

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2012



Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

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

**Village Hall Closed
October 8
for Columbus Day**

Setting the Record Straight on Bond Issue

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This month I want to use our newsletter to address an important issue and to correct some misleading and distorted information that is being circulated through flyers, letters and over the fence gossip, about our recent bond issue.

You, the taxpayer, deserve the facts. It is unfortunate that misinformation is being put forth that is not only confusing but untruthful.

Here are the facts.

FACT: On August 13th, the Village Board unanimously approved the issuance of \$15.5 million in alternate revenue bonds.

FACT: These bonds are ALTERNATE revenue bonds. Your property taxes – real estate taxes- will NOT be raised as a result of these bonds. These bonds are tied to a SPECIFIC revenue source and will be paid through the water and sewer funds NOT an increase in property taxes.

FACT: The revenue source – NOT property taxes- is noted in the ordinance passed by the Village

The bonds will be used to alleviate severe flooding in areas of the Village that are often affected during storms.

Board and also documented by Mark Lawton, of the Pioneer Press in his August 30, 2012 article.

FACT: The water and sewer fund will generate more than sufficient revenue to pay for these bonds.

FACT: The interest savings will allow us to retire \$4.5 million in Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loans and reimburse the Village's general fund for costs associated with readying the former Unilever site for development.

FACT: The purchase of these bonds will allow the Village to complete much needed capital projects.

FACT: The improvement projects include much needed flood relief, in areas hard hit by storms, promised by the prior administration but never delivered. The prior administration diverted funds from this project to repave alleys. It is our duty to fulfill the promise that was made and get these residents and businesses flood relief.

Mayor's Desk is continued on page 2. ▶





Mayor's Desk ▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



FACT: These critical projects include: Storm water relief to George Street between Fullerton and the Jack B Williams retention basin; Redesigning the Silver Creek storm water basin; Increasing storm sewers on Sara Street between Nevada and Dora; Separating the combined storm sewers in the Westbrook / Hawthorne Wrightwood area; and Pursuit of a Quiet Zone designation to provide for relief from train horns.

FACT: The prior administration began 2001 with a general fund balance of \$16.2 million. It ended FY 2009 with a deficit of \$5.4 million. We inherited a weak and dangerous financial position. Through strong financial management, and a variety of prudent and accepted financial and budgeting processes, we have reversed these years of financial decline and will be showing a POSITIVE general fund balance of \$3.6 million for FY 2012.

FACT: Our remarkable financial turn around has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association and they awarded us the Certificate in Financial Reporting. We earned an investment grade bond rating from Standard and Poor's; the first time the Village achieved such a rating. We have had three years of balanced budgets and operating surpluses.

FACT: Because of our strong fiscal management, and increased productivity and cost controls, property taxes to support Village operations and services have DECLINED over the past three years by 4.9%.

In conclusion, I believe the Village Board has been good stewards of your taxpayer dollars. Despite the fact that we inherited a financial mess, the Board and staff have worked hard to use taxpayer dollars in the most cost-efficient manner. We know you work hard for your money and we aim to work equally hard to use it wisely.

We unanimously believe the \$15.5 million bond issue was a wise approach to funding our critical infrastructure needs. And we unanimously believe you deserve the facts regarding this issue.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

New, Limited-Time Rebate Available for Home Energy Upgrades

An alliance of local organizations, utility companies and non-profit groups is helping area homeowners increase the comfort of their homes this fall. The alliance, Energy Impact Illinois, recently introduced a special limited-time rebate for Chicago-area homeowners of up to \$1,750 to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes before winter hits.

With our unusually hot weather this summer, it may be hard to remember back to last winter when you noticed an especially drafty room or the window bay in your breakfast nook that just always seemed a bit colder. For sure, you know if rooms in your house were hotter than normal these last few months. The rebate will allow residents to make energy efficiency improvements like sealing up air leaks and installing proper insulation.

Franklin Park homeowners are now eligible for a rebate of up to \$1,750 to make energy efficiency steps in their homes. Energy Impact Illinois can link homeowners to certified contractors who can assess and estimate the right mix of air sealing and insulation projects to achieve savings.

Though the rebate can help homeowners save, on average, 70 percent on the typical cost of the actual work, Energy Impact Illinois can also link homeowners with attractive loan options with zero percent interest for the first year to make up any difference.

More than half of total energy costs come from heating and cooling a home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation. Air sealing and insulating a home are some easy, right-now steps homeowners can take to reduce energy bills and create a more comfortable home for winter.

For more information, call Energy Impact Illinois at 855-9-IMPACT. You can also contact the local representative Matt Elmore at 503-333-5578 or at matt@energyimpactillinois.org.

Electric Aggregation - Beware of Scams

In March, Franklin Park voters approved a referendum authorizing the Village to seek lower electricity rates for eligible residential and small business customers. After receiving prices and service qualifications from retail electric suppliers, the Village selected, Integrys Energy Services, Inc., to supply electricity to the Village's Electric Aggregation Program at a per kilowatt hour rate that will be approximately 28% lower than ComEd's rate. Com Ed will still deliver your electricity and will still provide you with an electric bill.

Eligible residential customers were automatically enrolled in the program unless they opted out prior to June 27, 2012. Integrys is the only retail supplier contracted by the Village for this program. Residents may opt out of the Integrys contract at no cost at any time. Residents should beware of other vendors who may be suggesting they are working with the Village on this program. If you are contacted by other electrical suppliers, tell them that you do NOT want to switch your electricity service. If you have been switched without your approval, contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office at 1-800-386-5438. Also, contact the Village at 847-671-4800 with questions.



