G
lenview, Illinois, is located north of Chicago between Lake Michigan and the Des Plaines River, between Interstates 94, 294, and 90. The area had once been the home to the Potawatomi tribe. After many treaties wrested land from them, English settlers staked out 160-acre farm sites along established Indian trails beginning in 1833. George Heslington and his family were among the first of these settlers. The Village of Glenview was incorporated in 1899 and had many names, including South Northfield, North Branch, Oak Glen, and Glen View, before becoming Glenview. The village had been home to the Naval Air Station Glenview that played an important role in four major wars and was thetraining ground for thousands of navy recruits from 1935 to 1993. The Naval Air Station Glenview Museum preserves the memory and history of the men and women who served there and captures a significant piece of the village’s history. Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago offers 17 interactive, hands-on exhibits for children up to age 8. Historic Wagner Farm is one of the last working dairy farms in Cook County and consists of a restored farmhouse, barn, and the Historic Wagner Farm Heritage Center with its interactive exhibits. Cows, chickens, draft horses, and pigs also live on the farm. Oil Lamp Theater is a professional not-for-profit theater organization that produces plays with a primary focus on love and relationships and the impact that love has on each life.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Glenview is a primarily commercial district with retail on the buildings’ ground floors and apartments or condominiums above. After the Naval Air Station Glenview closed in 1995, the area was redeveloped into the Glen Town Center, which features commercial and recreational opportunities, schools, and residential neighborhoods with a ninth currently under construction. Housing options include condominiums, town homes, single-family homes, and villas.

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Glenview is The Park, which was subdivided in 1894 when it was settled by members of the Immanuel Church of the New Jerusalem. About half the housing stock dates from the 1920s or earlier, and the rest of the homes replaced the original homes or were otherwise modified from the 1940s to the present. The Park neighborhood features a circular tree-lined winding street, with homes on the outside and the church and parkland on the interior.

Glen Oak Acres, which was established in 1926; The Circles, which has homes dating from 1928 to 2014; and Glenayre, which was subdivided in the 1930s and 1940s, feature large homes in a mix of styles situated on large lots. Since 2000, some homes in these neighborhoods were demolished and new homes built in their place. Homes in Park Manor were originally built in the 1940s and 1950s on smaller lots in styles that include Cape Cod, Colonial, and ranch; many homes in this neighborhood have also been replaced since 2000.

Most of the houses in Swainwood were built in the 1950s. The neighborhood was developed in a former tree nursery and was the first to feature its natural setting, with winding lanes and homes presenting lovely gardens. The development still has distinctive old-fashioned street lights.

Glen Oaks Acres also contains housing that dates from the 1950s, with some built since 2000. The Tall Trees neighborhood dates from the 1960s with housing styles that include Colonial, split-level, and 2-story modern. The Willows is a single-family home neighborhood built in the 1960s and 1970s and offers homes in styles that include split-level, Colonial, and contemporary.

Willow Glen is a custom single-family home neighborhood built in the mid-1980s. Indian Ridge is a single family home neighborhood built in the 1980s. Most of the homes are colonial or ranch style built on smaller lots.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Glenview Park District manages 26 parks and 13 school grounds, a community center, playgrounds, ball fields, tennis and sports courts, a dog park, 2 skate parks, 2 outdoor aquatic centers, 1 indoor aquatic center, 18-hole community golf course, 9-hole community golf course, and a disc golf course. Glenview Ice Center has two indoor ice rinks offering public skating, figure skating, hockey lessons, and hockey and broomball leagues.

The 145-acre Grove, a National Historic Landmark, was home to some of Glenview’s earliest settlers and contains an authentic log cabin, one-room schoolhouse, Indian longhouse and teepee, nature center, and hiking trails. The restored 1856 Kennicott House built by Dr. John Kennicott, a visionary horticulturist and educator, is also located here.

Air Station Prairie is a 32-acre tall-grass prairie from pre-settlement times featuring walking paths and the Evelyn P. Tyner Interpretive Center, a state of the art LEED Platinum-rated “green” environmental learning center. The prairie contains over 160 plant species native to the prairie.

EDUCATION

Glenview is served by many public school districts. Glenview School District 34 educates approximately 5,000 students in 3 primary, 3 intermediate, and 2 middle schools. Glenbrook High School District 225 educates 4,800 students from Glenview, Northbrook, and portions of unincorporated Northfield Township in 2 high schools; Glenbrook South High School is located in Glenview. The district also operates therapeutic day school run by District 225 for students with special needs and an alternative evening high school.

The following additional districts have elementary and middle schools that serve students from Glenview: Avoca School District 37, Wilmette Public Schools District 39, West Northfield School District 31, Northbrook/Glenview School District 30, and East Maine School District 63. Two high school districts also educate Glenview students: Maine Township High School District 207 and New Trier Township High School District 203.

The following universities and colleges are located within ten miles of Glenview: Northeastern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Trinity International University, Oakton Community College, Christian Life College, ITT Technical Institute Mount Prospect, Hebrew Theological College, Westwood College O’Hare Airport, City Colleges of Chicago Wilbur Wright College, Northwestern College, and Telshie Yeshiva Chicago.

HEALTH CARE

NorthShore University HealthSystem–Glenbrook Hospital is a 173-bed medical-surgical hospital.

CITY STATS

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Photograph courtesy of the Village of Glenview.