

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2012



Mayor's  
Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

## The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen  
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson  
VILLAGE CLERK

### TRUSTEES:

Tom Brimie  
John Johnson  
Cheryl McLean  
Randy Petersen  
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VILLAGE HALL HOURS  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.  
8-4:30 pm  
Wed. 8-6 pm  
Sat. 9-12 pm

**Veteran's Day Observance  
November 11 at 11 AM**

**Village Hall will be closed  
Nov. 12 for Veteran's Day  
and Nov. 22, 23, & 24  
for Thanksgiving**

## Business Activity on the Rise New Businesses Opening and Investing in Franklin Park

During these uncertain economic times, creating and retaining jobs for our citizens is our highest priority. It is important to business that they have a business friendly Village to work with. It is our mission, as well as that of our Economic Development Commission and our Franklin Park Partnership, to welcome new firms but also to assist our existing businesses to grow and prosper in Franklin Park.

We have instituted an aggressive business call program, reaching out to our local businesses to uncover obstacles to their growth and success. We have also been working to improve our customer service and cut red tape at Village Hall including streamlining our permitting process and occupancy applications.

I am pleased to announce that these efforts have paid off. Franklin Park is experiencing increased investment in our community and an all-important increase in jobs. New businesses are opening, and established businesses are coming out from the cloud of the recession, adding jobs and expanding their operations and markets.

In the last twelve months, we have processed over 50 new business applications. We are seeing a healthy mix of industrial users, service businesses and retail offerings. These new businesses will add over 500 jobs to our community. New employees mean new visitors to our Village, new customers at our retailers, and new patrons at our restaurants.

These businesses are investing millions of dollars into our local community. Digital Realty is a data-storage center that is moving to 9333-9377 West Grand Avenue and will be making \$28,000,000 of improvements to their new facility this year with more multimillion dollar improvements planned for the near future.

Midwest Can has moved into part of the

former Werner Ladder property on Belmont Avenue. They have invested over \$1.6 million and added over 50 new jobs. Another business that came to our community is ACE Rent-A-Car which added 40 new employees. ACE moved from Des Plaines and is working closely with the Village to add even more retail opportunities to the Village at their new location.

The Village has also witnessed major growth in the existing Franklin Park businesses such as Chicago Records Management. This company expanded their operations into the former Luxury Motors and made over \$200,000 in building improvements. The expansion of Chicago Records Management is creating over 100 construction jobs. Multi-Group Logistics is also expanding in our Village and has leased additional parking space to accommodate their expanded fleet. PNC Bank moved across the street and built a larger branch with a convenient drive-thru. The PNC Bank occupies the former Blockbuster building and the construction methods used led to it becoming one of the Village's first LEED Certified Buildings.

ComEd has submitted permit applications for \$800,000 improvement to its Transfer Station on Belmont, west of Mannheim.

We have welcomed many new businesses in the last year including Multi-Tech Cold Forming, Prairie State Impressions, Simms Recycling Solutions

Mayor's Desk is continued on page 2. ▶

Mayor Pedersen, Village Trustees Tom Brimie and John Johnson and Village Clerk Tommy Thomson helped to celebrate the opening of the new PNC Bank on Grand Avenue. ▶





Mayor Pedersen welcomes Home Town Tapestry, a new café and comedy club to our Village.

## Mayor's Desk ▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Ringspann Corporation. In addition, Northern Light Energy, Safe Traffic Systems, Mysterious and Reassuring, a retail consignment store and Merry Maids have all chosen to make Franklin Park their business address.

We are working to encourage and sustain our commercial enterprises as well. As a result of working with the owner of the former K-Mart site to improve the condition and appearance of the property, the Village has helped attract the national retailer Big Lots to that location. We are currently working with additional national retailers to fill retail vacancies. This activity represents a dynamic revitalization of retail for the Grand and Mannheim Shopping District.

We are also refocusing attention to the heart of the community, the downtown district along Franklin Street. The Community Development Department was awarded a grant for a consultant to analyze and rezone the downtown in order to revive redevelopment opportunities and to make it easier for businesses to set up shop in the downtown district. We are working with the downtown merchants to better promote this corridor and increase activity to the downtown.

The Village is excited to announce that a new specialty pub will be opening soon on the 9700 block of Franklin Avenue. In addition, there is a new owner and broker firm representing the retail space of Phase I of the Crossings.

We are pleased that the business community is recognizing our location and transportation advantages. Economic vitality leads to more jobs and stable home prices. Our staff and elected officials will continue to work closely with business owners to encourage expansion, investment and relocation to our Village.

This is just the beginning. We are proud of the progress we have been able to make despite the recession. We look forward to our economic development efforts paying dividends for our homeowners and residents.

(Our new on-line business directory is reviewed on Page 4.)

## Village News

## Working to Create Train Quiet Zones

As we discussed in October's newsletter, establishing a Quiet Zone in Franklin Park is a top priority for the Board and myself. We all know how invasive and annoying train noise can be.

Municipalities can create a "Quiet Zone" from 10 PM to 6 AM that would allow for the trains to voluntarily dispense with the use of train horns. But train horns are blown as a safety measure. In order to get a Quiet Zone designation the Village must make substantial investments in alternative safety measures at each grade crossing in order to cease the incessant horn blowing.

The modifications could include such things as quad gates or changing the grade level of the crossing. Because Franklin Park has several train crossings, we have been told that to effectively eliminate the noise and meet the safety requirements - all crossings must be reconfigured. This effort may require the Village to expend up to \$3.5 million to bring the crossings into compliance with the FRA requirements for eligibility of a Quiet Zone.

