

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Mayor's Desk



New Police Station – Truth and Fiction



Franklin Park Police Chief Michael Witz scatters buckets throughout Police Station to capture water leaking from the roof.

longer place our employees and our public at risk. We concluded that it was critical to build a new police station in order to provide a safe work environment for those who put themselves in harm's way for our citizens every day.

This facility is a model of sustainable design and will serve the Police Department and our community for at least 50 years. It will help provide the necessary resources that will allow our police department to be among the best and most cutting-edge law enforcement agencies in the region.

The Board and I mandated that every aspect of this new 36,500 square foot facility be built in the most cost effective manner and that cost savings must continue to be evident in operating the building as well. Recycled materials and paving materials to reduce flooding have been incorporated into the design of the new facility. It features energy efficient systems and high performance lighting to keep energy costs down.

Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶

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 be closed
on Monday, January 21

Happy
New
Year

Our new Franklin Park Police Station is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013. This will be a state-of-the-art, multi-use facility that will greatly benefit our community and our region. Unfortunately, there has been some significant misinformation being circulated in the community about the facility. I think it is important for you, our taxpayer, to know the truth. So allow me to present a few facts.

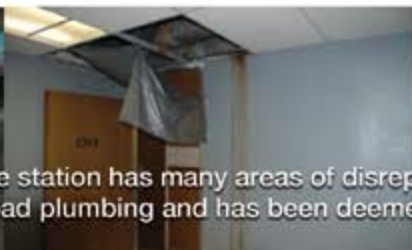
The Village Board voted unanimously to abandon the current police station and build a new facility after exhaustive studies determined there was no other alternative.

The current Police Station is functionally unproductive and potentially dangerous. OSHA mandated the closing of the courtroom and two interview rooms due to severe structural issues. The Fraternal Order of Police considers the building to be severely detrimental to the health, safety and general well-being of the employees as well as visitors to the building.

The Police Station was built in the 1930's and has an antiquated electrical system that does not meet current building codes. This public safety building has no sprinkler or fire alarm system. The Station, which housed our courtroom, is not ADA accessible. Safety experts warned the Village that the building poses a great potential for exposed mold and asbestos issues.

The building has undergone seven additions and was never maintained properly during prior administrations. Costs to rehab the facility, including providing a new roof, were exorbitant. Keeping this building functioning was no longer cost-effective. One snowfall could cause the roof to collapse.

The Board and I believed that we could no



Franklin Park's old police station has many areas of disrepair including faulty wiring, leaky roofs and bad plumbing and has been deemed potentially dangerous.

Mayor's Desk

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A covered, not underground, parking lot is being constructed. This covered lot will save on wear and tear of our patrol cars and reduce vehicle maintenance costs. The covered parking lot will save the Village on snow plowing and snow removal costs, which are costly at time and a half or double time pay.

The new facility will serve as a regional center to allow the Franklin Park Police Department to work with other law enforcement agencies in neighboring communities on area-wide task forces and to implement crime prevention programs. It will also serve as a regional facility for law enforcement professionals to undertake Homeland Security training.



The new facility will serve as a model for sustainability and efficiency and will help our law enforcement professionals to keep our community safe and well protected.

The Police Station will have a Firing Range, saving the Village the cost to rent space for our officers, often at time and a half pay, in order to fulfill a state-mandated requirement to qualify their firearms annually. In addition, the Village can now rent this space to other law enforcement agencies and generate revenue back to the Village. The Firing Range is being fully paid for by monies seized legally from certain criminal acts.

Our Police Chief, Michael Witz, will be conducting tours of the old and new facilities in March. You may contact him at 847-671-8203 to register for one of these tours which will be open exclusively to Franklin Park residents. We will have further information on these tours in our February newsletter.

