

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 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  
Rosalba Rodriguez  
Bill Ruhl

9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL. 60131  
847-671-4800  
villagenews@vofp.com

POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)  
847-678-2444

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)  
847-678-2400

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

## Working with Businesses During Elgin-O'Hare Construction

Can you believe it is now past Labor Day? Where did summer go? Activities and outings with my sons kept me busy during the summer and then, before we knew it, Jessica and I were getting the boys ready to go to back to school. We enjoyed spending extra time with them these past weeks, but we also enjoy getting back into the school year routine.

At the Village, we have been busy helping our businesses affected by the construction of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access. As you know, this is a critical project for our Village, allowing us to revitalize our industrial and commercial corridors, giving us new accessibility and increasing our stormwater capacity.

However, there is always a price with progress. We are working with businesses that will be moved due to the construction and helping them find sites to relocate in Franklin Park. Not only do we want these businesses to stay in our community, but we want this move to be a catalyst for increased success and prosperity.

Many businesses find it difficult to place orders, purchase new equipment or engage in long term planning when the timing of their relocation is uncertain. Additionally, some businesses located in the footprint of the new roadway may be eligible for advance acquisition. We worked closely with Interplex Daystar and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to expedite the appraisal



Mayor Pedersen meets with owners from Fantis Foods to assist with their relocation needs.

and purchase of their property. They were able to purchase new equipment, expand their business and create new jobs.

When businesses approach us, we move immediately to contact IDOT and other State officials to help them in this process. Our Economic Development Department also works with local businesses and area developers and realtors to quickly identify another location in town that meets their needs. We also work with IDOT to assure that the business owners receive all possible grants and remuneration available due to their forced relocation.

The Elgin-O'Hare Western Access will be built by the Illinois Tollway. Last month, the Tollway's

Mayor's Desk is continued on page 2. ▶

## Saving Money Improving the Village

On August 13th, the Board approved the issuance of \$15.5 million in alternative revenue bonds. This action will not result in an increase in taxes. The bonds will be used to finance much needed capital projects, including providing storm water relief to George Street between Fullerton and the Jack B Williams retention basin, redesigning the Silver Creek storm water basin, facilitating the Westbrook/Hawthorne/Wrightwood combined sewer separation project and will also advance a Quiet Zone from train horns.

A portion of these bonds will be used to repay \$4.5 million in Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loans that were used to prepare the former Unilever site for future use. Because we have improved our financial position and have received investment grade ratings, we are able to take advantage of lower rates and save money by retiring these loans early.

More good financial news, these bonds will be repaid through water and sewer funds with NO increase in property taxes.

## Mayor's Desk ▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



▲ Mayor Pedersen at Pollina Landscaping.

### Working with Businesses ... (cont.)

Executive Director, Kristi LaFleur, came to Franklin Park and met at Village Hall with twelve businesses located along the corridor. Staff and I are now following up with these businesses to help them stay, invest, succeed and create jobs in Franklin Park.

### Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass Update

Last month, I told you that I traveled to Washington DC to lobby for the Federal Highway Reauthorization Bill. The bill passed and we were successful in getting the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access included as a project of national significance.

But there are two parts of the legislative puzzle. Now it is important for our coalition, elected officials, community, labor and business leaders, to continue to advocate for dedicated dollar amount to provide funding for the roadway project.

I will be traveling to Washington DC in October and probably again in January, during the lame duck session to make sure that this important project is funded in the upcoming appropriations bill.

### Another 'Big' Retail Store Opens

Big Lots, a national variety retail business, will be moving into a portion of the former Kmart building on Grand Avenue. Big Lots will lease about 40,000 square feet and has begun to remodel in anticipation of an October opening. The Village expects that the store opening will attract shoppers from around the area and, in turn, make leasing the remainder of the site more attractive to additional retailers.



BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

## Village Announces Water, Sewer and Trash Amnesty Program For Overdue Fees

The Village Board of Trustees recently passed an ordinance to create an amnesty program to help residents and business owners settle delinquent water, sewer or garbage removal bills.

"We understand that these are difficult economic times for many of our citizens and that they may have fallen behind in their water, sewer and garbage removal payments," stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "It is the Board's intention to work with these residents and business owners to develop a payment plan that works for them and that will also allow the Village to recoup this revenue."

For a limited time only, the Village is negotiating payment plans for anyone behind in their payments and will also reduce and or waive penalties in proportion to what the resident or owner pays toward their balance. This offer will only be available through September 30. Residents and business owners with delinquent accounts should contact the Village immediately to set-up a payment plan that accommodates their special circumstance and to avoid having their service terminated and incurring additional fees in order to have their service reinstated.

This amnesty plan is not open to residents or property owners who have previously entered into a payment plan with the Village and then failed to honor their agreement. Anyone interested in taking advantage of the Village's amnesty program should contact Cindy Sliwinski at 847-671-8252.

## Village Wins Grant for Trees

The Village of Franklin Park has been awarded a \$1,000 grant to support tree planting from the IEPA and the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency. Thanks to their project, "Keep West Cook Beautiful", the grant allowed the Village to plant a diverse range of tree species throughout Franklin Park and therefore supported our community's effort to beautify our Village!

