

VILLAGE VOICE

MARCH/APRIL



United States Census 2010



Every ten years, all people living in the United States are counted in the Census as mandated by the U.S. Constitution. This information is used to determine what community services are needed and to fairly distribute federal funds,

roughly \$400 billion annually, and Congressional seats to states. Funding and representation will be lost if an undercount of people is the result of this decennial Census. All personal information obtained during the Census is protected by federal law and cannot be shared with any other agency.

Census questionnaires will be sent out via US Mail on/around March

15, 2010 and Census Day is April 1, 2010. Informational booths and question centers will be available at the Franklin Park Public Library, Community Center and Village Hall by mid March to help answer questions, provide informational materials, and provide an additional Census form in the event the original is lost. Be sure to watch for your household's Census form and return it as soon as possible.

Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

9500 Belmont Ave.
Franklin Park, IL. 60131
Ph: 847-671-4800
villagevoice@vofp.com

Police (Non-Emergency)
847-671-8270
Fire (Non-Emergency)
847-678-2400

NEW VILLAGE HALL
HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.,
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 pm

Mayor's Desk

Dear Friends,

The State of Illinois has recently indicated that municipalities, such as Franklin Park, may be receiving as much as 30% less in State revenue sharing. That means the village of Franklin Park could lose as much as \$500,000 from its operating budget. The operating budget pays for salaries, pensions, and insurance, among other expenses.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. The State and National Government are giving out millions of dollars in stimulus funds, can the village receive some of that money to balance the budget?

A. The Village of Franklin Park has received stimulus money. The village received \$1,000,000 to resurface Grand Avenue from Mannheim Road to Elm Street. The village received another grant for energy audits and efficiency in the amount of \$75,000. Unfortunately, when the State or Federal Government provides grant money such as these, it is always for a specific purpose. Very few, if any, grant dollars are available to pay for operating expenses such as salaries, pensions, and insurance. The village could receive \$100 million in grants and it would still provide no beneficial effect on the operating budget.

Q. Why did my water bill go up so much?

A. The Village of Franklin Park purchases its water from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago increased the rates for water it charges the village. Effective Jan 1, 2010, the village passed that increase onto the users of water. The City of Chicago will be increasing the water rates to the Village of Franklin Park each year for the next 10 years.

Q. Why did my real estate tax bill, paid in December 2009, go up so much?

A. The State of Illinois allowed the 7% tax cap law to expire which resulted in a spike in residential real estate taxes.



VILLAGE VOICE

Mayor's Desk continue:

- Q. The value of my real estate has gone down, does that mean my taxes will go down too?
- A. The Cook County Assessor uses a complicated formula to calculate your property's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). When property values go down the EAV is recalculated, just as it is when property values go up. Revenue experts do not anticipate a reduction in real estate taxes.

ComEd: Warns customers about thieves posing as utility workers:

ComEd reminds its customers not to allow entry to persons claiming to represent the company without first asking for and viewing proper identification. ComEd representatives' all have identification badges which are clearly visible and carry both a name and photograph, and their clothing has the ComEd logo. Should any customers suspect fraudulent activity of this kind, they are encouraged to call the police. Questions on how to be sure if a person is a legitimate representative of Com Ed, call 1-800-EDISON1.



ComEd - CARE Helping Hand Sign up from March 1 – March 31, 2010

This March, if your residential electric service is pending disconnection, customers with a financial, medical, or other hardship issue can pay 50 percent of the outstanding balance and ComEd will credit the remaining 50 percent once the payment has been cleared. The Helping Hand program is only available from **March 1 through March 31, 2010** for more information call 1-888-806-2273.

Garbage fees in surrounding municipalities:

A few residents demonstrated concern regarding the monthly fee for garbage removal. We compiled a list of surrounding municipalities who bill their residents similarly to Franklin Park.

- Bensenville - \$22.35 Monthly
- Berwyn - \$22.12 Monthly
- Elmhurst - \$19.96 Monthly
- Leyden Township - \$21.29 Monthly (increasing to \$22.57 April 1, 2010)
- Oak Park - \$19.50 Monthly
- Western Springs - \$19.37 Monthly
- Wood Dale - \$22.03 Monthly



Reuse, Reduce, Recycle

PLCCA – Housing and Community Outreach Project:



Beginning January 26, 2010 thru September 30, 2010 the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) in conjunction with the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) will be providing the village with a housing counselor who is assisting residents in the Western Suburbs that are past due on their mortgage or rent and need help becoming current. Brian Simms will be available every Tuesday at 9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. Please contact Brian at 708-261-5975 to schedule an appointment. If you have any questions contact village hall at 847-671-4800. Documents needed to apply:

3 months of income, Photo ID, Social Security Cards for everyone in the household, Proof of hardship or delinquency, Apartment lease, Mortgage statement, 5 day notice.

FRANKLIN PARK CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ March 14: Daylight Savings Time.
- ◆ March 15: Mailers go out for 2010 Census
- ◆ March 19: Franklin Park Blood Drive at the Community Center 3-7pm.
- ◆ April 1: Census Day

VILLAGE HALL CLOSING DATES:

- ◆ April 2 & 3: Good Friday Village Hall Closed

Thank you



We thank Ace Hardware for donating plants and the labor to plant them. The beautification is much appreciated.

