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PROTECTING THE SANCTUARY Local religious institutions work to bolster security amid ongoing threats, Page 6

With deadly tragedies in spaces once considered safe and free from acts of hate continuing to strike at alarming rates, some religious institutions in Glenview and Northbrook are working to enhance their security. PHOTO COURTESY OF OLPH

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Local religious institutions remain confident in security protocols

ZOE ENGELS, Editorial Intern

Shouting anti-Semitic slurs, a 46-year-old man entered Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018, and killed 11 people as they worshipped, while injuring six others. In the 11 months since. similar violent incidents have occurred in religious institutions throughout the United States.

With deadly tragedies in spaces once considered safe and free from acts of hate continuing to strike at alarming rates, some religious institutions in Glenview and Northbrook are working to enhance their security.

Glenview's Our Lady of Perpetual Help is one local religious institution

that has bolstered its security measures in recent years. With a congregation of about 10,000 people and the largest elementary school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, security is one of OLPH's top priorities.

OLPH has implemented an Emergency Operations Plan in collaboration with the archdiocese, hundreds of parishes, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Glenview Police and Fire Departments, according to Terry Luc, director of communications at OLPH.

The EOP was published in 2018 and required a year for full implementation due to the size and scope of OLPH. The plan is parish-specific, and based on location.

"It's a living document," Luc said. "It's something that we established and we review annually. And there are things that, every year, we're going to want to improve upon."

While the plan focuses on both natural disasters and security concerns, Luc said OLPH has not placed protocols regarding intruders and active shooters "on the backburner."

OLPH has cameras in and outside every building, and individuals must be buzzed into all buildings on the campus. A list of every room that will be occupied is published each week so information about where people are located throughout the buildings can be quickly relayed to police at any time.

The church has also given maps of its buildings to the Glenview Police Department to ensure first responders know the layout of each building. Every building is named, numbered and color-coded in an effort to help police identify the buildings in any potential emergency.

OLPH staff members have received emergencyresponse training and are assigned different tasks to complete in emergency situations, per Luc.

"When we implemented a lot of the training, there was a lot of ideas that came up where people were concerned about, 'What more can we do?"" Luc said. "But ... you take it one step at a time. ... It's the kind of thing where, once something's in place, you say, 'OK, here's step one. How can we improve it?' So, we're always looking for ways to do things better."

Joel Detloff, a community relations officer with the Glenview Police Department, commended OLPH for its implementation of new security protocols.

"It was great to be involved with OLPH from the ground up," Detloff said. "When everything started, it was just templates and ideas. And then, to see the end result, OLPH does a fantastic job of staying on top of the task. From a village hall and police and fire standpoint, we really appreciate them including all of the entities in Glenview to get that task completed."

Detloff said he has had the opportunity to work with several houses of worship in Glenview,



Northbrook School District 27's Emergency Preparedness Plan has established a township-wide comprehensive, all-hazard response to emergency situations. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27

not only to conduct critical emergency-response trainings but also to help develop and fine-tune the institutions' emergency operations plans. These plans provide a standardized response to emergency situations throughout Glenview but are still specific to the needs of each house of worship.

Township-wide plan sets 'comprehensive, all-hazard response' protocols

St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook in Northbrook is also working with the Chicago archdiocese and officials from Homeland Security to revise its emergency plan an effort that became more critical after the merger between the two churches.

While there is not yet a timeline for when the emergency plan will be implemented, Moira A. Cary, the director of finance and operations of St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook, said the plan should be released in phases within the next six months.

The institution did not provide additional information about its security practices, but Communications Manager Amy

Principi detailed several small measures the church has taken.

Locks in offices have been updated, Principi said, and there is always an employee or maintenance person present at both St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook. The Our Lady of the Brook site also has a "Knox Box," a metal box with a code on the exterior of the building where Northbrook police and firefighters can quickly retrieve a key in emergency situations.

St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook are among the local religious institutions now working with Northbrook School District 27 and local police and fire departments to implement an emergency preparedness plan, according to Kimberly Arakelian, District 27's superintendent for finance and operations.

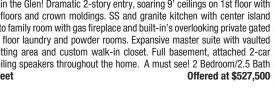
Arakelian and Douglas Heurich, the director of facilities at District 27, began developing the EPP around 2009. The EPP is a "comprehensive, all-hazard response" plan with guidelines for "activeintruder response, evacuation, off-site evacuation,

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Open House Sept 29th • 1pm-3pm 2705 Langley Circle. Glenview

Sophisticated and sleek open-concept row house by ER James in sought after Southgate in the Glen! Dramatic 2-story entry, soaring 9' ceilings on 1st floor with hardwood floors and crown moldings. SS and granite kitchen with center island opening into family room with gas fireplace and built-in's overlooking private gated patio. First floor laundry and powder rooms. Expansive master suite with vaulted ceilings, sitting area and custom walk-in closet. Full basement, attached 2-car garage. Ceiling speakers throughout the home. A must see! 2 Bedroom/2.5 Bath 1865 sq. feet





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SECURITY

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bomb threats, medical emergencies and severe weather," Arakelian said.

"We developed a single-page response," she said. "We developed the program around incident-command structure, which is through the National Incident Management System. We structure incident-command teams.

"So, to make it simple, each person has a role and responsibility. (For example), if we have an emergency situation, I know the three things that I need to do as part of the incident-command team."

Arakelian and Heurich were given the opportunity about two years ago to present the EPP to Northfield Township officials, village managers and the Northbrook Police and Fire Departments. They later received approval to transform the EPP into a Northfield Township-wide initiative.

The police and fire departments "know we have an incident-command team structure, they know what we're trained on, they know what they're going to see when they come to the site, so it's just a winwin," Arakelian said.

