

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2012



Mayor's Desk

The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

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VILLAGE HALL HOURS

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

Electrical Aggregation
Information Meeting
March 12, 7 - 8 pm
Franklin Park Library

Blood Drive - March 16
3 - 7 pm
Franklin Park
Community Center

Referendum on Electricity on Upcoming Ballot

On the March 20 ballot, a referendum question will appear regarding electrical aggregation. Franklin Park voters will be asked for their permission for the Village to enter into electrical aggregation agreements.

Though aggregation sounds complicated, it merely allows a municipality to combine electrical service for all individual customers into a single bid and then to negotiate better rates. If the referendum passes, consumers will have lower electric bills and experience savings. ComEd would still deliver our electricity, provide the bills and respond to problems and outages.

The Village will not enter into any aggregation agreement unless the program produces savings over the rates offered by ComEd.

In these economic times, everyone is looking to save more money and find the lowest possible cost for the best possible service. This is why so many municipalities are pursuing aggregation agreements. Typical savings are 8% - 12% over current bills. Additionally, while we are saving money on electric bills, we have the potential to reduce our community's carbon footprint by asking bidders to supply a share of the power from sustainable sources, like solar and wind.

Should the referendum pass, a resident or busi-

ness can opt-out if they do not wish to participate. Also, if the Village does not find bids that meet our goals, we are under no obligation to accept them.

There would be no switching fees and no service interruption if a household joins the aggregation program and there is no penalty if the customer wishes to terminate.

Reliability should be consistent and ComEd will continue to respond to any outages. They will maintain the power lines, and respond to emergencies. ComEd will continue to send the bills and process your payments. ComEd personnel will continue to read the meters and answer your questions.

The only change on your bill would be the name of the new energy supplier and the new rate charged for the energy supply.

If the referendum passes, customers will have three options:

- Stay with ComEd and pay the standard rate
- Negotiate a rate with your own supplier
- Join the Franklin Park Aggregation Program

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Early Voting Available

Franklin Park registered voters can vote early in person and do not need to cite a reason, but remember to bring your government issued ID. Early voting for the March 20th primary election will be available through March 15th, Monday through Saturday, from 9 am - 5 pm at the following locations:

- Elmwood Park Village Hall, 11 Conti Circle
- Melrose Park Village Hall, 1000 North 25th Avenue
- Cook County Building, 69 West Washington, Chicago

Precinct Changes

After the 2010 Census, some voting districts were redrawn which may have caused changes in precincts and polling places. Go to the Cook County Clerk's website at www.voterinfonet.com to verify voter registration, identify the location of your polling place and to review candidates on the March 20th ballot.

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Since we are on the subject of saving money, I am proud to announce that the Village has saved over \$100,000 this year on our liability insurance premiums. As we have with every other expenditure, our staff has worked diligently to uncover the lowest possible rates. We brought together several providers in a very competitive bidding process and the result was these substantial savings. Additionally, our safety first initiatives have paid off and also helped to reduce our rate.

Spring is Around the Corner!

The corner of Belmont & Edginton that is. On March 31, we will host the official groundbreaking for our new state of the art police station. Join us at 10 AM, Saturday March 31, as we break ground. Please check our website for more information.



BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Environmental Clean-up Slated for Two Village Sites

Franklin Avenue

The Village received a grant to perform clean up on the site of a former dry cleaning facility on Franklin Avenue, just West of 25th Street.

"The Village is facilitating environmental clean-up of this site as part of our overall effort to market the Franklin Avenue commercial corridor for future development," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "A large portion of this land is presently unusable because the dry cleaning chemicals seeped into the soil and ground water. Our goal is to get this property and others like it, cleaned up so we can attract new businesses to the site. This will provide an increase in tax revenue, lessening the burden on our homeowners, and will bring new jobs to our community."

Recently, the Village retained RW Collins to perform environmental remediation at the site. The cleanup was funded by the IPEA and work should be completed by mid March.

Martens and Fullerton

The Village is urging Joslyn Corp. to speed up their environmental clean-up of a contaminated area where they utilized toxic chemicals in their business practices many decades ago. The 30 acre site, bordered by Fullerton on the south, the CN Rail on the east, Frain Industries on the north and Marten on the west, has garnered interest from industrial real estate brokers due to its superior location advantages including excellent access to railroad spurs and highways and close proximity to O'Hare Airport.

The Village has been urging the Illinois Environmental Agency (IEPA) to force Joslyn Corp. to clean up the Brownfield site. Recently, the IEPA contacted Joslyn to conduct environmental remediation of the parcels to avoid litigation. Joslyn has requested permission to locate monitoring wells in advance of its environmental cleanup. The Village will continue to pressure Joslyn, through the IEPA, to clean up the site.





Recycle Reuse Reduce

How Can You Live More Sustainably?

