

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER



Mayor's Desk

JUNE, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

The Village of
FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson
VILLAGE CLERK

TRUSTEES:

John Johnson
Cheryl McLean
Randy Petersen
Bill Ruhl
Karen Special
Andy Ybarra

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(NON-EMERGENCY)
847-678-2444

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VILLAGE HALL HOURS
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.
8-4:30 pm
Wed. 8-6 pm
Sat. 9-12 pm

Blood Drive – June 14,
from 3 to 7 PM
at the Community Center

Fighting for Tax Relief

Many times in this column I have discussed residential property taxes. As a homeowner in Franklin Park, I experience the same sticker shock that often occurs when the bills arrive. I experience the same increases and tax burden as all my neighbors. Even though the Village's portion of your tax bill is small, and the Village has frozen its property tax levy for the last three years we still see increases.

Franklin Park is not alone. Many suburban Cook County taxpayers have experienced massive property tax increases over the past few years.

The true underlying cause of these increases for many suburbs was the passage of real estate tax breaks for commercial and industrial properties by the Cook County Board. Rates were reduced for commercial and industrial properties from 38% and 35% respectively to 25%.

If you are a residential taxpayer in River Forest or Riverside, where there is little industrial property, you were relatively unaffected. But residential taxpayers in towns such as Franklin Park,

the fourth largest manufacturing center in Illinois, saw their tax bill sky rocket.

Reducing the tax burden on businesses to encourage job creation or relocation to Cook County was an admirable effort. But the unexpected consequence was massive tax increases for residential property owners in industrial concentrated towns.

If the economy is truly to recover, we must stabilize our neighborhoods and protect our homeowners. I have appealed to the Cook County Board of Commissioners to immediately convene a task force that makes providing our homeowners with tax relief a priority. Families must not be pushed out of their homes by massive real estate taxes.

I have asked the Board to take action on this critical matter without delay.

If you would like to contact our Cook County Board Commissioner, Jeffrey Tobolski and urge action on this issue, he can be reached at 708-352-2301.

Federal Disaster Aid Available – Apply by July 9

In the wake of severe storms in April, our area has been declared a disaster area and Federal Aid is now available to residents and businesses. You can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362. This information with a detailed explanation is also available on our website at www.vofp.com. The deadline to file is July 9. You do not need to have flood insurance in order to qualify for federal aid through FEMA.

Please note that reports of fraudulent behavior have been cited. FEMA representatives are required to wear valid, photo identification badges. FEMA representatives will not show up at your door without making an appointment with you in advance. If you suspect anyone of fraud, waste or abuse, please call the FEMA Fraud Hotline at 1-800-323-8603 or contact local law enforcement officials.

Barrett Pedersen was sworn in on May 6 for a new term as Village President along with Tommy Thomson as Village Clerk and Andy Ybarra, Karen Special and John Johnson.

Mayor Barrett Pedersen presented his wife Jessica with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Red Rose Flowers and Gifts in Franklin Park.





Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.)

Celebrating Summer in Our Village

Summer is finally here and in Franklin Park, our Village of Neighbors, it is a great time to get reacquainted with friends and neighbors.

This year our Farmer's Market will be open every Saturday from 8 AM until Noon at the corner of Franklin Avenue and 25th Street, from June 1 through September. I encourage all of you to shop locally and enjoy the freshest produce our region offers. Our goal is to grow this market each year, so the better attendance we have this summer, the more quality vendors we can attract next year.

How about an old-fashioned Block Party? If your block is interested in having a Block Party, contact the Village Clerk at Clerk@vofp.com or call 847-671-8242 or go online at www.vofp.com. Permits are free and available at the Clerk's Village Hall office.

Watch our website for information about area Fourth of July fireworks. And save the date for Leyden Family Fun Days, August 22- 25 at Grand and Mannheim. Next month's newsletter will include more information on this fun carnival and event.

Stay Connected

Besides our monthly newsletter, email blasts and Facebook page, we also host telephone town hall meetings every six weeks. We want to make sure that we are utilizing the most up-to-date and innovative ways available so that we can communicate with our residents. The telephone town hall meetings are your chance to give feedback to the Village on a variety of issues. But you can only participate if we have your current phone number on file. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to be connected to your Village.

You can email us your current phone to villagenews@vofp.com or you can write it on the return portion of your water bill. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook too at Village of Franklin Park!



Barrett F. Pedersen
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
MAYOR

2013 Vehicle Stickers On Sale Now

The Village challenged the talented art students at East Leyden High School to create a design for our 2013 vehicle sticker and received many outstanding entries. The theme this year was "sustainability" or the idea of maintaining or sustaining the health of our environment. A healthy environment also leads to a healthier community. The winning design was submitted by Lavinia Santos and her design is featured on this year's vehicle sticker.

Passenger car vehicle stickers need to be displayed on the lower right corner of your windshield by July 1.

Passenger stickers cost \$30 and can be purchased online at www.vofp.com or at Village Hall. Seniors receive one free vehicle sticker per household. In the spirit of fostering a more sustainable community, owners of electric vehicles receive a free vehicle sticker and hybrid vehicles pay a reduced rate of \$15.



Farmers' Market Begins its Third Season

Due to popular demand, the Market will be open every Saturday, from 8 AM to Noon, through September.

"As a Let's Move community, we are working to promote the idea that eating a good variety of fruits and vegetables is good for your health," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "As a sustainably-conscious community, we promote shopping at the Market because the produce is from a regionally-grown source and it does not require utilizing as much energy and petroleum to ship the produce from across the country or even the globe."

