

NEW POLICE STATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2016

Why is the Village building a new police station?

Currently, the Police Department is housed in the Village's Civic Center. The building, originally built as a school in 1929, was purchased by the Village in the early 1970's. At this time, Glen Ellyn's Police Department moved into the space. Today, in addition to the building's current space constraints, the Civic Center structure was never designed for the state-of-the-art technologies, equipment and system requirements needed for modern day law enforcement.

The community requires a more modern-day police station to meet the needs of Glen Ellyn's growing community. The new two-story, 29,000 square-foot station will feature:

- Essential design elements for safe and efficient intake and housing of prisoners.
- Added security for the public, as well as employees.
- An emergency operations center (EOC) that can be used for training, larger meetings and major criminal investigations. The EOC can also be used as a centralized internal meeting point in the event of severe weather or other community emergencies.
- A community room for gatherings with area residents, educational sessions and community meetings.

Where will the new station be located and why was this location chosen?

The new station is planned for a site adjacent to Panfish Park, just south of the intersection of Park Boulevard and Taft Avenue. The Village owned the Panfish Park land and acquired several properties surrounding it to make way for the new station. The design of the new station will blend with its natural surroundings and keep with its park-like setting.

This new location, near the center of the community, will allow for much improved access for the Police Department. The new location will allow for the Police Department to easily access Roosevelt Road, which carries a high volume of cars daily, resulting in the Village's highest accident intersections and other calls for service.

Will Panfish Park see improvements?

Panfish Park will see a number of improvements after construction is complete. Village residents will benefit from a new parking lot and improved lighting, better pedestrian and bicycle access, new signage and improved landscaping and paths adjacent to the park. Future improvements could include additional trees, bank stabilization and lights around the path.

Why choose now to build a new police station?

After decades of deferring station investments for the Police Department, the Village undertook a four-year thorough evaluation of space needs for both the Police Department and the Village itself. In 2015, the Village received a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P), the highest rating issued by the agency, with Glen Ellyn as one of the few municipalities able to claim this distinction. This new rating allows for lower borrowing costs and in-turn cost savings to the community over time, proving to be a great time for the Village to invest in this project.

How is this project going to impact open space?

The footprint for this project includes almost the entirety of the acquired single family homes and current Panfish Park parking lot, so very little of Panfish Park will be impacted. The only green space that will be lost is the private yards from the single family homes.

What are the other benefits to this project?

With the relocation of the Police Department to the new station, it will allow for more space at the Village's Civic Center to be used more effectively. The Village will be able to further align the functions and services offered to residents and businesses. Additionally, residents will benefit from more downtown public parking, more readily available in the Civic Center lot.

What is the cost for this new station?

The budget for the new police station is \$13.5 million, not including approximately \$550,000 in land acquisition costs. The figure includes both design and construction, as well as interior furnishings and finishes, surveys and utility costs. Of the \$13.5 million, \$1.5 million will be funding through federal drug forfeiture funding that will help offset the costs of this project.

How is the Village paying for this project?

The new police station will not increase property taxes for Glen Ellyn residents. The project is funded primarily through low interest bonds that will be repaid through current tax revenue collected to fund capital expenses including streets, sidewalks, alleys and storm water improvements, among others. By deferring other infrastructure improvements and prioritizing the new police station as one of the most significant needs for the community, the Village is able to fund the important project.

What changes have been made to the original plans to reduce the cost and align with the current budget?

The process of bringing the new police station project scope in line with the budget, required the elimination of over 20 building components. Some of the major elements that were removed from the scope of the project include the elimination of:

- a firing range and weapons training annex;
- a basement to be used for additional storage and hardened location for an emergency operations center (EOC);
- a parking garage for patrol vehicles, investigations vehicles and other emergency equipment;
- various other design related and contemporary components to the station.

When is the project expected to break ground and be complete?

The Village is expecting to break ground for the new station in July 2016, with construction completion anticipated for September 2017.

How can the community stay informed on the project as it progresses?

The new police station has a dedicated webpage on the Village's website at www.glenellyn.org that will inform residents of updates and progress made on the new project. In addition, future plans for the project will be reviewed through a typical public approval process beginning in January and anticipated to conclude in June 2016.