

DECEMBER 2010

## VILLAGE VOICE

# Your Franklin Park Newsletter

### Mayor's Desk



The Home Rule Referendum failed by a small margin. Though I am disappointed, I am thankful that so many did hear our message of the benefit to property owners and the value of taking local control of our finances and our future.

To those who did not vote for Home Rule, I hope that we can continue our dialogue on what I believe is a vital issue for our Village. I will seek to make our message clearer, answer your questions and better explain the unique and important advantages Home Rule will offer our community.

In the meantime, not having Home Rule will place pressures on our budget, our departments and our services. Our Village will be losing approximately \$2800 per day. We lose revenue to Cook County for fees and fines, we lose sales tax revenue from non-residents, we lose revenue from airport parking and we lose money by paying higher interest rates on our Police Station bonds. **We will lose \$1,048,500 this year alone.**

We will continue to look for increased efficiencies and to cut our budget wherever reasonably possible. But we will also continue to safeguard our families, our neighborhoods and our Village. Though nothing can come close to compensating for the revenue we are losing, we will aggressively pursue grants that may help to offset costs. And we will continue to operate in the most cost-effective manner while offering quality essential services.

This is a troubling economy. Many of our Franklin Park families and businesses are struggling. The Village is also struggling economically. But I pledge that we will do everything we can to support you and to operate a first rate Village government during these tough economic times.

*Barrett F. Pedersen*



Barrett F. Pedersen

**Mayor**

Tommy Thomson

**Village Clerk**

#### Trustees

Juan Acevedo

Paul Bellendir

Tom Brimie

John Johnson

Cheryl McLean

Rosalba Rodriguez

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Police (Non-Emergency)

847-671-8270

Fire (Non-Emergency)

847-678-2400

#### **Village Hall Closed**

December 24 and 25

December 31 and

January 1

#### **Blood Drive**

Dec 17 at 3-7 PM

at the Community

Center

Merry Christmas



## PROPERTY TAX BILL INFORMATION

Real estate taxes can be complicated but there are several resources available to answer your questions and help explain your bill. Some residents have reported a substantial increase in their 2nd installment of 2009 taxes while others have reported a reduction in the 2nd installment.

To determine if you received all the property tax exemptions for which you qualify, please visit our Township Assessor at 2501 Mannheim or call 847-455-8616. Note that the Village of Franklin Park will receive substantially the same amount of property tax money as last year. For complete information about property tax rates and more resources, go to [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com).

Finally, had the Home Rule Referendum passed, each resident would have received a rebate of 20% of the Village portion of the property tax in March of 2011.

### YOUR VILLAGE YOUR VOICE- WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Village of Franklin Park recently adhered to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that all municipalities must set aside 5% of their area land for adult use businesses.



The village is not now engaged nor will it ever be engaged in a campaign to recruit adult use businesses. We believe they do not reflect the character of our community. There are currently no applications for adult use businesses to locate here.

We would like your opinion. "Should The Village of Franklin Park restrict adult use businesses to industrial areas away from our homes, churches, schools, and libraries or allow them to be located anywhere any other commercial business could locate?"

We want your opinion! Just go on-line at [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com) or pick up a question form in Village Hall to tell us what you think.



## FUEL REDUCTION SAVES MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to a new, no idle directive from Police Chief Witz, the Franklin Park Police Department reduced their gasoline usage by over 800 gallons during the month of October. Less idling means less wasted fuel, which saves money. This decrease in gas usage also reduces the amount of harmful emissions while vehicles sit idling. Idling cars and trucks emit pollutants that cause environmental and health problems. The no idle policy not only saves the Village money by using less fuel, it also cuts down on the amount of maintenance needed on the vehicles. Village Trustees are continuing to work on developing effective ways to cut fuel costs and save on unnecessary wear and tear on our Village vehicles.