The EPP includes mutual-aid protocols that help institutions within the township communicate with each other in emergency situations.

"We literally have mutual aid with each other now at the civilian level, which is amazing," Arakelian said. "So, because we're trained on the same protocols — I'll use Temple Beth-El as an example — should there be an emergency, they need us, they notify us, we can deploy, and we know exactly what they need."

"We're going to live our

lives, we're going to do what we need to do, we're going to be positive, we're going to be happy, but we're also going to be prepared," Arakelian said of the training and protocols established by the EPP.

The Northbrook Police and Fire Departments were involved in every step of the EPP's creation and implementation at schools, houses of worship and other institutions throughout the township, and the departments routinely review the plan, Northbrook Police Chief Roger Adkins said.

The EPP is a unified-response protocol, meaning the protocols are standardized throughout each of the buildings that have implemented the EPP, and during its implementation, aspects of the EPP are tailored to specific institutions, buildings, locations and geographic areas.

Adkins said the EPP teaches individuals important life skills through its standardized responses and emergency-response protocols.

"Especially as a township-wide initiative, as (the EPP) grows, it goes into the different entities," Adkins said. "When we have a child who learns (EPP protocols) in school at a very young age, no matter where they go in the village or area, they're still followed by the same plan, the same training.

"The same thing (applies) to the training that the staff gets. You can apply those (life skills) to anywhere that you might be at – the movie theater, the shopping mall. Unfortunately, we've seen those tragic events happen in all those locations."

Several houses of worship have reached out to the Northbrook Police Department for assistance, training or review of their emergency preparedness plans, and the Northbrook Police Department is assisting as they are asked, Adkins said.

The department also has a Police Chaplain Program that includes three faiths: Catholicism, Judaism and Islam. The Northbrook Police Department is able to learn more about houses of worship through these chaplains, who also teach police about each of their faiths, dates of significance and traditions.

"We're really working hard to have engagement in our community, and building relationships with first responders is critical," Adkins said.

'We'll always look to get better': Area institutions make security top priority

In addition to St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook, religious institutions currently working with District 27 to implement the EPP include: Willow Creek Community Church, the Christian Heritage Academy, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Darchei Noam of Glenbrook, Congregation Beth Shalom and Temple Beth-El.

With a congregation of 450 families, Temple Beth-El has made security a top priority. The temple chose to re-assess and increase its existing security measures after the October 2018 Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, according to Janice Hadesman, the executive director at Temple Beth-El.

"We are in constant communication with our members, and we sent communication out immediately (after the Tree of Life tragedy) saying what immediate changes we were making and what was coming down the pipeline," Hadesman said.
"Since then, our members know we have it under control and that we're always thinking about it."

The temple regularly meets with District 27 officials as it makes changes to its security plan and continues to implement the EPP. Additionally, the temple provides an increased security presence when it hosts high holiday celebrations at Glenbrook South High School.

Temple Beth-El received a grant from the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago to help fulfill its security plans. Under the terms of the grant, the temple had to finish the implementation of all hard security measures, including infrastructure and cameras, by the end of August.

Hadesman said the temple is upgrading its infrastructure while also being more diligent in its training of teachers and staff.

Temple Beth-El is among the religious institutions emphasizing the living nature of the EPP and its documents that detail security measures. The documents and protocols will constantly be altered and improved based on nationwide events and the needs and feedback of the community, Hadesman said.

Religious institutions not in the EPP partnership also see their security documents as living and adaptable. OLPH Communications Director Terry Luc said the documents and emergency protocols at the parish will change to adapt to local and national trends.

"The main point from my perspective is, ... a lot of times when things are put in place, books are put on the shelf and they're not really referred to," Luc said. "We really see this as a living document and something that we will always be improving on, and we're looking for ways to accomplish (a number of things) in the coming years, so it's not a static plan. It's a living document, it's a living plan, and we'll always look to get better."

'The very nature of security is such that it precludes speaking about it in public forums'

Rabbi Meir Moscowitz, of Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook, spoke with *The Lantern* via email. Citing concerns of publicly addressing the institution's security measures, he says via email, "The very nature of security is such that it precludes speaking about it in public forums."

However, the rabbi added Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook takes security very seriously and has implemented a number of upgrades to its security protocols while also regularly reviewing and updating its systems with the guidance and support of the Northbrook Police Department.

"I would like to emphasize, now more than ever, let us take courage from the age-old Jewish adage, 'A little bit of light will dispel a great deal of darkness," Moscowitz says in his email response. "It is an indisputable reality: When light and goodness encounter darkness and hate, light and goodness will – without fail – prevail."

The Glenview United Methodist Church denied multiple requests from *The Lantern* for a statement. The Islamic Cultural Center-Greater Chicago, located in Northbrook, and Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview did not respond to multiple requests from *The Lantern* for comment.



Terry Stewart (right)
hands over his West Point
cadet uniform to Beverly
Dawson, co-president
of the Glenview History
Center, during a ceremony
in November 2018. 22ND
CENTURY MEDIA FILE PHOTO

New exhibit pays tribute to cadets

STAFF REPORT

The Glenview History Center is gearing up to launch a new exhibit honoring military academy graduates from the Village.

The Glenview History Center Farmhouse will be open from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Nov. 6, according to a press release. The farmhouse will be available for tours during exhibit hours.

Glenbrook South alumnus Terry Stewart donated his West Point Academy cadet uniform last year to the Glenview History Center, which generated a great deal of interest from around Glenview, according to the history center's website. The History Center has since identified graduates from the Army, Navy and Air Force and is working to find Coast Guard academy graduates.

The exhibit will be expanded to include additional graduates as they are identified.

For more information, contact the Glenview History Center at (847) 724-2235 or visit glenviewhistory.org.