

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2013

Mayor's  
Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

## Flood Clean-up Underway

I want to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation throughout our recent flooding emergency.

The entire region experienced intense rainfall, with over 75 billion gallons of water falling and causing severe flooding. This was flooding of historic proportions. This was a statewide event and though many Franklin Park homes and businesses experienced some severe damage, many of our neighboring towns fared far worse. Despite some extensive damage, there were no injuries reported in the storm's aftermath. I am proud to say that our dedicated staff and Board worked hard to successfully maintain public safety and to keep the public well informed of rapidly changing conditions.

The Jack B Williams Retention Basin, the Coopenhagen Retention Basin and the Seymour Retention Basin each reached 100% capacity, forcing water into nearby areas. The Silver Creek and Crystal Creek waterways pushed water into the residential areas. Many of our town's major roadways were not passable due to flooding.

Through all of this, our staff and Trustees demonstrated their commitment to our community.

Trustee John Johnson helped me to manage our Incident Command during and after the storm. Our Police Chief Mike Witz and Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli worked perfectly in tandem to maintain public safety and to help residents evacuate flooded areas. Joe "Tiny" Lauro, Utilities Commis-

sioner and his entire staff, worked around the clock to monitor our roadways and public works equipment to assess conditions and manage issues as they arose. Lisa Anthony, Director of Health and Human Resources worked with Trustee Cheryl McLean to locate and staff a shelter at the Centre at North Park and to solicit assistance from the Salvation Army and Red Cross.

Our Village Engineers Steve Scheffel and Dave Talbott provided invaluable insight on the state of our infrastructure and on-going flooding situations. Our Director of Planning and Community Development, John Schneider, worked as a conduit to our business community to assess their needs and offer available resources. Our Comptroller Ron Heller made sure we remained operational and we had available resources to meet any unexpected demand.

We react the same way in any emergency situation; from flooding, a snow storm or other weather-related emergency. We work together to serve the community and I am pleased that we were well-prepared and well-organized to face this emergency.

I greatly appreciate your continuing cooperation as we continue the clean-up process. I urge our residents to remember that 90% of all injuries occur after the storm and during clean up. Also, remember that standing water can contain contaminants. Thoroughly cleanse any wound, cut or injury touched by the water immediately. Contact

Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



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

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

POLICE & FIRE  
(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

Staff from Congressman  
Quigley's office will be at  
Village Hall on May 22  
from 9-11 AM to discuss  
federal issues with constituents.



▶ Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Congressman Mike Quigley met to discuss flood damage in Franklin Park.

▶ Village Trustees and Department Heads met constantly at Village Hall during and after the massive rainstorm to maintain public safety and to provide assistance to our residents and businesses.





### Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.) a health care professional as soon as possible.

It will take time to remove all flood-related debris, but we are working to clear it as soon as possible.

Please help us to compile information about where flooding has occurred and the damage it has caused to better facilitate ways to relieve flooding. If you sustained damage, at any time, from either overland flooding or basement backup, please notify the Village. Save your receipts for future claims and if possible, take photos of the flood damage. Commercial and industrial property owners should also report any flooding to the Village. Please download more information and forms on our website.

The inclusion of more impervious surfaces in suburban areas, including an increase in concrete, provides for less storage capacity during large storms. Residents should consider purchasing a rain barrel through the Park District but remember to drain the barrel prior to a rain storm to allow it to capture a maximum amount of water.

## Board Passes Debt Certificate for Capital Improvements

In April, the Board voted to support the issuance of a Debt Certificate, which will not exceed \$13.5 million. The Debt Certificate proceeds will be used to finance much needed storm water projects that were promised to be completed over a decade ago and to reimburse the Village's General Fund for capital improvement costs associated with the purchase of the Unilever Property and the demolition of the buildings on it; a part of which is for the development of the new Franklin Park Police Station.

To be clear, this is a Debt Certificate. Property taxes and real estate taxes will NOT go up because of this action. In fact, the Village is legally prohibited from levying a property tax to pay off Debt Certificates. This Debt Certificate will be repaid through water and sewer revenue and will NOT increase property taxes.

It is our duty as your elected officials to fulfill commitments for flood relief made to the residents of our Village. Commitments were made over a decade ago and yet were never fulfilled. We are moving ahead with these critical infrastructure projects now.

