you can use summer as a time to develop your children’s life skills.

Contributed by Lisa Cardonick, FSG Board Member, Communications Chair.

The Empty-Nesting Process

The thing that comes up for me when I think about empty nesting is grieving. Don’t neglect the grieving process, don’t make light of it is my advice to parents facing this new episode in their lives. Some parents might feel overjoyed to see the backs of their kids and embrace the freedom that detachment from “big kid worries under your roof” brings. There’s no denying that the freedoms and benefits of empty nesting are quite enjoyable, but the pain of parting and change is real. Even though millions of parents before me have done it, I had never been an empty nester, and it was important to acknowledge I was grieving.

We have two kids. Our eldest never went to college other than a semester while living at home. It wasn’t for him, but he did work full-time. After a while we said, “You would have been graduating from university in May. It’s time you think of getting a place of your own.” He did, ahead of schedule by several months and he’s never moved back. That was five years ago. Though I didn’t miss the dirty dishes he’d leave behind, and the eternally messy room I’d see when I passed his open bedroom door, nor the cartoons he still watched even as an adult, I missed his presence, his voice, his daily jokes, his laughter.

Our daughter, on the other hand, had already lived away from home on several occasions, first on a six-month service project living in South America, and then a semester in Spain as an undergraduate. I was used to her absence, but it was no less painful.

What did empty nesting feel like at first? It was an ache as if I’d been robbed of motherhood. That may sound silly, ridiculous even, but my immediate mothering on a day-to-day basis was no longer needed in the way it had once been. What did that mean as I faced my husband with no children in-between to distract us?

Fortunately, my husband and I had continually worked at our relationship keeping the lines of communication open and always questioning what intimacy meant for us. When the pangs of empty nesting hit me, I was able to turn to my partner in marriage and share my sorrows and my joys, too, over a job well done.

Empty nesting doesn’t happen all at once, thank heavens. It is a process that should be honored. It’s also a slow process – it comes and goes and the feelings with it come and go. I allowed myself the tears. When we dropped our daughter off at college, we spent the afternoon helping her get settled in her dorm room. When I was hugging her good-bye, she said, “Oh, Mom, you’re not going to cry, are you?” She was smiling as she said it. “Of course I am!” I said, and I did. I wiped my tears and kissed her good-bye—so pleased to see and feel her excitement as I left her to continue her own life.

It took awhile before I realized I wasn’t sad anymore; the grieving had taken place in stages. Unlike my son’s abrupt departure, my daughter would move back home over the summer over four years of college. When she made the final push, the final move into her own apartment, I didn’t hurt like I had when the whole process was new. I felt a mild pang sitting in her dorm room. When I was hugging her good-bye, she said, “Oh, Mom, you’re not going to cry, are you?” She was smiling as she said it. “Of course I am!” I said, and I did. I wiped my tears and kissed her good-bye—so pleased to see and feel her excitement as I left her to continue her own life.

In approaching the process of becoming an empty nester it was important for me to remain vulnerable to the feelings of loss and sadness that bubbled up in me, because then I was also open to the feelings of joy and pride and love.

Today, my empty nest is not a barren place. Our empty nest is evolving and becoming a new space where my husband and I both continue to grow and change. Had I denied the process of grieving in becoming an empty nester, I’m not sure I’d have been able to let go and move on and let my kids move on as well. It was the process that brought us to a new phase in our lives. Our nest has become something else yet again.

Contributed by Polly Hansen, wife of FSG Executive Director William Hansen.
Our son is 25 and still living at home. He graduated from college, but hasn’t been able to find a job in his field. I’ve been hearing the extended adolescence of his generation. I would like to know more about this to help us and our son navigate this period in our lives.

There is a perception that the prolonged entry into adulthood by a sizable percentage of millennials (those roughly aged 18-34) is willful, that they are lazy and/or have a sense of entitlement. According to a growing body of research, however, this perception is more of a misperception. It is, as research bears out, taking young people emerging from adolescence to take that full step into adulthood. Barring developmental delays, substance use, and individual circumstances, this delay is a not-so-unreasonable response to circumstances.

Laurence Steinberg writes in “Age of Opportunity, Lessons from the New Science of Adolescence,” that period in human development known as adolescence has been growing longer since the mid-1800s, when adolescence lasted five years. He defines adolescence as the time from onset of puberty to when young people leave home, marry and assume careers. Steinberg says research further finds an ever-earlier onset of puberty and prolonged entry into adulthood.

There was a brief time in the last 160-plus years when adolescence returned to five years. This was during the economic boom that followed World War II, when jobs were plentiful and level of education was less a factor in obtaining them. That is not the situation emerging adults find themselves facing today. College education is a prerequisite for most careers, post-graduate education is even better. Meanwhile, young adults, especially women, see no need to rush into marriage.

From the perspective of psychosocial development, it is important to keep in mind that where one is developmentally at any given stage of life depends on what came before. If mastery wasn’t achieved during one stage of development, delays likely will continue into the next stage.

For the sake of time and expediency, we will draw a line in the developmental sand at adolescence. Ideally, adolescents demonstrate critical and abstract thinking, greater impulse control, begin to discover who they are sexually, socially and personally, and begin to chart out their direction in life. Prior history, ongoing life circumstances, including drug and alcohol use, might well inhibit development during adolescence and result in delays impacting early adulthood.

According to the journal New Directions for Youth Development, having achieved these masteries, young adults are better able to manage increasingly demanding roles, define one’s abilities and refine skills to succeed in these roles, and assess and make adjustments to life’s ongoing changes. When one studies the bigger picture a little more, there appears to be a logical order to the way things are playing out for millennials. This generation appears to be demonstrating behavior appropriate to this stage in life.

From what you have shared, this appears to be the case with your son. But there are a few other matters, and not so minor at that, remaining. First, there is the matter of how to navigate co-existence under one roof. This entails establishing and respecting boundaries. Hidden in the details of being able to do so is the ability to communicate as adults. It’s likely that any lingering issues between parents and child will make this difficult.

Second, if you haven’t mastered the art of patience, perhaps now is the time to start learning. This would include freeing yourself from ideas of how things used to be and beginning to accept how things are. At least to a point. Remember the part about establishing and respecting boundaries.

Third, individuals may experience difficulties at any development stage that they find overwhelming and that impede their success. If so, they might experience anxiety and/or depression. They might also attempt to self-medicate.

In the above situations, individual and/or family therapy might be helpful. Again, clear communication respectful of boundaries, and your knowledge of your child will help you discern what is needed.

Chuck Hutchcraft, LCSW, Therapist

If you have a question for one of our therapists, please submit it anonymously to sarah@familyserviceofglencoe.org.

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