



Franklin Park Newsletter

Vol. 16 No. 1

February 2009

Mayor's Corner

The weather has again been the issue exhausting the most Village resources this winter. The final month of 2008 was recorded as having the most precipitation (snow and rain) that the month of December has ever seen. The nationally televised Bears/Packers game of Monday, December 22nd displayed a brutal scene of fridity at Soldier Field. Temperatures reached 60 degrees only five days later. Rapid thawing of accumulated snow on the frozen ground and sewer openings caused water to back up into streets. Village personnel and elected officials began sandbagging operations, but the rain fortunately changed back to snow in a short span of time.



*Utilities Crew fixing a
water main break*

Our Utilities Department has responded to the challenges of this winter. The Village's snowplows continue to keep our streets and alleys clear, maintaining Franklin Park's reputation of having the best-plowed streets in the area. To date we have used 3,000 tons of salt and hundreds of man hours coping with Mother Nature. **Belmont Avenue, Mannheim Road, and Rose Street are all maintained by IDOT crews.** Another weather-related phenomenon that often occurs during the wintertime is water main breaks. Personnel from our water division are frequently called to duty in the worst of weather conditions to dig up a street and repair a water service. I have received numerous calls from residents and out-of-town visitors who consistently compliment the work of our Utilities Department. The efforts of these employees continue each day despite the inconveniences that winter weather presents.

Demolition of the old shopping center at Grand Avenue and Mannheim Road is complete. This parcel is in a Tax Increment Financing Area, a designation often used by the City of Chicago and suburban communities within Cook County to attract new projects for development. The vacated B.P. Amoco facility at the corner of the intersection will soon be included in the T.I.F. area. The Chicago Archdiocese has offered to sell and place the shuttered Westlake Pavilion into the T.I.F. area as well. With these two additions, the parcel will be large enough to attract a major anchor tenant. Bradford Development Company has tentative agreements with C.V.S. Drugs and Chase Bank. Negotiations with restaurant chains are ongoing. The two previously-mentioned developments would make the area more attractive to a future "Big Box" development for the remainder of the parcel.

Daniel B. Pritchett

See page 2 for additional photos



Mayor Dan Pritchett and crew getting ready to place the sandbags



A bulldozer loading salt onto a Village snowplow



Village snowplow unable to squeeze between two cars



Volunteers loading sandbags

Impressive Turnout at the Recent Blood Drive



Life Source coordinator Vicky Roge directs staff while resident Sue Kosten gives blood.

Snow and cold weather did not deter the 33 individuals who came to the Franklin Park Community Center on December 19th to donate blood during one of the most critical times of year. Inclement weather conditions and holiday activities can contribute to accidents and health scares. Blood supplies are often depleted during the holiday season. All together, 29 pints of blood were collected at the December 19th drive. The Village of Franklin Park wishes to thank all of those who donated and all of the volunteers who helped with the collection process.

Project of The Year



The Grand Avenue Underpass continues to receive local (and national) recognition and awards. Last year, 128 submissions were taken for consideration in the Midwest Construction's Best of 2008 Awards competition.

The Grand Avenue Railroad Relocation was named Project of the Year in the transportation category. Village President Dan Pritchett officially accepted the award at a ceremony held at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago on December 2, 2008.

Marriott Hotel in Chicago on December 2, 2008.

Clerk's Corner

"Voter Registration Update"

Now is the time to register if you:

- Are a New Resident
- Have Changed Precincts
- Have Changed Your Name
- Are a First-Time Voter

Registration closes March 3, 2009 for voting in the April 7, 2009 Consolidated Election

