



Summer Fest after sunset. Photo by: Michael Lee

## 100 years strong Chamber celebrates anniversary with focus on reinforcing solid bonds of community

Over the last 100 years, there have been plenty of changes within the Glenview Chamber of Commerce in terms of the community it supports and the development within the organization.

What the chamber is celebrating this year during its centennial anniversary – and what it hopes to build upon in the years to come – is how consistently supportive members are of each other and the Village of Glenview as a whole.

Just 24 years before the Glenview Chamber of Commerce started in 1923, there were 325 adults in Glenview when it was incorporated as a village. Today, according to the Glenview

Chamber of Commerce, Glenview “is a thriving village of nearly 16,000 households.”

“A big part of what’s made the chamber successful is that Glenview is such a unique community,” said Glenview Chamber of Commerce President Mike Moylan, a Glenview resident since moving here from Palatine in 2019 with his family. “It’s residents helping residents, businesses helping businesses. It is cool to see the business community so involved and energetic. That comes from very good leadership at the executive level.”

Glenview Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Meghan Kearney has been with the organization for six years – the last



Holiday Parade Photo by: Michael Lee

two in her current role after replacing Betsy Baer, who led the organization for a decade and was at the helm as the chamber more than doubled in size.

There are now just under 500 members.

“The majority of our membership – 75 to 80 percent – is small businesses, and we have 50 to 60 chamber members that are family businesses,” Kearney said.

“In Glenview it feels like you grew up here,” she added. “That’s why we have so many people who grew up here, went away to college and then came back. It speaks volumes about the community and the legacy of Glenview.”

Karen Patterson, Glenview Chamber of Commerce president from 2018-2019, can relate. The 1983 Glenbrook South High School grad attended law school in Chicago, but with a law practice in Glenview, she decided to return.

“I have tons of friends from high school who are still here in Glenview,” said Patterson, whose children also graduated from Glenbrook South. “We just never seem to leave.”

When Patterson’s father encouraged her to join the chamber 30 years ago as a young lawyer, there were few women members and it was a challenge to develop connections. That has changed

as the chamber has evolved to “cater toward the needs of the community,” Kearney said. An example being the creation of a number of special interest groups within the chamber, including the Downtown Business Merchants and the Young Professionals Group, which Kearney called “the future of our chamber.”

“There are a tremendous amount of opportunities to connect,” said Chris Falcon, the Glenview Chamber of Commerce President

from 2020-21 and a Glenview business owner for the last 16 years. “The key is keep coming to events.”

That echoes a sentiment of another former Glenview Chamber of Commerce President, Jerry Doetsch. “Jerry says the ‘chamber is like a gym membership – you’re not going to lose weight if you just join the gym. You need to go

to the gym,” Patterson said. “You can’t just join the chamber and hope that business comes your way. You’ve got to pay it forward and it will come back to you.”

That’s exactly what has happened for Patterson, even though it did take some time for her to start getting business from the relationships she developed from the chamber.

“People feel very welcome at the chamber – we’re always supporting each other,” she said. “That’s what makes it successful.”



Grace, Dan, Karen, Danny