



NEWS RELEASE
GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT
1930 Prairie Street, Glenview, IL 60025

CONTACT: **Elizabeth Makelim**
Glenview Park District
224-521-2258
224-521-2259 (fax)
elizabeth.makelim@glenviewparks.org

**GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT & GLENVIEW YOUTH BASEBALL CELEBRATE NEW
CPW BALL DIAMONDS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

GLENVIEW, IL, Friday, April 30, 2010 – The Glenview Park District and Glenview Youth Baseball (GYB) kicked off the opening of a new four diamond baseball complex at Community Park West, 1001 Zenith Drive., Glenview, in grand style Friday with a parade of baseball teams, a ceremonial first pitch and a varsity baseball game between the Glenbrook South Titans and the Loyola Ramblers. Glenview Park District board members and staff, Glenview Youth Baseball officials, Village officials and over 1,000 baseball players, parents, siblings and friends attended the opening night celebration.

Over 700 GYB players ages 6-10 in the Shetland, Pinto and Mustang divisions, paraded into the new Bronco Field at the southeast end of the park accompanied by the Glenbrook South High School Marching Band and Drum Line to kick off the evening's festivities.

Following a color guard flag ceremony and the National Anthem, Chris Pietrini, Glenview Park District Youth Athletic Supervisor; Village Trustee Jim Patterson; Glenview Park Board Commissioner Ted Przybylo; GYB President Dave Dillon; GYB Treasurer Tim Heublein; and GYB Board Member Danny Nikitas joined together on the pitcher's mound to throw out six balls simultaneously to waiting Glenbrook South High School catchers.

“This Community Park West project is dedicated to our children who will benefit from the outstanding programs that are offered through our partnership with Glenview Youth Baseball.

On these fields they will not only learn the skill of baseball, they will learn many lessons in life and most importantly, how to be good sportsmen no matter if you win or lose,” said Balling.

The new baseball complex and a six acre dog park became major components of the 2007 Community Park West Phase II Master Plan for the development of an additional 35 acres following input from various groups to develop a plan to address multiple needs in the community. Glenview’s first dog park opened last June along with other new Community Park West amenities like a permanent game court area for bocce ball and Baggo, a playground and limestone trails throughout the park.

“The entire Park Board and staff saw the urgency to get these fields started and completed. I am happy to report they are finished on time and on budget. Glenview Youth Baseball’s contributions – both monetarily and the ideas that they brought to the table – truly helped to get this project on the right path. It has been extremely rewarding to work cooperatively with our residents to achieve what you see here today,” Glenview Park Board Commissioner Ted Przybylo said.

Additional financial support came from a \$400,000 State of Illinois Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program grant; other funding came from the Glenview Park District’s Farm and Fields Development Fund, TIF monies, developer donations and bond sale proceeds.

“Glenview has a long-standing tradition of cooperation among local government bodies and private community organizations. The completion of this project is just another fine example of like-minded parties working together for the benefit of our residents,” said Village Trustee Jim Patterson.

The Park District also hosted an open house for its brand new energy-efficient, 21,300 square foot single story office and warehouse building, maintenance yard, material storage area and plant nursery with free ice cream (donated by Homers Homemade Gourmet Ice Cream), cake and “Touch a Truck” activities. The new facility is located adjacent to the four diamond baseball complex and houses a separate community room and kitchen that can be reserved for public use, and public restrooms.

The facility also includes a number of “green” features – a wind turbine that will generate a portion of the building’s power needs, low energy lighting, geothermal heating and cooling, occupancy sensors to turn off lights when no one is in a room, a vegetative green roof, reflective pavement to reduce heat buildup in the yard, a cistern to collect water off the facility roof, rain gardens and bioswales to slow rain run-off and enable more water to be absorbed into the ground, native low-maintenance landscaping, and a porous pavement demonstration area. Funding for the project came from the sale of bonds authorized in conjunction with the park district’s 2007 Strategic Plan and from a number of environmental grants.

The Park Services Department will continue to work out of the existing maintenance building located on Roosevelt Rd., but the 15,000 square foot garage dates to 1953 and is too small to support the district’s growing operations. It will remain a base to service park district locations on Glenview’s east side.

As dusk approached, the two high school varsity teams took to the field. The lights overhead illuminated players and families alike, happy to bask in the glow of Glenview’s new fields of dreams. “This is one of those places where kids make memories. Twenty years from now, they’ll look back at the times they played here and remember what it felt like, what the weather was like, the smell in the air. It’s a very special place,” said GYB President Dave Dillon.

-#-#-#-