

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Mayor's Desk

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

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 Nov 11 in observance of Veterans Day and November 28, 29 & 30 for Thanksgiving

Village officials including Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Trustees John Johnson and Karen Special participated in the grand opening of Amish Farmers Grocery Store, which is now open for business at 9711 Grand Avenue. The owner works directly with over 30 farmers to secure some of the freshest produce and meats available. Amish Farmers participated in the Village's Farmers' Market this summer and now with the addition of their new store, our residents will be able to shop for their produce and meats year round.

Our Village is Honored for Sustainability Efforts

Ladybug, Ladybug, fly away home! Remember the old nursery rhyme? Farmers believed the ladybug was a good luck symbol. They wanted the ladybugs to be safe over the winter so they would reemerge in the spring and continue to protect their crops by eating aphids and other destructive pests. Ladybugs were the action figures in sustainable pest control. That is why the Midwest Pesticide Action Center names its annual awards event the Ladybug Bash.

Last month at the Ladybug Bash, I was honored to accept an award for Franklin Park's commitment to pesticide reduction and natural lawn care on behalf of the Village. These practices reduce the health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides by promoting safer alternatives. The Center thanked Franklin Park for our progressive pesticide reduction policies and for the leadership we have demonstrated.

The people of Franklin Park have made a commitment to sustainability and the environmental health of our region. Many of our citizens have made the switch to natural lawn care. The Village also purchases earth friendly landscaping materials to be used on all Village-owned property and supports pesticide restrictions. Our efforts work to reduce pesticide run-off into our ground water, streams and lakes. Toxic pesticides have a dangerous impact on our water, our air and our soil. They negatively impact our wildlife, fisheries, and pets. I hope more residents will join us in adopting natural lawn care and pesticide reduction methods.

Congratulations!

I am pleased to announce that one of Franklin Park's firefighters, Lt. Nick Steker, has been

appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to the State Fire Advisory Board. We are pleased the Governor has recognized his expertise and we want to thank Lt. Steker for his service. Our police and firefighters put themselves in harm's way for our welfare, and without their courage and dedication, Franklin Park would not be the safe, friendly and family-focused Village that it is today.

Mayor's Desk is continued on page 2. ▶



Village officials cut the ribbon and welcomed Showtime Fitness / O'Hare Cross Fit to Franklin Park. The owner, Angelo Sisco and his team have doubled their space by expanding to 9100 West Belden in an effort to better serve clients by helping them achieve their fitness goals.



Mayor's Desk ▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lt. Steker exemplifies a trait common to all our great staff, a commitment to offering the highest level of service to the residents and businesses of our Village.

That is why in next month's newsletter we are going to start a new feature "Franklin Park Focus". Each edition will highlight the accomplishments or goals of an employee, a department or a program. We want everyone to get to know our staff, as well as to be familiar with all that our departments offer.

Giving Thanks

This is indeed a special time of year. Holidays give us an opportunity to celebrate with family, rejoice in cherished traditions and enjoy time with friends and loved ones.

Thanksgiving offers a chance to count our blessings and to reflect on the deeper meaning of the holidays. I am overwhelmingly grateful for my loving family and the health they enjoy.

I am also thankful that I have the opportunity to serve the people of Franklin Park and to work with such talented staff and community volunteers in keeping our Village a great place to live, work and raise a family.

But as I count my blessings, I am also aware that there are families struggling. Some with health issues, some to put food on the table, some to purchase warm coats for their children, or to make a parent or grandparent comfortable.

To truly honor this holiday season, I ask that you reach out to a neighbor in need. You can contribute to a food or coat drive. Consider volunteering with a local church or community group that is sponsoring holiday outreach. Think about bringing some of those extra holiday treats to a local senior home, or just spend a few moments with a friend who may be struggling. Make it your goal to be the blessing that someone needs. Let's make sure EVERYONE in Franklin Park has a happy holiday.

Have a Happy, Healthy and Meaningful Thanksgiving.



BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



New Funding Option Could Help Us Repair Our Streets

Well-maintained streets are essential to the public's safety, to a business' ability to operate and to the Village's ability to attract new businesses, jobs and investment to our town. With 73% of our streets considered in either "poor" or "failing" condition, Franklin Park is exploring a new funding option that will help us repair, replace and maintain our aging streets. We are formulating a plan that could address most of this serious issue without raising property taxes. The plan proposes a referendum to approve enacting a 1% sales tax.

Over the last few years, Franklin Park has seen a strong increase in businesses moving into our Village. We want to capture that economic vitality to improve our Village and utilize the 1% sales tax to further improve our roads. Below are questions and answers about the Proposed Street Improvement Plan.

What is the current condition of the streets in Franklin Park?

Approximately 73% of Franklin Park's 115 streets are in poor, very poor, serious or failed condition, according to a 2012 independent analysis. In fact, only about 12 percent of the Village's streets are in good or satisfactory condition.

Why should residents be concerned about the condition of the Village's streets?

