

# The Glen Ellyn Sun

## **Recreation Center to show off its new look**

*The renovation of the Main Street Recreation Center was completed in September, and now the Glen Ellyn Park District wants to celebrate the occasion with the public.*

Ron Pazola  
November 16, 2007

An open house will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 17 at the facility, 501 Hill Ave.

"We're really excited by our newly renovated building," said Kathleen Esposito, the district's superintendent of recreation. "All we need to do is put in a few finishing touches, and we're done."

As part of a \$2.3 million project, the three-story building was gutted, refurbished and remodeled. A new north entrance with a vestibule was constructed, and new floors were put into an expanded gymnasium. A parent lounge was completed, the building's roof was replaced, restrooms were reconstructed and new heating and air conditioning units were installed. Two additional conference rooms can be used as preschool rooms.

"The building got a total cosmetic upgrade," Esposito said.

The facility was closed in June, July and August to complete the work.

The building was constructed in 1928, and an addition was finished 20 years later.

Originally, the Park District wanted to tear down the structure and build a new recreation center, but voters shot that idea down in a March 2006 referendum. Many believed the referendum failed to pass in part because the building was a former grade school that they said was historically significant.

Residents voiced satisfaction over the building's face-lift.

Carol Van Gorp teaches a new kindergarten enrichment program at the center. "I'm super pleased with my new classroom," she said. "I really like the new windows and am pleased with the overall renovation."

Debbie Travers, a preschool teacher at the center, agreed. "Everything is newer and nicer," she said. "They took a wall out of my classroom, which is now more open and spacious. The parents are excited by all the changes."

Jill Schultz was enrolling her two children in some classes at the center. "The renovations are incredible," she said. "The building is a lot more welcoming and inviting for families and children. The improvements are wonderful and a long time coming."

The renovation project was part of the \$11.9 million voters agreed to give the Park District last fall. Remaining funds will be used to acquire land and build a new recreation center at Ackerman Park.