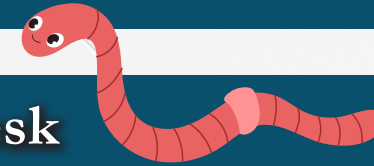




# Village News



## Franklin Park Welcomes New Businesses To Our Community. Give Them A Try!



▲ Taco Pros, located at 2830 Mannheim Road is providing authentic Mexican Street food to our community with an emphasis on quality ingredients and great service.

▲ We Rock The Spectrum, located at 10123 Grand Avenue, provides a safe, nurturing, and fun environment to foster learning, exploration, and safe sensory experiences for children across the spectrum.

▲ Fire Grill is a fast-casual restaurant that serves a diverse menu that includes their specialty rotisserie style chicken and sides, fried and grilled handhelds, and more. Visit them at 10000 W. Grand Avenue.

### Working Together to Keep Our Community Clean

Residents are encouraged to mow their lawns on a regular basis and eliminate weeds in alleys and areas behind homes. Overgrown lawns and weeds are breeding grounds for rodents and insects. The Village is issuing tickets to homeowners if their grass is over six inches high.

Garbage bins should always be closed with lids securely fastened to prevent critters from reaching a food source. Keep the area around your garbage bins free of trash, food scraps and spills. The Village is issuing tickets for any garbage overflowing out of containers and on the ground.

Also, please remember to clean up after your pet while on walks and in your own backyard. Dog waste is a food supply for rodents. Please do not leave pet food or water bowls outside which can attract unwanted wildlife. Make sure to pick ripe fruits and vegetables in your garden right away to eliminate a food source for pests and insects.

If you are disabled or elderly and need assistance complying, call (847) 671-4800. If you see properties that need to be maintained, please call the Village.

### Library Book Sale – June 22

Looking for great deals on new or gently used books, CDs, and DVDs? Plan to join the Friends of the Library at the in-house book sale on Saturday, June 22 from 11 AM until 2 PM. You can also buy a reusable Friends tote bag full of materials for \$5!

### Library to Host Magical Camp Adventure – June 12

Experience the great outdoors in this one-of-a-kind variety show where magic, comedy, and art are all part of the adventure! Artist Dan Gogh will be your guide as you find mystical survival equipment, engaging camp activities, and amazing nature discoveries. Open to children in grades K-8, on Wednesday, June 12 from 4 to 5 PM.

## Mayor's Desk

### Community Development – Year In Review

Franklin Park has continued to demonstrate remarkable progress over the last two years, revitalizing our commercial corridors, adding new businesses in our industrial sector, and sustaining our commitment to the environment.

Our robust approach to economic development has resulted in the creation of over 3600 new jobs, 147 new businesses or expansions, and \$33 million in new construction due to our Enterprise Zone Program. We also were awarded over \$16 million in grant funds to improve our infrastructure.

I am especially proud of the Downtown beautification improvements that were completed along Franklin Avenue. The streetscape improvements are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also have added safety features with new pavers, landscaping, improved curbing, and parking accommodations which creates a more vibrant and walkable downtown atmosphere. Our goal was to support existing businesses and create an environment that will attract new businesses and investment. This beautification and safety project enhances the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

Another highlight was our Pacific Avenue Green Infrastructure Project, which improves pedestrian safety and mitigates flooding along Pacific Avenue. The completion of this project improved sight triangles for drivers and shortened pedestrian crossings at each of the intersections by introducing rain gardens

and more defined walkways within the right-of-way. The project also allows for the diversion of stormwater into rain gardens, lessening the burden on our sewers. Sustainable features increased biodiversity, reduced heat island effects, and introduced more naturalized areas.

So many of these accomplishments were possible due to the vision and commitment of John Schneider, our long-time Community Development Director who passed away last year. John not only created an aggressive, dynamic, and successful economic development plan but also laid the groundwork for future growth and success. Franklin Park will always appreciate and be grateful for the efforts of John Schneider.

I urge you to read our complete Year in Review. It is available on our website at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) or at Village Hall.

### Annual Senior Luncheon

I was pleased that we had another great turnout for our annual Senior Appreciation Luncheon on April 25. We all enjoyed spending time with one another; catching up on our lives and families.