Susan K. Szymanski
Village Clerk

Franklin Park Real Estate Taxes

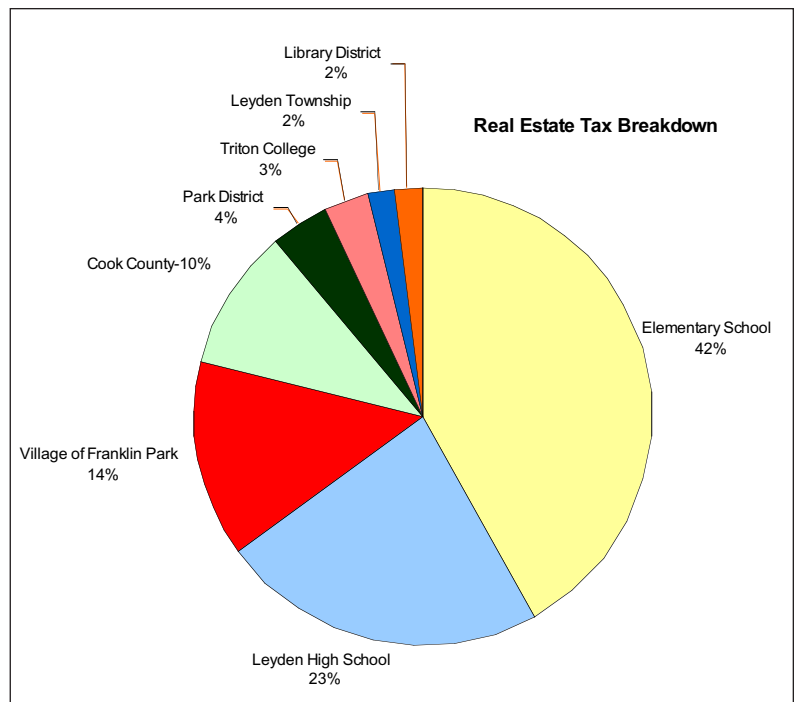
The Village of Franklin Park's 2007 Real Estate taxes were recently extended at a grand total of \$10,400,347.14. This reflects a 3.235% increase from the 2006 grand total of \$10,074,521.19.

The Village's current budget calls for General Real Estate tax receipts totaling \$10,905,082 for the current fiscal year ending April 30, 2009 (2008's tax bill). Tax collections for the prior year, ended April 30, 2008, amounted to \$10,400,651. The tax receipt item in the current budget represents a 4.85% increase in anticipated Real Estate tax collections from the prior year. The 2008 Real Estate tax bill (for the Village of Franklin Park) on a residence valued at \$200,000 would increase approximately \$26.65 from its 2007 tax bill.

Individuals who own property in Franklin Park are protected from large increases in their Real Estate tax bills. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the amount that non-home rule taxing agencies in Cook County (and surrounding counties) can increase their Real Estate taxes, assessed against all property owners in the municipality, annually. Increases are limited to the LESSER of either the prior year's Consumer Price Index (Cost of Living) percentage increase, or 5%.

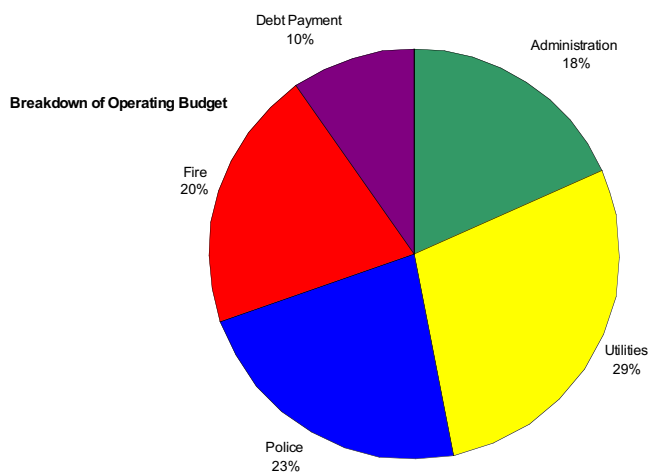
The PTELL was enacted in 1994. Since then, the amount that the Village of Franklin Park is able to collect from Real Estate taxes has been limited. In other words, without the PTELL the Village's share of your Real Estate tax bill could potentially be much higher than it is with the PTELL in place.

