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# NEWS

## Foundation's chief sets lofty goals

### Mack wants to put Challenger Learning Center in Town Center by 2005

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STAFF WRITER

Now that the former Hangar One has been converted into The Glen Town Center, fronted by a park commemorating the former Glenview Naval Air Station's military past, one might be tempted to conclude the Hangar One Foundation has fulfilled its mission.

But the foundation's new president, Frank Mack, has grander plans.

"The platform for my presidency, in keeping with foundation tradition, is simple in concept, yet ambitious in execution," he said Jan. 11, when he accepted the top post at the foundation's annual meeting.

Established as a not-for-profit foundation in 1996, the group of military veterans and civilians first tried to raise funds to establish a museum and a Challenger Learning Center in the former hangar.



Mack

When that proved economically unfeasible, the village and developer Oliver McMillan moved ahead with plans for the shopping, entertainment and residential complex on the 45-acre site.

The foundation then focused on keeping and restoring the hangar's

facade, control tower and the smaller towers on the north and south ends; creating a Navy Park; and facilitating the inclusion of naval air station memorabilia into The Glen Town Center.

Those accomplishments "are all examples of the profound results that are achievable when parties-in-interest work together to maximize the outcome of an important project," Mack said.

Mack now wants the foundation to aim higher. He still has his sights set on setting up a permanent museum within the Town Center.

"The goal of realizing a museum that commemorates Naval Air Station Glenview history has been one of the more

important goals of the foundation since its inception," he said.

The foundation is putting together a committee to create a business plan for a museum, with the goal of opening it in 2005.

In the meantime, Oliver McMillan has given the foundation access to unleased space at the Town Center for a temporary museum. A rental agreement is being prepared, Mack said, along with instructions for signs, artifact selection and displays.

The aim is to open the temporary museum this spring, when a second dedication ceremony is to be staged in Navy Park.

That's when 6-foot-tall, bronze stat-  
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ues of an air crewman, known as a "yellow shirt," and a sailor/mechanic will join the statue of a pilot that was unveiled during the Oct. 17 dedication of the park. All three are replicas of statues on display at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

Along with the statues, a second round of personalized granite bricks will be laid in the walkway around the park's fountain.

The foundation announced a year ago it would sell 1,000 of the engraved granite bricks for \$100 each to pay for the statues.

Currently, 257 personalized granite bricks are part of the walkway. Another 500 are on order.

Outgoing foundation president A.C. Realie presented Village President Larry Carlson with a \$27,000 check at the annual meeting, representing brick sales revenue collected so far. It was the first installment to repay the \$100,000 advanced by the Glenview Village Board last year to commission the statues.

"The Glenview Hangar One Foundation is certain that we

will repay all amounts lent to the foundation by the village of Glenview," Realie said.

Further down the road, Mack hopes the foundation can establish a Challenger Learning Center in the area.

The foundation in 2000 acquired a license to operate a Challenger center in northern Illinois when it originally pursued the museum idea for the hangar.

There are 38 such centers across the world that let students imitate the interaction between astronauts and a mission control center.

Mack wants the foundation to begin identifying and soliciting potential partners for building a Challenger center, which in 2000 it estimated would cost at least \$2 million.

"It is my sincere hope, and belief, that before the 2005 annual meeting, we will have preliminarily identified the strategic partners and political and financial support necessary to take the Challenger Learning Center program closer to execution," Mack said.