

Glenview

JOURNAL

Hangar One Zeroes In On Village

Foundation Ready To Seek Help From Glenview For New Location

By MICHAEL SEBASTIAN
JOURNAL REPORTER

After accepting the prestigious Spirit of Flight Award Apr. 13 in downstate Decatur, Glenview's Hangar One Foundation is preparing to bring its fight for a permanent museum to the door steps of Village Hall.

Frank Mack, president of Hangar One, said last week that the foundation is poised to approach the Village of Glenview once the Apr. 15 municipal election settles. Mack hopes Glenview can earmark a property for the foundation so funding can be sought and a permanent museum soon erected.

"The support that Hangar One requires to realize a permanent Naval Air Station Glenview (NASG) needs to come from the Village of Glenview and the State of Illinois," Mack wrote in a statement dated Mar. 29.

The Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame was scheduled Wednesday, Apr. 13 to award Hangar One the Spirit of Flight Award during a ceremony in Decatur. Mack said Hangar One captured this honor

for its listing on the National Register of Historical Places. The foundation helped facilitate the preservation of the NASG tower, the facade of the north and south pods and certain structural elements, the creation of Navy Park and its artifacts and memorial bricks, according to Mack. The creation and management of the former museum and the foundation's special events are also Hangar One achievements. The Illinois Air National Guard, Illinois Dept. of Transportation Division of Aviation, Southern Illinois University and Friends of Meigs Field are among the past winners of the Spirit of Flight Award.

"This is not only a victory for Hangar One," Mack said about the award, "but also for the residents of Glenview and the Glen Redevelopment effort."

At the foundation's former temporary home, 1951 Tower Rd., in The Glen Town Center Apr. 7, Hangar One members finished packing the artifacts and pictures of Glenview's bygone era of fighter planes and runways to make room for a new retailer at this storefront in The Town Center. The location was leased to Hangar One, free-of-charge, from Town Center developer OliverMcMillan. The agreement struck between the San Diego-based OliverMcMillan and Hangar One indicated the developer needed to provide the foundation with ten days notice if it found a paying customer for the space. Last month, Hangar One got word that half its space would soon be leased and the foundation must vacate by early April. During the last weekend in March, area veterans and Hangar One supporters visited the museum's temporary

Foundation Sells Hueys

The Hangar One Foundation sold its two Huey helicopters to persons involved with the Volo Auto Museum in Volo, IL, who hope to develop a military-themed museum.

Hangar One President Frank Mack said the helicopters were donated to the foundation from the U.S. Army when Naval Air Station Glenview was decommissioned. The base had only a small Army contingent, he added.

home for the last time.

OliverMcMillan offered the foundation continued temporary use of half its space at the 1951 Tower Road location, however, Hangar One refused because it must reportedly move from the space during construction for the new retailer. Mack feared a tenant for the remaining space would be found and Hangar One would again be forced to leave as soon as it moved its items back into the museum following build-out. The developer also offered the foundation about 100 feet of space in The Glen's movie theatre to display its artifacts and pictures. Again, Hangar One refused the space. Mack said that accepting the area in the movie theatre could preclude the foundation from receiving a larger, permanent space.

"This never really was an issue involving OliverMcMillan," Mack said last week. "It was never supposed to be our permanent home."

While some have pointed fingers at the California developer, Mack has insisted the conflict is not between OliverMcMillan and Hangar One. Instead, the fate of the museum is and was a matter the Village of Glenview must face.

"A permanent NASG Museum is a community issue, thus, solutions to Hangar One's museum challenges need to be sponsored from municipal and state levels," Mack said.

The Glenview Hangar One Foundation is dedicated to commemorating the historical contribution of the men and women that served at the Glenview Naval Air Station. Among the foundation's primary goals is the development of a permanent museum where artifacts and pictures celebrating the history of Naval Air Station Glenview.

"Hangar One's only purpose is to commemorate NASG veterans who served their country so we can live as free people in a safe nation," Mack said in his Mar. 29 statement.

State Sen. Jeffrey Shoenberg

(D-9th) approached Hangar One and the Village of Glenview after hearing the foundation would soon lose its home. Schoenberg, chair of the state senate's appropriations committee, is exploring possible funding options for Hangar One available through the State of Illinois. Unfortunately, the most likely funding option, the Public Museum Grant Program, would *only be available to Hangar One* if it already had a permanent home.

According to Mack, the Village of Glenview should at least provide Hangar One greater assistance finding a location if not grant it a site all together. A possible site mentioned by Mack is the "saw tooth" property, which is an unusually shaped location near the Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook temporary trailers at West Lake Avenue and Shermer Road. Land owned by the Navy is near this "saw tooth" property.

With this site — or any — Hangar One could begin serious fundraising efforts, foundation leaders have stressed. Mack has said the foundation could develop a very specific business plan and approach large corporations to seek funding. "If you're going to anyone big you've got to go in with a very specific plan," Mack said. "If you don't then they might brush you off."

The foundation has previously considered launching a more grassroots approach to fund-raising, Mack said. This style would include smaller benefits to hopefully collect enough cash to purchase a site. Mack also indicated the foundation has approached wealthy area families who could purchase property and lease it to Hangar One. The families were skittish, however, because they feared the Village of Glenview could unexpectedly pull the plug on a Hangar One operation, according to Mack. He encouraged supporters of the foundation to write their elected officials in Washington, Springfield and Glenview Village Hall letting them know the importance of a

Hangar One Museum.

"Some have lost interest in this or become disenfranchised," Mack said. "It's a noble cause and I'm optimistic. Finding a permanent home for the museum is a victory for all of Glenview."