## ADJUDICATION COURT INCREASES DATES

Beginning January 2011, the Village will be holding Adjudication Court twice a month. Sessions will be held on the first and the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at Village Hall.

## IS YOUR STREET OR ALLEY LIGHT OUT?

As daylight grows shorter, functioning street and alley lights are of vital importance to facilitate driving and pedestrian safety. Report street or alley lights not working to the Utilities Dept. at 847-671-8252 or email at [streets@vofp.com](mailto:streets@vofp.com). You can also contact ComEd at [www.comed.com](http://www.comed.com).

## WINTER REFUSE COLLECTION

Residents and building owners must clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. To report a missed collection please call 847-671-8240.

## THANK YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY SPONSORS

We want to thank our business and organizational partners for sponsoring the refreshments and treats at our Annual Tree Lighting on December 10th. The Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the hot chocolate and Dunkin' Donuts, located on Runge Street is providing Dunkin Munchkins. Due to the generosity of Nestle USA, Santa will be handing out locally-made candy to children who visit the festival. Nestle has been in operation in our Village for 45 years and we are proud to say that Franklin Park is the only place on earth where Baby Ruth and Butterfinger candy bars are produced. See you at the Tree Lighting!



## Don't Throw Out Your Old Christmas Lights!

### BOY SCOUT TROOP 158 WILL USE THEM!

Boy Scout Troop 158 of Franklin Park is taking a High Adventure trip to New Mexico in July, 2011.

To help pay for the trip, they are recycling old Christmas lights and electrical cords.

Bring your old strings of lights and other old electrical cords to Christmas at Hammill Square on December 10 and drop them off at our Boy Scout Troop 158 booth. If you want to wait until after the holidays, you can drop them off at Passow School on Chestnut & Calwagner at the January 6th Troop meeting from 7pm – 8:30 pm.



## CLICK IT OR TICKET

On November 19 & 20, the Franklin Park Police Department conducted the first phase of a \$20,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. This grant provided funding to provide additional man power to enforce seat belt in pre-determined areas of the community.

The department conducted seat belt checks in the 10200 block of Grand and the 3400 block of River Rd between the hours of 12 a.m. and 2 a.m. Officers checked 668 motor vehicles and cited 22 drivers and passengers for not wearing a seat belt. The next phase of the campaign will be over the Christmas and New Years holidays with the primary object of enforcement, being impaired driving.

## CHRISTMAS AT HAMMILL SQUARE



Tree Lighting  
Friday,  
December 10  
at  
6 PM - 8 PM

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPREAD SOME CHEER

The Village is sponsoring a contest to judge who does the best job of demonstrating their festive spirit by decorating their home or business this holiday season. Three residential winners will be selected and one business will be recognized for their outdoor holiday decorating. Winners will receive a prize and special recognition from the Board of Trustees for their creativity.

May the spirit of this Holiday Season be with you and your families. Please take some time to spread some cheer to others who may be less fortunate. There is no better time to demonstrate your goodwill to a friend or neighbor in need.

May you and your loved ones have a healthy, safe and happy Holiday Season.



The Village of Franklin Park invites everyone to attend its annual **Tree Lighting Friday, December 10th at 6:00 – 8:00 PM** at Hammill Square Gazebo (corner of Belmont & Edgington). Admission is free.

Come out and help us decorate our Village Tree! Bring an ornament from home or make one at the Park District's Children's Craft Table.

Winterfest will open after we light the tree -- Enjoy holiday music, local vendors and plenty of good cheer! Warm-up inside with refreshments, served by our Village Mayor and Trustees. Bring the children to have their photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Visit Winterfest local vendors to purchase food and holiday items:

Giannis Restaurant - Pizza, soda, and water.

Boy Scout Troop 158 – Nachos, juice boxes, ring pops, rice crispies treats, popcorn, and purchase your holiday poinsettia's.

Cub Scout Troop 158 – World's Finest Chocolate and don't forget to drop-off a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry.

