

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



## Mayor's Desk

### The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen  
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson  
VILLAGE CLERK

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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 will close  
at 3:30 PM Dec. 23 for  
Christmas and reopen  
on Dec 26.

Village Hall will be  
closed January 1.

Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village officials welcomed Montrose Family Dental to their new location at 3535 Rose St. Unit C. They moved the practice from Addison Street and made \$95,000 in improvements to the space.



## Telephone Town Hall Offers Good Feedback

This month's telephone Town Hall Meeting focused on the proposal to offer a referendum on passing a 1% sales tax that would be dedicated to repairing and maintaining our streets.

Participants on the call shared their concerns that our streets, as in so many mature communities, are in need of extensive and expensive repair. But they also shared my concern that the Village cannot continue to raise property taxes to address our infrastructure needs.

They were open to finding a funding solution, such as the 1% sales tax, to tackle one of our community's highest priority needs, without further burdening the homeowner.

By utilizing a sales tax, and NOT a property tax, homeowners in Franklin Park will not be forced to carry the tax burden. In fact, an estimated 40 percent of the sales tax revenue would come from shoppers who are not residents of Franklin Park.

The proposed 1% sales tax would NOT apply to groceries or medicine. Furthermore, the proposed sales tax would NOT increase property, utility or gasoline taxes. The sales tax would also NOT impact real estate transfer taxes.

Participants on the call also noted that we would not be negatively impacting our local businesses, since our neighboring communities already charge comparable sales tax. In fact, when we shop at stores outside of Franklin Park, including Sam's Club, Walmart, Costco, Target, Home Depot,

Food for Less, Tony's and Menard's, we are already paying the 1% sales tax.

Unlike our surrounding and peer communities, the Village does not have a locally-imposed sales tax. As a result, we currently have the lowest sales tax rate among this group. The chart below demonstrates how we rank as compared to our many of our neighboring communities.

A community survey was recently mailed on this subject and I hope you took the time to answer it. I want to make sure we have our citizens input as we consider this important matter.



Mayor's Desk is continued on page 2. ▶





## Mayor's Desk CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Building Permits Protect Our Residents

Ever wonder why Building Permits are so important? Please read our new feature "Franklin Park Focus". Lisa Manzo from our Building Department did an outstanding job in preventing a resident from spending thousands of dollars in a contractor scam. Building permits matter!

### Light Up Franklin Park!

It's time for our Annual Best Decorated Home Contest. Each year our residents and businesses try to dazzle us with festive decorations and light up our town and lift our spirits.

This year we want the town to sparkle, so let your creativity run free and make Franklin Park the best decorated Village in all the region. Winners will receive a prize and special recognition from our Board of Trustees for demonstrating true holiday spirit.

### Season's Greetings

The holidays are great fun and in Franklin Park we come together as a community to celebrate and enjoy. We also cherish this time to spend with our family, friends and loved ones.

The holiday season is a time of joy. But Christmas can also be a difficult time for some.

There are too many who go to sleep each night hungry, lonely, ill or afraid. If we wish for the day when there is truly Peace on Earth, we must treat all with kindness, tolerance and compassion.

In our great country, in our caring Village, we must work together so that no child goes to bed hungry, no able adult goes jobless, and no senior must choose between medicine or food. Please consider volunteering or donating through your place of worship, a local charity, the **Paul G. Rush Memorial Food Drive** (see page 4) or programs that Leyden Township offers to make sure all in our Village have a Happy Holiday.

May your holiday be filled with love, health, peace and happiness.

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

## Franklin Park Focus – Building Department

Many people ask why they need a Building Permit, even for apparently simple repairs. This month's FOCUS story is a great example of why permits are so important and a great example of how our employees go above and beyond the call of duty to protect Franklin Park residents.

Recently, Lisa Manzo, the Village's Building Department Administrator, received a call from an elderly resident. The resident stated that two workmen arrived at her home over the weekend and asked if they could repair her front steps. The woman agreed. As the workers were brushing a solution over the cracked steps, a neighbor came by. The neighbor asked the resident if they had obtained a permit for the job. They had not.

The resident phoned the Village and related the story. Lisa Manzo informed the resident that the company did not obtain a permit and that they needed to be licensed and bonded especially to work in a flood zone.

Lisa's instincts told her this could be a scam and she asked the resident what she was being charged. The resident did not know. Residents should always request a written estimate for services BEFORE work begins.

Twenty minutes later, PNC bank called Lisa Manzo and told her that an elderly woman was attempting to withdraw a very large sum of cash to pay a contractor who told her the price of the job would be reduced if she paid in cash.

Lisa asked the banker to please not release the funds. Lisa also told the banker to tell the potential victim that if the contractors showed up at the woman's home, Lisa herself would go there with an inspector. Lisa immediately contacted our police department and they dispatched officers to the bank and the residence. The suspects were waiting at the bank to take the cash from the elderly woman.

The suspects were arrested and our resident was saved thousands of dollars.

Permits matter. Our inspectors and staff are trained to spot potential scams. They will let you know if the contractor is licensed and bonded. They can give you an average range of fees and costs for services. You should never pay in full in advance of work being completed. Remember to always ask for a written estimate from more than one company and to verify that a contractor is licensed and bonded. If you have questions or concerns when you are having work done on your home, please contact Building Department at 847-671-8245 and we will be happy to assist you.