## Eliminate Weeds in Alleys

Despite the drought, weeds are continuing to grow. Residents and property owners need to please remember to cut weeds growing in the alley, behind your home. Grass and weeds are required to be less than six inches in height because mosquitoes and rodents harbor and breed in overgrown grass. In addition, eliminating weeds in our alleys will help to keep our community looking attractive.

## Village Receives Planning Grant for Downtown District

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has awarded the Village with a technical assistance grant to study the downtown district and revise the zoning code which will encourage transit oriented development. Franklin Park was one of only three communities in the Chicago area to be awarded with this grant and this is the first planning grant awarded to the Village in over six years. (continued on page 3)



## Village Receives Planning Grant (cont.)

With two Metra stations located within a half mile, the Village wants to attract developments that increase activity in the downtown area. In 2006, the Village completed a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study to help meet this goal. Village officials believe that the RTA grant will help to implement the TOD study and to meet its objectives of facilitating private investment in the downtown area and improving the quality of life for Franklin Park residents.

The Village of Franklin Park has advanced implementation of the TOD study by beginning construction of a new Police Station at the former Unilever property. While additional develop-

ment opportunities exist at other properties, current zoning restrictions pose a barrier for developers considering building transit orientated development in the downtown area. For instance, several buildings in the downtown area do not match the current zoning requirements and several zoning districts have varying setback regulations. The grant will allow for a zoning update which will accurately reflect the existing physical characteristics of the downtown and will therefore support the Village's development process.

The RTA is in the process of selecting consultants to support this project. Upon this selection, the project is expected to be completed in six to eight months.

## Celebrate Autumn with a Parade and Pumpkins Annual Event is October 7

Plan to join your friends and neighbors to celebrate fall's arrival at the annual Eddie Biondo Fall Fest Parade on Sunday, October 7. The parade begins at 1 PM at Grand Avenue and Scott Street and will proceed east on Grand to 25th Avenue, then heads north to Addison Street and ends at Addison and 25th. This spectacular day celebrates the children, families, civic organizations, businesses and the cultural diversity of Franklin Park. The parade features a variety of marching bands, clowns, Shriners and floats.

The parade is named for Edwin "Eddie" Biondo, who volunteered his talent and time to assist the Park District for 27 years to organize many important events the Fall Fest and July 4th Parades. In 2005, the Park District recognized Edwin Biondo's outstanding contributions and commitment for his service by renaming the family-favorite event, "The Eddie Biondo Fall Fest Parade." In honor of Eddie, his family members lead the parade each year.

Immediately following the parade join us at Pumpkin Fest at 2 PM at North Park. The activities are free, family friendly and fun for all ages. Children can pick their own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and decorate it with colorful paint. The afternoon will feature a children's entertainer, music, food, outdoor games, hay maze and rides. For more information, contact Phyllis Schmidt at 847-451-8135 or go to [fpparks.org](http://fpparks.org).

## Last Chance for the Farmer's Market

The Franklin Park Farmer's Market will conclude another successful season this month and will be featuring the best of the early autumn harvest on Saturday September 8 and 22 from 8 AM to 1PM. This will be your last chance to visit the market this year to purchase a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and plants, baked goods, specialty food items, products for the home and other hand-made gift items.

Plan to bring the family and catch-up with your neighbors while you shop for great offerings at the end of the season's market. The Farmer's Market is held in the Police Station parking lot. For more information, call, 847-.671-4800.



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK SELLER



### 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.

### Support the Franklin Park Women's Club

The Franklin Park Women's Club will host their annual Luncheon and Fashion Show to celebrate their 115th Birthday! Join them on October 20th at Pescatore Palace. Tickets are \$30 and can be reserved by calling 847-352-1461. Proceeds from the event go to support scholarships for local students in various areas including in academics and leadership, the arts and the trades. The Women's Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Franklin Park Library. Contact Marie Fitzgerald at (847) 455-0370 to learn how you can get involved!

### 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 beginning on September 26 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.

### Take Precautions Against West Nile Virus

Residents should take precautions to avoid bites by limiting time outdoors especially at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active. Wear long-sleeves, pants and socks, and use insect repellent with 30% DEET, primarily applied to clothing. Eliminate breeding sites by cleaning gutters, storing containers upside down, covering trash containers to keep out rainwater and emptying bird-baths and wading pools every few days. Keep grass and weeds cut short and make sure your screen doors close tightly to prevent mosquitoes from entering. Village inspectors are larviciding mosquito pools that are found and reported. Also, backyard catch basins will be treated by Inspectional Services by contacting them at 847-671-8240.

### 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!

### Community Blood Drive

September 21, from 3 to 7 PM at the Community Center

### Help Cats From Multiplying in our Community

The only effective, humane and economical way to control, reduce and care for the cats is through a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program. CatVando is working to reduce the cat population and train volunteers. To learn more or make a donation, go to <http://catvando.org> or call 708-829-6013.



Know anyone who should be honored?



# LET'S MOVE!