The Village President and Board of Trustees work diligently to provide the best services possible to Franklin Park residents in spite of the limitations that the PTELL and other economic forces present where revenue sources are concerned. The Village's portion of an average Real Estate tax bill is only 14% of the total bill. The percentage breakdown of an average tax bill by major taxing districts is illustrated here:



The budget to operate the Village of Franklin Park during the fiscal year ending April 30, 2009 (totaling \$34,577,222) is summarized by major department categories as follows:

Administration	6,375,977
Utilities/Street Dept.	9,891,078
Police Dept.	7,887,681
Fire Dept.	7,018,718
Debt Service on Bonds	3,403,768
Total	\$34,577,222



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Was a Success

Each year a Thanksgiving dinner is given to senior citizens and other Franklin Park residents who do not have another holiday meal to look forward to. The Franklin Park Manila Lions Club and Mayor Dan Pritchett sponsor the turkey dinner (with all the trimmings), which is held at the Franklin Park Community Center on the afternoon preceding Thanksgiving. Mike O'Donnell, owner of Mike O'Donnell's Irish Pub, is the master caterer for this event. Members of the Lions Club (along with their families), elected Village officials, and the local Cub Scouts all assist in serving the dinner guests. Attendees of last year's dinner, which produced the event's largest turnout to date, can all agree that the food and the congeniality were great, as evidenced by the many happy faces seen in these photographs.



Christmas at Hammill Square

The annual Christmas at Hammill Square celebration took place December 5th of last year. Each year this event, which began as a simple tree lighting ceremony, evolves substantially. This last celebration began with the largest group of school carolers we've ever had singing within the warm confines of the Public Works garage. After entertaining the crowd with several holiday songs, the group of vocalists accompanied Mayor Dan Pritchett to the gazebo where he officially illuminated the Village Christmas Tree. Carriage rides, a petting zoo, hot chocolate, and (of course) a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus combined to make last year's holiday festival the biggest and best ever!





Do You Live in a Floodplain?

If your current mortgage lender requires you to carry flood insurance, then you have the right to verify that this requirement is merited. Contact a licensed State of Illinois surveyor and request an Elevation Certificate. Costs for this service vary. A surveyor can determine the Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) around the perimeter of your home. After determining the LAG, the surveyor completes an Elevation Certificate (EC) and signs, seals, and dates the document. The LAG is then compared to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for the area where you live. Your BFE can be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on its website @ www.FEMA.gov, or you may contact the Village Engineers @ (847) 671-8304 and ask them to obtain it for you. If it is determined that your LAG is above your BFE, then you may submit a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) application to FEMA. Upon review, FEMA will either approve or deny your LOMA application. You will receive notification of the outcome, along with a copy of your application for your records. If your application is approved, then you should present the approval notification and your LOMA application to your mortgage lender to prove that your home is not in fact located in a floodplain, so you should not be required to pay flood insurance any longer.

The EC and LOMA application process is the only way to go about eliminating your flood insurance requirement. Your EC and LOMA documents should be kept with the deed to your property for record and so that they may assist any future purchasers of the property.

Should you have any questions or would like further clarification of this process, please contact the Village Engineers @ (847) 671-8304.

O'Hare Expansion Project Inauguration



Chicago Mayor Richard Daley personally invited a number of dignitaries, including other area mayors, to the inaugural opening of the first new runway in the O'Hare Expansion Project on November 20, 2008. This runway is included in the new design of O'Hare's runways, which will eventually comprise an east-west reconfiguration. This new design will greatly reduce flight paths over Franklin Park, helping to make our neighborhoods quieter for residents.



Grand Opening



A new place to eat is open at 9509 Grand Avenue. The new Subway restaurant is located one block east of Rose Street, immediately east of Walgreens. Village President Dan Pritchett, Village Trustee Lou Georgetta, Chamber of Commerce President Ken Koehler, and Subway officials attended the store's grand opening on December 5, 2008.