We are working closely with officials from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to become one of the few communities in the nation with six sets of rails to be designated a Quiet Zone. We are also aggressively pursuing grants and revenue sources so that we can make the very costly required safety improvements in order to qualify for the Quiet Zone designation.

## Giving Thanks

The leaves are turning, the temperatures are dropping and we are preparing for another Holiday Season. Each year I look forward to spending Thanksgiving with my family, who are at the top of my list when I count my blessings.

But not all families are so fortunate. The recession has many in tight economic times. I encourage all of you to share the warmth of the holiday season by donating to a Coat Drive. I encourage everyone who can, to please contribute to a Toy Drive or a Food Pantry. Many of our local churches and area service organizations offer opportunities for us to help make sure every Franklin Park family has a Happy Thanksgiving.

I know the Board of Trustees and I feel very grateful to be able to serve the families of Franklin Park. On behalf of all of us, please have a Safe, Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.

*Barrett F. Pedersen*  
**BARRETT F. PEDERSEN**



Mayor Barrett Pedersen visited with Kensen Tool & Die, Inc., a family-owned business which has been located in Franklin Park for over 47 years.



## Energy Saver Program Helps Save Our Planet and Save You Money

The Citizen's Utility Board (CUB) has created an Energy Saver Program designed to help homeowners conserve energy and help the environment. The CUB Energy Saver Program is a FREE, online program that allows homeowners to create an energy savings plan for their individual household. The program is linked to your ComEd account and tracks your progress and then gives you reward points for any energy savings. Energy points can be used for discounts at local and national retailers. To learn how to get started, go to [www.cubenergysaver.com](http://www.cubenergysaver.com) or call Laura 312-263-4282x131.



## Senior Snow Removal Program – Apply Now

There is limited time for senior's to register for the Village-subsidized Senior Snow Removal Program. Seniors pay \$15 per service request. If you were previously enrolled in the program you MUST enroll again before the program fills up. Applications are available at Village Hall or call 847-671-8240.



## Leaf Pick-up and Street Sweeping Continues

Please place your leaves in brown biodegradable bags and remember to put them out on garbage day with your recycling for pick-up. Bags are available for purchase at local grocery and hardware stores. Leaves cannot be picked-up if they are placed in plastic bags or in the street. Pick-up continues until December 5. In addition, yard waste bags will only be picked up through December 5. These dates are established by Allied Waste. The Utility Department will sweep Village curbs from September 15 till December 1. Please check signs on your block for restrictions.



## Senior Assistance Available at Village Hall

Having problems accessing senior services? A representative from West Suburban Senior Services will be available at Village Hall, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 9 AM to Noon to help. Assistance is available for a variety of programs including helping you complete Circuit Breaker applications, and to sign-up for Medicare and Medicaid. For details, call 708-547-5600.



## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

A representative will be at Village Hall every Tuesday from 9 AM – Noon beginning on November 20th to process LIHEAP applications. Please bring the following documents with you: a Social Security / SSI (monthly) benefit letter for 2012, your pension letter for the last 30 days, a valid Photo ID, Social Security Cards for all members in the household, proof of income for the last 30 days for all house members 18 years or older, a current NICOR and ComEd bill (disconnect notices have to be included if you are applying) and bring your Medical Card.



## Rain Barrel Reminders

Before the cold weather approaches, remember to drain your rain barrel. It's recommended to disconnect your rain barrels in the winter months because a constant freezing and thawing of the water inside may weaken cause cracks in the barrel. Store your barrels upside down in the winter to keep them clean for future use.



## Police Department Sponsoring Toys for Tots

The Franklin Park Police Department will be helping to make many children happy again this year by sponsoring their annual Toys for Tots Campaign. If you would like to donate, please bring an unwrapped toy to the Franklin Park Police Department and drop it off in the lobby at 9545 Belmont Ave. Toys will be accepted from November 26 through December 14. Thanks!



## Don't Get The Boot!

This month the Police Department restarted the Vehicle Immobilization Enforcement Program. Though we do not like to boot or tow a vehicle and we understand what an inconvenience it is, it is necessary. Vehicles being booted can have substantial violations and significant money owed to the Village. The Police Department will only immobilize a vehicle that has 10 or more outstanding parking tickets.

Want to avoid this unpleasantness? Be like the vast majority of our citizens and do not get a ticket. And if you do get a ticket, follow the proper procedure.

◀ This vehicle has an outstanding amount of \$24,500 in fines.

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# CHRISTMAS at HAMMILL SQUARE



The Village of Franklin Park invites everyone to attend its annual

**Tree Lighting & Winterfest - Friday, November 30, from 6-8PM**  
at the Hammill Square Gazebo (Belmont & Edgington).

*Admission is free!*

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

Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 elementary school students.

Winterfest will feature food and holiday items for sale from local vendors and plenty of good cheer! Warm -up inside with refreshments, served by our Village Mayor and Trustees.

**Children can have their photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus!**

Drop-off a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry.  
Hope to see you there!



Join the fun!  
Help spread holiday  
cheer!

## **New Business Directory on Village Website**

A directory of Franklin Park Businesses is now available on the Village website and can be accessed at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com). This new directory lists area businesses in alphabetical order and includes information on each company and a link to their website. Are you a Franklin Park business and not listed? Are you listed but would like to include your company logo? Please contact Eric at [erichard@vofp.com](mailto:erichard@vofp.com) or call 847-671-8278 for assistance.

Our website also contains a Jobs page titled "Other Area Job Opportunities". We are hoping that local businesses will share job openings with us. While we can't post individual job listings, we can provide a link to a company's job landings page. Franklin Park businesses are encouraged to participate by sending the URL and the text they want displayed to Eric at [erichard@vofp.com](mailto:erichard@vofp.com).