The Village of Franklin Park is working to promote Village-wide efforts to increase the sustainability of Village operations and to accelerate the adoption of more sustainable practices by our local businesses, institutions and residents. Periodically, our newsletter will feature ways that we can move toward the goal of becoming more economically sustainable to help support a healthier business climate and community. Even the little things can make a difference. For example, a large amount of shipping peanuts get thrown in the garbage every year by our residents and businesses. So why not donate them to someone who can put them to good use?

eParts and More, Inc. is a local online company that ships products all over the world from right here in Franklin Park and utilizes these peanuts when packing products to ensure a safe arrival of the shipment. e-Parts spends approximately \$3,500 annually to have shipping peanuts delivered to its Franklin Park location. e-Parts has set up a special receptacle in the lobby of their business to accept donated packing peanuts from anyone who would like to see them be recycled. Please drop-off your shipping peanuts at 10265 Franklin Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm.

If you have an innovative way to recycle, reuse or reduce, please email it to us at villagenews@vofp.com.

e-Parts is a local company that has been in business since 2007 and specializes in buying and refurbishing computer equipment and parts for resale. They also part whole computer systems which would otherwise end up in landfills.



Volunteers Needed to Help Beautify Our Village

Spring is just around the corner and the Village has begun to make plans to beautify Franklin Park. Last year, with the help of many volunteers, we were able to enhance our community by planting a perennial garden on the parkway located at 9849 Grand, a perennial garden in the Metra lot behind the Community Center and put flowering plants on the west side of Rose Street at the Metra station. If you would like to volunteer in this year's efforts and help us plant trees or create gardens in our community, please sign-up at beautifyingfranklinpark@vofp.com. You can even give us your ideas and suggestions for future projects at this address. Either way, we would love to hear from you!



Clean Up After Your Pets Please

Franklin Park dog owners are required to clean-up after their pets and to properly dispose of dog waste. Anyone who walks a dog must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick-up and dispose of their pet's waste. Please be a good neighbor and clean-up after your pet so we can all enjoy the outdoors as the warm weather approaches.





Help Available for Obtaining Medical Coverage and Social Security

Are you finding it hard to get medical coverage, social security or food stamps? Leyden Family Services can help. If you need assistance, contact their office at 847-451-0330 and ask for Connie Tischauer or Christi Rocha. Or visit them at 10001 West Grand Avenue.

Please bring the following to facilitate the process:

- Current proof of all income for this year
- Current proof of household expenses including utility bills, medical care, rent lease, property taxes, prescription costs
- Social Security card
- Valid Drivers License or state ID
- Proof of rent paid
- Asset information including checking, savings, bonds, CD's, etc.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – Apply Now

Income eligible residents can file for help paying winter home heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program provides a one-time payment to utility companies on behalf of qualified recipients. Senior citizens and individuals and/or households with disabled members who receive SSI and SSDI benefits, are encouraged to apply. Applications are taken at Village Hall on Tuesday, March 20, April 17 and May 15 from 9 AM -noon ONLY. You can also sign-up at Leyden Township on Thursday March 8, April 12 and May 10 from 9 AM – noon. Please bring the following documents: your social security card, your photo ID, a current Nicor bill and current Com Ed bill and your proof of income for last 30 days.

Seniors Must Reapply for Property Tax Break

A 2010 law eliminated automatic renewals for seniors and now requires them to reapply to get their property tax exemptions. The Cook County Assessor's Office has mailed applications to all home owners over the age of 65 so that they can reapply and meet the March 28 deadline. For more information go to www.cookcountyassessor.com or call 312-443-7550.

Let's Move

The next Let's Move meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 pm in Village Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and to get involved. To learn more about this program, go to www.letsmove.gov and follow us on Twitter at: @letsmoveFP.

Technology Upgrades Help Police to Keep our Community Safe

Keeping our families and neighborhoods safe is the top priority of our police department. It is imperative that we give them the best resources and the most up to date tools to do their jobs. Thanks to a 2008-09 federal grant to fund information technology, the Franklin Park Police Department was able to make critical improvements that gave our police officers the latest technology upgrades.

Last year, all marked police vehicles were equipped with a state-of-the-art car camera system which helps ensure the safety of our police officers as they serve and protect the residents and businesses of Franklin Park. The grant also allowed the Village to identify 30 critical locations throughout the Village that were in need of community safety cameras. Locations were selected based on reported crime, traffic accidents and critical infrastructure within the community. The Village is partnering with the Park District in the deployment of these cameras.

The Village has completed installing hardware for the system and has replaced the outdated and non-working cameras in the West of Mannheim residential area. Further camera installations should be complete by the end of this year. Having access to the best technology as they patrol our Village streets will help our police department to save lives, deter crime and increase efficiency.

Help Available
Medical Coverage
Social Security

Energy Assistance
 **FOR YOUR HOME**

seniors
Property Tax Break

LET'S MOVE! 