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Tod

Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards

Two of Franklin Park's men in uniform were honored by the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club on December 13, 2008. Both award recipients were nominated by their peers. Police Officer Todd Morin was presented with the Officer of the Year award. Officer Morin joined the Franklin Park Police Department in October 2004, but left to pursue a career with a department closer to where he lives in early 2007. He eventually returned to Franklin Park, working as a full-time 9-1-1



dispatcher with the NORCOMM dispatch center. He reapplied to the Police Department, and was hired back in December 2007. Todd has earned his reputation for being very capable, intuitive, and proactive in his patrol duties. His initiative and tenacity on the job helped him to make many arrests last year. In addition to being a police officer, Todd still fulfills part-time duties for NORCOMM in the Village's 9-1-1 center. Officer Morin is 27 years old. He graduated from Elgin Community College with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. He lives in Elgin with his wife, Michele, and three-year-old daughter, Jenavae.

Lieutenant David Richter was awarded the Firefighter of the Year award. Lt. Richter began his career with the Franklin Park Fire Department in 1989. He became a lieutenant in 1995, and now stands in as an acting commander

when he is needed. David is a true leader and is well-liked by his fellow firefighters. Since 2003, he has taken it upon himself to collect donations for a "Toys for Kids" drive, which benefits Leyden Family Services. For each of the past six years the drive has grown bigger, to the point where now a truck is needed to deliver the large amounts of toys that are brought in. Lt. Richter resides in St. Charles with his wife, Julie, and their daughter, Jessica.

Energy Assistance Program

The Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA) is accepting applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The PLCCA wants to make certain that the communities it services in Proviso and Leyden Townships may take advantage of the funding that is available to them. Village President Dan Pritchett also wants to ensure that residents of Franklin Park will be able to apply for the program. Therefore, residents may come to the Municipal Building @ 9500 W. Belmont Avenue Tuesday mornings from 9:00am – 12:00 noon to enroll. A representative will be here each Tuesday thru the end of February. The LIHEAP provides energy assistance for ComEd and Nicor Gas bills. The following is a list of requirements needed to fill out an application:

- Social Security/SSI (Monthly) Benefit Letter for 2008
- Pension Letter (last 30 days)
- Photo ID
- Social Security Cards (from all members of the household)
- TANF (you must bring their "Medical Card")
- Proof of income for the last 30 days (household members 18 years and older)
- Current ComEd bill (current bill and disconnect notices must be included if you are applying)
- Current Nicor Gas bill (current bill and disconnect notices must be included if you are applying)
- People residing in the household
- Gross income for the last 30 days

Please contact us with any questions @ (847) 671-8240.

Baronowski Bakery & Deli

Ted and Eve Fraczek moved to Franklin Park 15 years ago. They reside on Maple Street. Six years ago the couple purchased the Classic Bakery at 9653 Grand Avenue, and renamed it Baronowski Bakery & Deli. The Fraczeks have now welcomed their daughter, Sandy, into the business. Sandy is a recent graduate of East Leyden High School. One year ago the family leased a store adjacent to theirs and doubled the size of Baronowski Bakery. Originally from Poland, the Fraczeks have extensive knowledge in Polish and eastern European foods. Paczki (jelly doughnut) and jableazneks (apple cake) are two Polish delicacies sold at Baronowski Bakery. Other imported specialties available at the store include deli meats, dairy products, and recently-added Polish beers. Fresh produce, breads, and baked goods make Baronowski Bakery a complete neighborhood grocery store that can be enjoyed by everyone.





Senior Commission Member Honored

Senior Commission member Helen Winkel was honored by the American Legion for her years of service in the American Legion Auxiliary. She is a charter member and former president of the auxiliary. Helen has been active in this group since 1946, allowing her the most seniority of any member of the auxiliary. Thank you, Helen, for your many years of service in this wonderful organization.



AARP MATURE DRIVING CLASS

AARP Classes are instructed by Bob Marshall and are held at the Carl Fiorito Senior Center (2601 N. Mannheim Road) in Franklin Park

This course is an innovative classroom driver retraining program to help drivers 50 and older improve their driving skills. **Participants must attend both sessions.**

Upon completion, participants will be presented with a certificate which may entitle them to a discount on their auto insurance. Pre-registration is required and classes are limited to 25 persons.

Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non members and must be paid by check or money order.

For further information on upcoming dates and to register, call Jamie at (847) 455-8616 ext. 5140.



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