### Capital Improvements Projects Include:

- Storm water relief through backflow prevention to George Street, Nevada, Sarah and Dora between Fullerton Avenue and the Jack B Williams retention basin
- Replacement of the failing Silver Creek Culvert and increasing the capacity of Silver Creek to transport more water
- Channel improvements to the Crystal Creek Watershed
- Separation of the combined storm sewers on Westbrook; and improvements to Hawthorne, Elder, Wrightwood and Richard.
- Completion of the Elm Street water main improvements.

Completion of these projects will result in 448 homes being relieved of the need to purchase flood insurance; a cost that averages \$ 1,675 per year.

Last December, we convened a Citizen Advisory Group to help identify infrastructure projects needed in our community. With their input and guidance, we were able to identify these storm water improvement projects and prioritize them.

In September 2001, almost 12 years ago, the Scott Street Basin Improvement Project memo stated that "The entire project will occur in stages over the next several years, with construction for the first stage beginning in March 2002."

These projects have been greatly needed for some time. Ten years ago, residents were promised storm water relief.

It is now time to follow through on a commitment to these residents and businesses and to finally provide them with storm water assistance.

Flooding hurts our home values, obstructs traffic and impacts our quality of life. Clean-up costs are often devastating for our residents and businesses. The issuance of these Debt Certificates will allow us to fulfill the promise to provide flood relief. We cannot guarantee that the next 100 year storm will not cause flooding. But, these projects will help in a heavy storm.

The Debt Certificates will also allow us to reimburse the General Fund for improvement costs associated with the purchase of the Unilever Property and the demolition of the buildings on it; a part of which is for the development of the new Franklin Park Police Station. The building of a new police station became imperative when the current one was condemned because it presented a health and safety risk to our officers and the visiting public. A copy of the structural engineers report is available on our website. If you have not already done so, I strongly urge you to tour the old police station as well as the new one.

The location of the new Police Station was chosen by the residents of Franklin Park through a 2006 Transportation Oriented Development Study, which included many meetings where residents participated in workshops to determine what they wanted for the future of their town and where they should be located. A copy of this study is available on our website.

We followed the will of the people and purchased a 14.5 acre site for \$2.1 million. The Village of Skokie purchased 6 acres for \$6 million. Most of the 14.5 acre parcel will be available for further development. Another governmental entity has already expressed interest in the cost of the eastern parcel. The Village is not now anticipating building any new buildings for at least the next 10 or 15 years.



Mayor Pedersen meets with Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo to address Franklin Park concerns about trains blocking railroad crossings, excessive horn noise and a potential underpass.



## Village Is Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

We have made it a priority to put our financial house in order. Through strong financial management we have improved our financial situation and reversed a steep fiscal decline. Our financial turnaround has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association, not just once, but twice, as we received notification from the Association that we were again honored for our transparent financial management and its presentation. We also have received the Village's first ever investment grade bond rating from Standard and Poor's. Last December,

the Standard and Poor's Rating Agency upgraded our rating again. We now have a better bond rating than Ford and Navistar. We have three years of balanced budgets and operating surpluses. Financing our infrastructure needs in this manner is smart and responsible fiscal management.

  
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN  
MAYOR

**Franklin Avenue Resurfacing** Construction will begin on the Franklin Avenue pavement re-surfacing project on May 20 from Williams Drive to the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge near County Line Road. This long awaited and important roadway improvement is a result of the Village's efforts in working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to secure funding and prioritize this. The re-surfacing is expected to be completed by August 31.

IDOT will primarily oversee the project which may cause temporary lane closures and could restrict access to driveways. Please check our website and Face Book Page frequently for closures and project updates. If you would like to receive email updates regarding lane closures and traffic restrictions, email our Village Engineer at [sscheffel@vofp.com](mailto:sscheffel@vofp.com). If you have any questions, please call Steve at 847-671-8304.

Thank you for your patience and partnership with us as we implement this significant improvement to OUR Village.

