



JANUARY/FEBRUARY



### FRANKLIN PARK CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, January 18, 2010**  
**Sonic Drive-In GRAND OPENING**



10440 Grand Avenue  
Franklin Park, IL. 60131  
847.288.1300

9:00 AM Ribbon cutting with Mayor Barrett Pedersen  
9:00 AM The Leyden Chamber Singers  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Chicago Wolves mascot will hand out lots of goodies, including Wolves tickets! The first 100 customers will receive a free combo meal  
Drive-In opens at 6am lot opens at 5am.  
For more information, please call the Village Hall at (847) 671-8240.

#### VILLAGE HALL CLOSING DATES:

**Monday, January 18, 2010:**  
**Village Hall Closed**

**Monday, February 15, 2010:**  
**Village Hall Closed**

**“THE BEST THING ABOUT THE FUTURE IS THAT IT COMES ONE DAY AT A TIME”.**

**-ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Reminder from the Clerk's Office  
**Early Voting Period and Grace Period  
Registration for February 2, 2010 Primary  
Election: January 11 – 28, 2010**

#### Locations closet to Franklin Park:

Elmwood Park Village Hall  
11 Conti Parkway  
Elmwood Park, IL 60707  
Monday-Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm

Melrose Park Village Hall  
1000 North 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
Monday-Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm

Whitcomb Building (Near Maywood Courthouse)  
1311 Maybrook Square  
Maywood, IL. 60153  
Monday-Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm (voter grace period registration available at this location)

#### Recycling Reminder:

In order to save tax dollars on waste removal put out as many recycling bins as you want. Recycling can save taxpayers money.

**Barrett F. Pedersen**  
**Mayor**  
**Village of Franklin Park:**  
9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
Phone: (847) - 671 - 4800  
Website: [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
Email: [villagevoice@vofp.com](mailto:villagevoice@vofp.com)

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

Village Hall Hours:  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Wed. 8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - noon

#### Cost Reductions

Through early retirement and layoffs the village has reduced our work force by over 20 individuals in the last 9 months. Please continue to provide suggestions for cost reductions.

## Mayor's Desk

Dear Neighbor

Through town hall meetings and many discussions with Franklin Park's residents, the Board of Trustees and I have received valuable input on matters facing the village and based on that input, we are making decisions in the village's best interests.

We have a very long way to go in reasonably balancing our budget while maintaining essential services. As you know, the economy has been difficult for all Franklin Park families. In addition, the new administration inherited a number of budget deficits and shortfalls but together we are doing our best to resolve them.

For example, the village for years collected a tax on your real estate tax bill for garbage, debris and yard waste collection. Unfortunately, we were left with more than a \$1 million annual deficit in this account alone. The Board has decided to eliminate this garbage tax levy from your tax bill and instead collect only a monthly fee of \$24.96 for most single family homes and two flats. By issuing a monthly fee instead, the property owners are now paying only for the service they actually receive and there is greater accountability for how your hard earned dollars are spent. Senior Citizens who qualify for the Senior Freeze on their real estate tax bill will receive a monthly reduced fee of \$5.00.

We are also taking a number of other measures to avoid increased property taxes and fees by cutting back on spending and re-negotiating labor agreements with our village employees and unions. While we support and appreciate our hard working village employees, the Board and I prefer cost reductions to tax increases. However, budget constraints have made layoffs inevitable. The cuts that we are making in personnel, services, and building and street repairs are to balance this year's budget, not pay off previous debt.

More cuts are needed to ensure that, every two weeks, the Village has enough funds to make payroll to the end of the fiscal year, which is April 30, 2010. In the Police and Fire Departments, where more than 73% of the Village's tax dollars go, cost reductions will first be made by offering incentives for early retirement to some of our more tenured firefighters and police officers. The same incentives are being offered to some village employees to reduce or eliminate layoffs. The Village has already laid off seven full-time non-union workers and one part-time worker. We have left unfilled another 8 other non-union positions. Through early retirement incentives, we will have another 7 non-union employees leave the payroll. Over the years, some departments, such as water, sewer and streets have had the number of workers reduced by more than one half.

In these ways, the Board and I are focused on the village's core municipal mission of ensuring, to the greatest extent possible, that cost reductions do not interfere with snow removal, health inspections, street repair, public safety, economic development, and other essential services.

I have much more information to share with you and I look forward to discussing these and other important issues with our residents and business owners. Our last Town Hall meeting gave residents an opportunity to hear about the state of our village and to provide feedback and suggestions to operate our local government more efficiently and effectively. Together, we have made a good start in turning our difficult village finances around.

Please join me at our next Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Center at North Park from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm so we can continue the progress toward seeing that Franklin Park remains a strong and stable community.

Sincerely,  
Barrett F. Pedersen, Mayor