Barrett F. Pedersen
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Thank You To Our Holiday Sponsors

The Village's annual Tree Lighting was held on Nov 30 and was made possible in part by the generous support of our corporate sponsors Integrys Energy Services, Inc., Midwest Can and Lowell Foods. In addition, Starbucks donated hot chocolate and coffee and Nestle USA provided candy for Santa to hand out to the children again this year. A very special thank you to The Holmes Family for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree that adorned Hammill Square. Thank you again to all of our sponsors for making this a special event for our families!

Small Businesses Can Join Electric Aggregation Program

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 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.

There are no enrollment or switching fees and your new electricity rate will be lower than the current ComEd rate through June 2013. If you are a small business and are interested in learning more, please call Integrys at 1-877-585-3424. It only takes a few minutes to sign-up for the program online at www.integrysenergy.com/aggregation/il-franklinpark/.

Business Appreciation Luncheon

Over 200 Franklin Park business owners and operators attended our Annual Business Appreciation Lunch at Il Pescatore. The attendees celebrated our over 50 new 2012 businesses and joined in a networking reception sponsored by Sloan Valve.

Dan Carioggia of Interplex Daystar opened the program and thanked the Village and our Economic Development staff for their assistance in staying and expanding in Franklin Park. Their facility stood in the footprint of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access. Thanks to the intervention of the Village with IDOT and the Tollway, they were able to quickly sell their existing building. Our staff then moved swiftly to find a new location in Franklin Park and they now are in a new 112,000 square foot facility and have added dozens of new jobs.

Our featured speaker was Pam McDonough, President of the Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing. She acquainted our businesses with their many services available including, assisting in developing a business plan or a marketing strategy and the introduction of the newest technology into manufacturing processes as well as helping companies get access to capital.

Our Community and Economic Development staff will be working closely with the Alliance to access a variety of government programs and grants that can be helpful to expand and create jobs. For more information on the Alliance programs and on Village programs that can help your business grow and prosper, please contact us at 847- 671-8278.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen with Pam McDonough, the keynote speaker at the luncheon. ▶

◀ Mayor Pedersen and Ken Kollar, President of the Franklin Park/Schiller Park Chamber of Commerce





Lions Club Names Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year

Each year, the Franklin Park Manila Lion's Club pays tribute to our police officers and firefighters by recognizing their important contribution to our community and holds a dinner to thank them for their hard work and dedication and to also recognize two individuals who have been selected to receive the honor of Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year.

Lara Hill was selected as the Police Officer of the Year and recognized for her outstanding work in the State's Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign, an effort designed to increase seat belt use and decrease fatalities on our roadways. Officer Hill also made an important contribution to the department's Child Safety Seat program, which advised local families how to choose and properly install car seats to help keep children safe while in vehicles. Officer Hill has been with the department for over 18

years and has served as a Patrol Officer, School Liaison Officer, and a Field Training Officer.

Lieutenant Robert Beuse was selected as the Firefighter of the Year. Last April, Lieutenant Beuse was driving down Rose Street when he noticed smoke coming from a building. He forced entry into the building and rescued a civilian from the burning apartment. For his heroic efforts, he received the Medal of Valor Award by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshall. Lieutenant Beuse serves as a prime example of someone who puts his life in danger to protect and save the lives of the people around him and does it because he loves what he does and enjoys helping and serving the residents and businesses of Franklin Park.

Stormwater and Floodplain Improvements Underway

Flooding problems come in different forms, have different causes and require different solutions. One person's puddle can be another person's flood. An inch of water in a low spot in the backyard can be a frustrating annoyance. That same inch of water in a living room or basement can be a costly disaster.

But, we can all agree that flooding is probably best understood as being the wrong amount of water mixed with the wrong type(s) of stuff being in the wrong place for the wrong amount of time.

Stormwater runoff from the Village drains to one of four places depending on the location. Some areas on the north side of the village drain to Crystal Creek. Areas south of the Canadian Pacific-Metra tracks and roughly west of Ruby Street drain to Silver Creek. North and east of these same locations, portions of the Village drain directly into the Des Plaines River. Finally, throughout the Village, combined sewers convey both wastewater and stormwater to the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, the largest wastewater treatment facility of its kind in the world.