Fire Department to Host Open House

The Franklin Park Fire Department will host an Open House for the community on Saturday, October 13, from 11 AM until 2 PM. The event will be held at Fire Station #2, located at 10002 West Addison and will feature safety information and refreshments.

You can also learn more about Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, at the website at www.firepreventionweek.org. Residents are encouraged to take some time to learn about how to prevent home fires and ways to protect their families through careful planning and utilization of life-saving technologies. Use this opportunity to check your batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Also fire pits are not legal in our Village. There is a "No Open Burning" ordinance in Franklin Park, despite what area hardware stores and home centers will tell you. Contact the Fire Department at 847-671-8798 for more information.



Trick or Treat – Let's be Safe and Have Fun!

The Village has designated specific hours for Trick or Treating on Wednesday, October 31 from 3:30 to 7:00 PM. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children and to stay in familiar neighborhoods and areas. Children should wear or carry something lit after dark like a flashlight or a glow bracelet or necklace. Avoid costumes that drag on the ground and make sure that masks allow your child to breath comfortably.

Did you know that Franklin Park is the only place in the world where Baby Ruth and Butterfinger candy bars are produced? Let's support our 'hometown' candy bars by including them in Trick and Treat bags and remember to support all our local merchants and buy your Halloween costumes, candy, party goods and as much merchandise as possible IN Franklin Park. It helps our retail neighbors and it helps our Village!



Franklin Park Women's Club Celebrates 115 Years of Service

The Franklin Park Women's Club will host their annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on October 20, at Pescatore Palace. Tickets are \$30 and can be reserved at 847-352-1461. Proceeds from the event go to support scholarships for local students in various areas including academics and leadership, the arts and the trades. The Women's Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Library. Contact Marie Fitzgerald at (847) 455-0370 to learn how you can get involved!



Village is Planning Holiday Events

The Christmas Tree in Hammil Square is the centerpiece for our holiday events. If you have a large evergreen you would like to donate as our holiday tree, call 847-671-8236. Our Utilities Department will arrange to remove the tree and transport it. We will honor your family's donation at the event. We are also asking our partners in the business community to help support our annual Tree Lighting festival scheduled for November 30. Sponsorships are available at all levels to enhance the festivities and to maximize what we can offer the children of Franklin Park. Please call 847-671-8236 to be a sponsor.



Leaf Pick-up and Street Sweeping to Begin

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.



Let's Move

Franklin Park is a Let's Move community and is participating in the national effort led by the First Lady, to reduce obesity and raise a healthier generation of kids. The next Let's Move meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 7:00 PM at Village Hall. Get involved in creating a healthy future for our children!



October is ...

Breast Cancer Awareness Month  **and Domestic Violence Awareness Month** 



Veterans Day Observance – November 11

Please plan to attend the Village's annual Veterans Day Observance presented in partnership with the American Legion (Post 974) on Sunday, November, 11th at 11 AM at the Veterans Memorial, located on Belmont Ave., west of the Village Hall. The observance will honor veterans from all of our Nation's conflicts and will feature a ceremonial "Laying of the Wreath" and a dedication of new names to be added to the Veteran's Monument Wall. For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 847-671-8236.



Village Seeks Veteran Names for Monument

The Village is seeking military Veterans from Franklin Park to have their name added to our Veteran's Monument. Interested Veterans or family members must submit a copy of the Veterans DD-214 form. Please submit copies to Tommy Thomson, Village Clerk, at the Village Hall, by October 17th to ensure the name will be added to the wall before our Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th. For more information, call 847-671-8244.

American Legion Hosts "Turkey Trot"

The American Legion Franklin Park Post 974 invites everyone to attend their Turkey Trot event on Saturday, November 10, from 5 to 10 PM at 9757 Pacific Avenue. The event will include a turkey dinner, a cash bar, a raffle and dancing! Call 847-490-3048 to reserve tickets in advance for \$15. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$10 for military members in uniform and \$5 for children.



Get Your Flu Shots Now

Flu Shots are being offered during regular pharmacy hours at the following locations. No appointment is necessary:

- CVS Pharmacy - 10420 Grand Avenue - \$31.99
- Osco Pharmacy - 9595 Grand Avenue - \$29.99
- Walgreens - 10203 Grand Avenue- \$31.99



Senior Assistance Available at Village Hall

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 you complete Circuit Breaker applications. To be eligible, you must be 65 before January 1, 2012 and must live in Illinois. You will need to bring your social security card, proof of 2011 income and proof of rent and property taxes paid in 2011. Income limits are \$27,610 for one and \$36,635 for two people and spouse includes parties to a civil union. For details, call 708-547-5600.



LIHEAP Assistance – Make Appointments Now

A representative will be at Village Hall on Tuesday, October 16, from 9 AM to 1 PM to process applications for the 2012 LIHEAP program. You must make an appointment in advance by calling 847-671-8258.

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.



Unity in Community Hosts Pre-Holiday Celebration & Food Drive

The Unity in Community Foundation will host its annual event on Saturday, November 10, from 6 to 10 PM at the Underpass Lounge, located at 9400 West Grand Avenue. This year's event will support Coach Mike Sliwinski and his family and the Lucia Ramirez and Smerz-Horvath College Scholarships for Leyden High School Seniors. Please bring a non-perishable food donation to support the Food for Life Pantry and The Leyden Food Pantry. Those bringing food donations will receive a raffle entry and have a chance to win valuable prizes including a 40" flat screen TV and much more.

Tickets cost \$20 and cover entry to the Celebration, food, entertainment by D.J. Rockin' Ronnie, and entry to the raffle. Tickets can be purchased on line at www.theunityincommunity.org or mail your checks to The Unity in Community Foundation at 3019 Emerson St., Franklin Park, IL 60131.