**Utility Line Protection Program Now Available** Residents are often not aware that that they are responsible for the sewer lines that go from their home to the point of utility connection. If these lines break or leak, repairs can be very expensive. The Village is offering an optional program to homeowners for low cost, worry-free warranty protection for sewer lines. The program is provided through the National League of Cities (NLC) and administered by Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA). The program provides an affordable way to avoid the unexpected and often large expense involved with a sewer line break. SLWA is a reputable company and is recognized by the Better Business Bureau. For more information or to enroll, call 866-922-9006 or visit [www.slwofa.com](http://www.slwofa.com).

**Memorial Day Observance** Please plan to attend Franklin Park's annual Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 27, at 11:00 AM at the Village's Veteran's Memorial site at 9500 Belmont Avenue. The ceremony will honor our deceased Franklin Park veterans from all service branches and will feature the American Legion Franklin Park Post 974 doing the military formalities, the ceremonial Laying of The Wreath and 21 Gun Salute as well as a reading of the names of the departed veterans. For information, contact the Mayor's Office at 847-671-8236.

**Expanded Farmers' Market Opens June 1** The Village of Franklin Park is excited to announce that the Farmers' Market will be bigger this year and will take place at the northwest corner of 25th Avenue and Franklin Avenue. Local vendors are joining the market and are ready to showcase their products to our residents and visitors. For example, one local bakery will be selling fine artisan breads along with their award winning tamales. Other vendors are still signing on and will be sending some of the freshest fruits, vegetables and baked items around.

The Farmers' Market will take place EVERY Saturday from 8 AM to Noon starting June 1. If you have suggestions or are a vendor with questions, please call Patrick at 847-671-8276 or visit [ww.vofp.com](http://ww.vofp.com).

**Railroad Daze Needs Volunteers** Volunteers are needed to help with activities at Franklin Park's annual Railroad Daze Festival scheduled for June 6 - 9. Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 8th. It's a great way to meet new friends and catch-up with our neighbors. For more information on volunteering or to sign-up, email [dvillasenor@vofp.com](mailto:dvillasenor@vofp.com) or call 847-671-4800.

**Village Seeks Crafters for First Craft Fair** The Village of Franklin Park will host its first Craft Fair on Saturday, June 8 from 8 AM to 5 PM. The Craft Fair will be held on the site of our popular, weekly Farmers' Market and during our annual Railroad Daze Festival, an event that draws people from around the region. Specifically, we are seeking crafters who produce jewelry, accessories, clothing and other home-made items for the home. For more information, contact Barb at 847-671-8240.





# RAILROAD DAZE



**Thursday, June 6**  
 5:00pm till 10:00pm  
**Carnival Only**  
 Unlimited Ride Special  
 \$ 20.00

**Friday, June 7**  
 5:00pm till  
 11:00pm

**HAG**  
 Classic Rock Chicks!  
 HAG - 6:30pm

**Lounge Puppets** - 8:30pm  
 80's Hair Bands

## TOWER PARK

### AT CALWAGNER ST. & FRANKLIN AVE.

GREAT VARIETY OF FOOD | BEER & WINE GARDEN  
 TRAIN VIEWING & WALK-ON DISPLAYS (SATURDAY ONLY)  
 CARNIVAL | GREAT ENTERTAINMENT | FREE ADMISSION  
 FARMERS MARKET & CRAFT SHOW (SATURDAY ONLY)  
 ATM AVAILABLE

## JUNE 6 - 9, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 847-671-4800  
[WWW.VOFP.COM](http://WWW.VOFP.COM)

NO BIKES · NO SKATEBOARDS · NO DOGS

**Saturday, June 8**

**Train Viewing**  
 10:00am - 3:00pm  
 Unique Walk-on Train Display!

**Carnival 12:00 pm till 5:00pm**  
 Unlimited Ride Special \$20.00

**4 Friends of Latin Jazz**  
 11 am -12:15 pm

**Saturday, June 8**  
 11:00 am till 11:00 pm

**Brock & Abrams** - 1pm  
 60's & 70's

**The Screamin' End** - 3pm  
 50's, Rockabilly, Blues

**American English** - 5:30pm  
 Complete Beatles Tribute

**7th Heaven** - 8:30 pm  
 # 1 Festival Band

**Sunday, June 9**  
 12:00pm till 8:00pm

**Carnival Only**  
 Unlimited Ride Special  
 \$ 20.00

**Ride the Orbiter!**