The condition of our streets has a direct impact on vehicle and pedestrian safety as well as property values. Properly maintained streets also benefit emergency responders, enhance economic development and reduce the wear and tear on our vehicles.

Does it make economic sense to be proactive in repairing our streets?

Yes. Preventative maintenance can substantially extend the life of the Village's streets and save taxpayer dollars over the long run. It's no different than the economic benefits of properly maintaining your home. In fact, the cost of repairing or replacing streets dramatically increases over time if no efforts are made to properly maintain them.

How is the Village considering paying for street improvements without increasing property taxes?

The Village Board is considering placing a 1% sales tax measure on the March 2014 ballot.

What purchases would be excluded from proposed sales tax?

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.

What other communities use a 1% sales tax to maintain streets and upgrade other critical infrastructure?

Northlake, Schiller Park, Rosemont, Norridge, Elmwood Park, Melrose Park and River Grove currently rely on a 1% sales tax to make village-wide improvements including infrastructure maintenance.



Why do many taxpayers prefer a sales tax over a property tax?

By using a sales tax, and NOT a property tax, homeowners are not shouldering the tax burden. In fact, an estimated 40% of the sales tax revenue would come from shoppers who are not residents of Franklin Park.

What is the economic impact of raising Franklin Park's sales tax?

With the addition of the 1% sales tax, our local sales tax will NOT be greater than our neighboring communities. This is important because it will not result in the loss of business for our local retailers and other local businesses.

How can residents provide input on the proposed street improvement plans and 1% sales tax proposal?

The Village will be conducting a community opinion survey in the near future. A Citizen Advisory Committee on Infrastructure has also been formed to evaluate the Village's new proposal. This group will be making recommendations to the Village Board in November 2013.

The final decision to place a 1% sales tax measure on the ballot this spring will not be made until December 2013, providing additional time for community input.

Veterans Day Observance – November 11 The Village's annual Veterans Day Observance, presented in partnership with the American Legion Post 974 is on Monday, November, 11th at 11 AM at the Veterans Memorial, located on Belmont Ave., west of the Village Hall. The observance will honor veterans from all of our nation's conflicts and will feature a ceremonial "Laying of the Wreath" and a dedication of new names to be added to the Veteran's Monument Wall. For more information, call 847-671-8236.

Cell Phones for Soldiers Your used cell phone donation can help make sure our troops stay connected to home this holiday season. State Representative Kathleen Willis is collecting old and unused cell phones to offset the cost of purchasing calling cards for our service men and women. Drop off out-of-use phones at her district office, located at 112 N. Wolf Rd. in Northlake. For more information on how to donate, go to www.repwillis77.com or call 708-562-6970.

Rain Barrel Reminders Now is the time to drain your rain barrel! Simply disconnect your rain barrel before the winter months arrive because a constant freezing and thawing of the water inside may cause cracks in the barrel. Store your barrels upside down in the winter to keep them clean for future use.

Police Department Sponsoring Toys for Tots The Franklin Park Police Department will be helping to make many children happy again this year by sponsoring their annual Toys for Tots Campaign. If you would like to donate, please bring an unwrapped toy to the Franklin Park Police Department and drop it off in the lobby at 9545 Belmont Ave. Toys will be accepted from November 26 through December 6. Thanks!

Boy Scouts Collecting Used Christmas Lights Don't throw out your used Christmas lights! Boy Scout Troop 158 will be recycling old and non-working lights, along with their electrical cords, to offset costs for their future events. If you would like to donate lights, please bring them to the Village Tree Lighting on December 5th (see page 4 for event details). The Scouts will be collecting the lights through early January and will also have a drop-off box at Village Hall. For more information, please call Art Wason, at 708-404-4152.

Let's Move Toward a Healthy Future The next Let's Move community meeting will be held on November 19 at 7 PM and will be the last meeting for 2013. The meeting will be held at Village Hall. Join us to learn more about ways to get our children and our community moving in the right direction and to choosing a healthier lifestyle!

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program A representative will be at Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning November 20th, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon to process LIHEAP applications. Please bring the following documents with you: a Social Security / SSI (monthly) benefit letter for 2013, your pension letter for the last 30 days, a valid Photo ID, Social Security Cards for all members in the household, proof of income for the last 30 days for all house members 18 years or older, a current NICOR and ComEd bill (disconnect notices have to be included if you are applying) and bring your Medical Card.





CHRISTMAS at HAMMILL SQUARE



The Village of Franklin Park invites everyone to attend the

**Annual Tree Lighting & Winterfest
Thursday, December 5th, 6 to 8 PM
Hammill Square Gazebo at Belmont & Edgington**

Children can have their photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Help decorate our Village Tree! Bring an ornament from home or make one at the Park District's Children's Craft Table. Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 elementary school students.

Winterfest will feature food and holiday items for sale. Enjoy refreshments, served by our Village Mayor and Trustees. Celebrate the season with your neighbors!

Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry.
Admission is free!



Join the fun!
Help spread holiday
cheer!