Meeting with and hearing directly from the guests is invaluable in helping the Village develop programs and policies that better our community. It also allows us to learn if there are any obstacles that could hinder either the quality of life or our seniors' ability to continue to enjoy their home and their neighborhood. Along with a delicious lunch, we enjoyed



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
Irene Avitia  
Gil Hagerstrom  
John Johnson  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-671-4800  
[www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
[villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com)

Emergency 911

Police & Fire  
(Non-Emergency)  
847-678-2444

**Village Hall  
will be closed  
on Wednesday,  
June 19 in  
recognition  
of Juneteenth.**

◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

informative presentations that could help seniors spot scams and learn how to not become victims of fraud. We also learned about some special health services available to seniors.

I want to thank our great speakers, Sonya Tompkins from Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office and Carlos Benavidez from Oak Street Health. Thanks for joining me at one of my favorite events of the year.

Hope to see everyone at our Senior Health and Resource Fair this fall. Watch our website and social media for updates on the Fair.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

### Get Screened for Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk- June 25



Life Line will host a screening event that offers safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. The screening event will be held in the Franklin Park Police Department's Community Room on Tuesday, June 25. There is no time like the present to be more proactive about your health and the health of your family. There are three ways to register for these health screenings:

- Call toll-free to 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Register online at <https://www.lisa.social/hasca>
- Text the word circle to 216-279-1607

### Water Smart – Sign-up to Reduce Water Usage, Save Money, and Avoid Surprises

WaterSmart is an online program that allows you to analyze your current water use and review your usage history from monthly figures, down to your hourly usage. The program also allows you to set up text or email alerts when there is a change in your water usage. The alerts can help you detect a water leak, or any other unintended water use in your home, which could cause you to receive an unusually high-water bill.

The Water Smart Program is a secure, web-based portal that also allows you to compare your home's water usage with other similar users. Setting up an account is quick and easy, and you can do it from a computer, tablet, or even your smartphone. Take control of your water use and avoid a surprise on your next water bill by enrolling in the Water Smart Program. Simply call (847) 671- 8252 or visit our website at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) and go to the Public Works page.

#### Did you know a water bill with a higher than usual monthly charge could mean there is a water leak somewhere in your home?

To avoid unusually high-water bills, check to make sure that your faucets and toilets are not leaking or running and that they are in good operating condition. If you suspect there is a leak somewhere in your home and you need help locating it, schedule an appointment with the Village's Water Department by emailing [ekubkowski@vofp.com](mailto:ekubkowski@vofp.com) with your name, address, and phone number.

Also, check the top of your water bill for the type of reading you received. If your bill states ESTIMATED, please call (847) 671-8252 to schedule an appointment to obtain an accurate reading.

### Water Quality Report Available Now

The 2023 Village of Franklin Park Water Quality Report is available to download as a PDF on the Village's website at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) in English, Spanish, and Polish. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water in 2023. If you would like a paper copy of the report mailed to your home, please contact the Village at (847) 671- 8252 or send a written request to the Village of Franklin Park, 9500 Belmont Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60130.

[https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/FRANKLIN\\_PARK\\_SO\\_348307.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/FRANKLIN_PARK_SO_348307.pdf)

[https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR\\_2024.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR_2024.pdf)

[https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR\\_2024\\_SPANISH\\_.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR_2024_SPANISH_.pdf)



▲ Train enthusiasts from around the region, including my brother Bob, took advantage of the last opportunity to view "The Empress" as it made its final run through North America with a stop in Franklin Park on May 8.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated our new Police Officers Melih Ismailov, Alen Salkic, and Kimberly Benitez.



▲ Mayor Pedersen greeted the attendees for the Village's annual Senior Appreciation Luncheon who enjoyed informative presentations, a delicious lunch, and a goodie bag.



### Renew Your Vehicle Sticker

Renewal applications for the Village's 2024-25 vehicle stickers were mailed at the end of May. Every vehicle that is owned by or registered to a Franklin Park resident is required to have a valid vehicle sticker to operate or store the vehicle.

Renew online at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com), via mail, or by using the Village Hall parking lot drop box. You can also renew at Village Hall on Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Waiting until the last minute could cause a processing back-up and a long wait to receive your sticker.

Passenger car stickers cost \$30. Seniors and active-duty service members of the U.S. Armed Forces receive one free vehicle sticker per household. Veterans pay a reduced rate of \$15 for one sticker per household. Owners of electric vehicles receive a free sticker and hybrid vehicles pay a reduced rate of \$15.

A valid vehicle sticker allows you to park on most Village streets, but you still must obey parking restrictions posted on signs. For example, having a Village vehicle sticker does not mean you can park on streets that indicate "Resident Parking Only" because that means only residents who live on that street can park there. Please call (847) 671-4800 with questions.



▲ Ivan Garcia and Jeff LaPelusa were sworn in as new Firefighters at a recent Board Meeting.