Most importantly, we are proud to have caring, dedicated, professional staff at the Village such as Lisa Manzo who helped save a resident thousands of dollars!



"I have elderly grandparents and I know they can sometimes become confused. I would hope that there would be someone in their Village to look out for them in scary situations. When this resident called me, I had a sense that these 'contractors' may be out to take advantage of her. I am glad we were able to protect this woman and to stop this scam. It is the most fulfilling part of my job to help out residents in these ways."

— Lisa Manzo

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# Village Wins Another Planning Grant

The Village is happy to announce that our community just received another Local Technical Assistance (LTA) grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). This grant will provide additional staff to create a new Village Comprehensive Plan. Franklin Park is only one of a few municipalities/ organizations to be awarded two LTA grants in consecutive years.

This particular project will help create a long term vision for the Village's business, development and lifestyle goals.

The last Comprehensive Plan update started over 11 years ago and has since been in need of a re-write due to the ever-changing economy and many local and regional projects that are taking fruition. Many projects in and around our community are impacting the Village's long-term vision.

Perhaps the project that will most directly impact the Village is the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project. This multi-billion dollar investment officially broke ground in fall 2013 and will provide thousands of jobs to the region. On top of major infrastructure projects taking place, the Village recently welcomed new business into town including: Big Lots, Savers, American Metal Craft, Midwest Can, and Japan Airlines. Moreover, Digital Realty is investing several hundred million in a state-of-the art data center off of Grand Avenue and Martens Street. All this activity not only reflects a recovering



Digital Realty is investing several hundred million dollars in a state-of-the art data center in Franklin Park. The Village was recently awarded a grant to help the Village plan for the continued long-term growth and development of the community.

economy, but proves that the Village needs to continue to plan for the long-term growth and development of the community.

The topics of land use, economic conditions, demographic analysis, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability, housing and regional connections will be analyzed in the new Comprehensive Plan. This plan will be coordinated with the on-going study of the Franklin Park O'Hare Western Industrial Study, the update of the Village's zoning code and GO TO 2040 Plan, the regional compressive plan for metropolitan Chicago. Collectively, this new document will capture the essence of all plans and other relevant studies to help craft a broader, stronger vision for the future of Franklin Park.

The Comprehensive Plan will look to address some of the most pressing issues that the Village is plagued with including aging infrastructure, under utilized rail spurs, parking, truck traffic and lack of developable land. The Plan will provide strategic recommendations to address these matters and serve as a guiding document for all future development activity in the Village. Additionally, an updated Comprehensive Plan provides leverage for applying and obtaining regional and federal funding to conduct infrastructure improvement projects and support for economic development efforts.

# Windy City Limousine Wins More Awards

Congratulations to Franklin Park-based Windy City Limousine who recently received the "Best Transportation Company in Illinois" award from Illinois Meetings and Events Magazine for an impressive fifth year in a row! The limo service also received Inc. Magazine's "Hire Power Award" which recognizes job creators and the impact they have on rebuilding our economy and restoring lives by putting Americans back to work.

Windy City Limousine has grown its fleet as the public has switched to hiring limousine, minibuses and motor coaches for parties and special events to help deter drinking and driving. The company offers the most diversified fleet of vehicles in the industry including hybrids. They have served clients across a broad range including local wedding parties, the US Secret Service and last year they provided vehicles for Nike and the White House for an event hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama and Michael Jordan.



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Village News



Recently, Village Trustee Bill Ruhl hosted a tour of the Village's B-12 Tower for members of the Soo Line Historical Society. They enjoyed it so much, they want to make a donation to help preserve it! ▲



◀ Congratulations Franklin Park! Mayor Barrett Pedersen accepts an award on behalf of the Village from the Midwest Pesticide Action Center at their recent Ladybug Bash. Franklin Park was honored for its commitment to pesticide reduction, natural lawn care and a continuing commitment to sustainability.

**Paul G. Rush Food Drive – Dec. 14** In the mid-1990s, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troops in Franklin Park initiated the Paul G. Rush Food Drive to collect food donations from local residents. The event has grown to become one of the largest food donation events within our Village. Once again, our cub scouts, boy scouts and their parents will be asking for food donations to benefit the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry. If you would like to participate, please place a bag or box of non-perishable food items on your front doorstep by 9 AM on Saturday, December 14. The scouts will collect the food items and bring the donations to the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry. If you cannot donate food for this event, you can still donate to the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry by visiting their office at 10200 W Grand Avenue or by calling 847-455-5688.



**Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect** The Village's No Parking on designated Snow Route policy is in effect. Parking is not allowed on designated streets after a 2" snow fall until snow clearing operations are complete. Secondary streets have a No Parking restriction after a 2" snow fall from 9 AM to 9 PM on the odd address numbered side of the street and 9 PM to 9 AM on the even address side. Check signs in your area for restrictions.



**Village Supports Food Drive for Local Pantry** The Village is encouraging residents to donate non-perishable food items to support the Leyden Township Food Pantry's Holiday Food Drive. A drop-off box will be located at Village Hall through-out the holiday season. Please help brighten the lives of those in need during the holidays.



**Blood Drive – Donate on Dec. 13** The last Blood Drive of the year will be held on December 13 from 3-7 PM at the Franklin Park Community Center. The drive is held in partnership with LifeSource and the Village's Senior Commission. Blood donors allow many adults and children who rely on blood transfusions to overcome diseases, illnesses, unforeseen accidents or surgeries.