It is important to note that our location, adjacent to O'Hare International Airport, does not pose an increased likelihood for flooding in Franklin Park.

In the last few years, the Village has been proactive in

identifying and implementing solutions to the various types of stormwater problems within our town; from sewer back-ups to stream overbank flooding. We have agreements in place to provide more stormwater storage. Over the past year, several engineering studies have been completed that provide specific solution alternatives and recommendations to long-standing stormwater problems. Preparation of engineering plans is about to start for some flood control projects and being finalized for others. A new bridge on Fullerton Avenue was constructed this year that conveys Silver Creek flows more efficiently. Finally, engineering studies have been initiated to remove areas of the Village from the special flood hazard area shown on the FEMA floodplain maps. This action could result in 150 - 250 homes no longer being required to purchase costly flood insurance, with an average annual premium cost of \$1,637 per building.

Each of these efforts requires significant funding and the Village is working to facilitate these improvements given the limited resources we have available.

In future newsletters we will provide more detail on each one of these flood improvement efforts. If you have a stormwater or floodplain question or concern, please contact the Engineering Department at 847-671-8304.



Franklin Avenue Resurfacing Project

The Franklin Avenue resurfacing project will begin in the Spring of 2013 and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2013. Franklin Avenue will be resurfaced from Williams Drive to the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge. This improvement project will be a structural resurfacing of this section of Franklin Avenue. A "heavy duty" stone matrix asphalt overlay of the existing road surface will be used because it is expected to hold up better with the large amount of truck traffic on this street. Watch our website for updates on this project.

Train Horn Complaint Form

Train horns are sounded to warn motorists and pedestrians of the hazard presented by an approaching train. But, if you believe that a train engineer has sounded the train horn excessively, you can complete the on-line Alleged Violation Reporting Form found on the Federal Railroad Association website at the following link: www.fra.dot.gov/app/violationreport.

Let's Move Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend the next Let's Move meeting on January 15 at 7 PM in Village Hall. Come out and get involved in our community's efforts to combat childhood obesity and to help everyone make healthier lifestyle choices. For more information go to www.vofp.com.

Village Wins Another Planning Grant

One of the top priorities of the Village's Department of Community Development and Zoning is to identify and apply for grants that will help to create jobs in our community. As a result of this effort, the Village was recently awarded a Direct Technical Assistance grant by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The grant will provide assistance to study, assess and make recommendations for the future development and redevelopment of the Franklin Park-O'Hare Industrial Corridor.

The Franklin Park-O'Hare Industrial Corridor is located west of Mannheim Road, south of O'Hare Airport, north of Grand Avenue and covers all land to the western village limits. Franklin Park is uniquely poised to attract new cargo-oriented manufacturing and other inter-modal businesses due to our direct proximity to O'Hare Airport, our location adjacent to the Canadian Pacific inter-modal rail yard and implementation of the Elgin-O'Hare West Access highway project. This grant will result in an Industrial Corridor Plan that will create goals and objectives, make recommendations and identify steps needed to make this area one of our prime targets for future job growth.

This is the first time that the Village has been awarded two planning grants in one year. The Village was awarded a planning grant by the Regional Transportation Authority earlier this year which will support the rezoning of the downtown district in order to attract more transit oriented developments.

Aracely's Bakery Recognized as the Best

Congratulations to Aracely's Bakery for being designated as making the Best Tamales in the Region. Over 5,000 people attended the event, Feria del Tamal y el Atole 2012 (Tamale Fair) and Aracely's was voted the best for a second year in a row! More than 20 vendors from Chicago and the suburbs competed for the title.

Aracely's is a family-owned and operated business located in Franklin Park at 9667 Franklin Street. The bakery offers a selection of sweets and their award-winning delicious homemade tamales fresh daily.

Did your company win an award or receive a special recognition? Let us know and we can include it in a future newsletter. Call the Mayor's Office at 847-671-8236 or email us at villagenews@vofp.com.