The Farmers' Market will be held at the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and 25th Street, next to the Crossings Condominiums. The open air market features at least a dozen vendors providing fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and other baked or prepared goods, specialty food items, spices and plants. The Market will also feature specialty food items produced by local businesses including the award-winning tamales from Aracely's Bakery. The Market will include other local Franklin Park merchants and vendors who sell unique household items.

The Village hopes to continue to grow the market this summer and will include new vendors and special programming, including live music, at various points during the summer. Free parking is available for the Farmers' Market on Franklin Avenue. For more information, call 847-671-8276.





Beautifying Franklin Park

Our Tree Preservation Commission (TPC) is looking for two citizens to join the committee. The TPC meets every other month to discuss what steps they can take, along with Village volunteers, to beautify Franklin Park. Some of the 2012 projects included adding flower baskets to the posts on Franklin Avenue, flowers in all of the planters around the city, planting gardens to enhance curb appeal, landscape clean up and identifying locations for new trees.

To kick off Spring 2013 the TPC invites Franklin Park residents to join the Communities Partner Program. Residents can go to www.itrees.com and use discount code "Franklin Park" to receive a 10% discount on a diverse selection of trees for their personal

property. Delivery and full service planting options available. Please note that if you want to purchase and plant a tree on the parkway, you must contact the Village prior to planting.

If you are interested in being appointed to a vacancy on the Tree Preservation Commission, please contact Mayor Pedersen at 847 671 8235. You must be 18 years of age to be appointed to the Tree Preservation Commission.

If you are interested in volunteering for some of our Spring/Summer projects, or have suggestions on how the TPC can help beautify Franklin Park, please contact Andy Smolen at 847 671 8217. Volunteers can be any age, but volunteers under the age of ten years old must be accompanied by a parent or adult.



Reebie Storage & Moving Works to Fight Hunger

Congratulations to Reebie Storage and Moving, a Franklin Park based company for their recent success in the Move For Hunger campaign. Reebie recently donated over 545 pounds of food to the Salvation Army of Chicago. But that's not all. At the last Allied Van Lines conference, Reebie generously matched the monetary donations of ALL other agents combined. Reebie also partnered with the U.S. Marines in support of Toys for Tots and hosted a Build-A-Bear workshop for children with Down Syndrome. Incredible!

Leyden Township Sponsors a Free Tax Seminar

A free Tax Seminar will be held to help explain how to read and understand your tax bill. Staff from the Leyden Township Assessor's Office will explain the assessment appeal process and discuss exemptions that are currently available. The Cook County Assessor's Office has announced they will be mailing Leyden Township 2013 re-assessment notices June 21st, 2013. Attend the seminar to pre-file your assessment appeal and avoid the crowds once notices are mailed.

The Tax Seminar will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at 2 PM and Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 PM at the Carl Fiorito Senior Center (Next to Leyden Township), located at 2601 North Mannheim Road in Franklin Park. Bring your yellow 2011 Second Installment tax bill. Make your reservations today! To reserve or for more information call 847-455-8616 or email assessor@leydentownship.com.

The Cook County Treasurer's office will be mailing the 2012 Second installment tax bill by July 1st, 2013 with a due date of August 1st, 2013.

Apply Now for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program

Homeowners can apply for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program again this year, to help replace damaged and cracked concrete or trip hazards on the public sidewalk near their homes. The homeowner and the Village share the cost evenly. Please email Cindy Sliwinski at CSliwinski@vofp.com or call 847-671-8252. The Village will contact you to make an appointment and discuss the details.

Low Cost Rabies Vaccines and Microchip Clinic

The Cook County Animal and Rabies Control clinics provide affordable rabies vaccinations to help bring pet owners in compliance with the law while providing an essential public health protection for the public from a deadly disease. A clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30 between 10 AM and 2:45 PM in the Jewel Parking Lot at 10203 W. Grand Avenue. Rabies vaccines will cost \$7 for a one year and \$21 for a three year. Ferrets may only be vaccinated for one year and the cost of the vaccine is \$9. Pet owners can have their pets microchipped for \$10; however, this does not include the national registration fee. Information is available on the Cook County Animal Control website at www.cookcountygov.com/portal/server.pt/community/animal_rabies_control/247 or by calling 708-974-6140.





Village Wide Garage Sale The Village-Wide Garage Sale will be held on July 19, 20 & 21. If you would like to register your address for this sale, call the Clerk's Office at 847-671-8242. Registering will add your address to a participation list that will be posted on the Village website and available in Village Hall a few days before the sale weekend. Please remember that when having a garage sale, signs cannot be attached to any utility poles or placed on the public right-of-way.



Park District Holds its Family Camp Out Plan to camp out under the stars this summer at the annual Family Campout! The campout is a great event for beginner campers as it offers access to indoor restrooms and access to the Sunflower Nature Center. This free event will take place on June 22 at 5 PM at North Park. The campout will offer fun-filled activities such as a campfire, stargazing, nighttime sports, a barbecue, campfire storytelling and much more! Don't miss out on this opportunity to hang out with your friends and family all night long at North Park. Pre-registration is required. Register at the Community Center at (847) 455-2852. Fees are \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents.



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Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Trustee Cheryl McLean are presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Ellen Miles and Fensia Pacini of CatVando, a local organization dedicated to controlling the feral cat population in our Village. CatVando utilizes a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program, which is the only effective, humane and economical method of caring for these cats while assuring their population doesn't grow. For more information go to www.Catvando.org. If you have cats in need of TNR, email catvandoTNR@yahoo.com.

▼ Mayor Pedersen on the UP Heritage Line.

Mayor Pedersen meets with one of Franklin Park's Auxiliary Officers. ▼

