

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2013

Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

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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, October 14



New Funding Option Could Help Us Repair Our Streets

In past newsletters, we have discussed how mature villages, such as Franklin Park, are now facing problems related to older infrastructure that needs to be repaired. Last month we discussed how we are working to repair, replace and maintain our sewer and water system.

But our streets also need to be improved village-wide. In fact, a large percentage of Franklin Park's streets are in either "poor" or "failing" condition. Well-maintained streets are vital to the safety and quality of life of our residents. Well-maintained streets are essential to a business' ability to operate and to the Village's ability to attract new businesses, jobs and investment to our town. Also, well-maintained streets save wear and tear on everyone's vehicle.

But the Village Board and I are very sensitive to the pressures on our taxpayer and specifically the impact to our property tax bill. We want to do everything possible to avoid raising property taxes to address our infrastructure needs, but we also need to find funding solutions to tackle our community's highest priority needs.

Thanks to the efforts of the Board, the research and diligence of our staff and the input from various citizens, businesses and groups, including our Citizens Advisory Committee on Infrastructure

we are formulating a plan that could address most of this serious issue without raising property taxes.

Franklin Park has experienced a dramatic 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.

Our neighbors, including Northlake, Schiller Park, Rosemont, Norridge, Elmwood Park, Melrose Park and River Grove have undertaken the financing of their ongoing Village improvements, such as street maintenance, by placing a 1% sales tax on purchases made within their Village.

If Franklin Park adopted a 1% non-home rule sales tax, it would NOT apply to groceries or medicine, nor would it affect utilities or gasoline. This sales tax would NOT impact real estate transfer taxes. Most importantly, we would be able to repair and maintain our streets without increasing our property taxes.

By using a sales tax, and NOT a property tax, homeowners in Franklin Park will not be singled out to shoulder the tax burden. It is estimated that over 40 percent of the sales tax revenue generated would come from shoppers who are not residents of Franklin Park.



Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.)

Because our neighbors already have this 1% sales tax, our local sales tax will NOT be greater than our neighboring communities and it will not hurt our local businesses.

If the Village were to further pursue a 1% sales tax, we would ask for your approval through a referendum question placed on the March, 2014 ballot.

We will be discussing this important issue on our next Telephone Town Hall meeting at 6:30 PM, on Thursday, November 7. If you will not be near your home phone to receive our call at that time, you can still participate by calling, at no cost. We hope you will join the conversation! We will add more details on our website later this month about how to participate in the call. Federal Law prohibits phone calls to mobile phone numbers for the Telephone Town Hall.

We want to hear your thoughts on this method of funding the repair of our streets without raising property taxes. The Village will be conducting a community opinion survey in the near future. We will establish a Citizen Task Force to help evaluate the Village's new proposal. If you would like to serve on this Citizen Task Force to Evaluate Revenue for Infrastructure, call the Community Development Department at 847-671-8300.

The final decision to place a 1% sales tax measure on the ballot will not be made until December, providing ample time for citizen input.

Electric Vehicle Peer Exchange

Last month, I had the honor of presenting at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) Peer Exchange on Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Franklin Park took advantage of DCEO's grant rebate program to install several charging stations throughout the Village. Walgreens installed EV charging stations at Grand and 25th. Having readily available charging stations is another step in encouraging alternate fuel source vehicles, reducing greenhouse emissions and lessening our dependence on foreign oil.

We shared our experiences with the EV Charging Station Grant and Franklin Park's economic development with the utility companies, manufacturers, automakers, and State and local government officials who attended the two day event in Central Illinois. Commuters who are aware that our train stations have charging stations will park in our Village rather than other communities that do not. These consumers then shop in our stores, dine in our restaurants and create new customers for our establishments.

These forums are excellent opportunities to learn best practices from other communities and to share some of Franklin Park's success stories.

Barrett F. Pedersen
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
 MAYOR

New Savers Store Opens



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Village Trustees and staff welcome the new Savers store to 10205 W. Grand Avenue.



▲ Savers is one of the largest recyclers of used clothing in the world – re-purposing more than 600 million pounds of goods each year – items that would otherwise end up in landfills!

▼ Savers provides an affordable shopping opportunity for local families and also created 50 new jobs in our community.





Trick or Treat Hours – Be Safe and Have Fun!

Trick or Treat hours for Franklin Park are from 3 to 7 PM on Halloween. Children should be accompanied by an adult and are urged to stay in familiar neighborhoods. After dark, children should wear or carry something lit like a flashlight or a glow bracelet or necklace. Avoid costumes that drag on the ground and make sure that masks allow your child good visibility and comfortable breathing.



Village Seeks Christmas Tree and Corporate Sponsors

The holiday season is just around the corner and the Village is seeking a tree to decorate in Hammill Square. If you have a large evergreen you would like to donate to serve as the Village's holiday tree, please call 847-671-8236. Our Utilities Department will remove the tree and transport it. Your family's donation will be recognized at our annual Tree Lighting event. We are also asking our partners in the business community to help support our annual Tree Lighting festival that kicks off the holiday season. Sponsorships are available at all levels to enhance the festivities and to maximize what we can offer the children of Franklin Park. Please call 847-671-8236 to be a sponsor.



New Parking Meters at Metra Station

The new electronic parking meters at the Metra Station are in operation. These new meters are efficient, accurate and convenient. They will offer quick transactions and ensure ease of use. The pay stations are centrally located at the Milwaukee District / West Line train station at 3148 Rose Street, in Parking Zone #6401.

The new parking meters will accept coins, bills and credit cards and you don't need to place the paid receipt in your car. In addition, you can pay online via us.parkmobile.com or can download the free Park Mobile app (\$0.50 surcharge applies). The app allows you to pay your parking fee in remote locations without utilizing the parking meters in the stations, making them perfect for commuters pressed for time.

The new meters offer transactions in 13 languages, including Spanish and Polish. The new meters will not affect the price of a monthly parking pass which will remain at \$25 and can still be purchased at the Police Station. For more information, call 847-671-8278.



Electronic Parking Meter

National Flood Insurance Program Changes May Increase Premium

Key provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) are beginning to be phased in including the elimination of some of the artificially low rates and discounts that many local homeowners currently enjoy. This change in law may result in some policyholders having their subsidy eliminated. Specifically, the legislation will require rates to increase to reflect true flood risk and to help make the program more financially stable. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all – policyholders over time.

Not everyone will be affected immediately by the new law – only 20 percent of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies receive subsidies. Contact your insurance agent to help you understand if your policy is impacted by the changes and if it could affect your policy premium. To learn more about flood risk and explore coverage options, visit <http://www.FloodSmart.gov> <<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>>.



Program Provides Coverage for Outside Water Lines

Did you know that homeowners are responsible for the repair of your buried, outside service water line that runs from the utility service shut off valve to your home? A new program offered through the National League of Cities (NLC) and administered by the Service Line Warranty Program (SLWP) offers voluntary warranty protection, at an affordable price, for water lines in the event of a failure. It will cover repairs or replacements on the outside water line that runs from the point of the utility responsibility to your home.

Many factors beyond the life expectancy of the pipe can contribute to a failure including tree root intrusion, ground shifting and weather – all factors which are covered through this program. The program provides up to \$4,000 in coverage with an additional allowance for public street or sidewalk cutting. Additionally, the program has no annual or lifetime limits, service fees or deductible. If lines break, leak or clog – SLWA will repair the line using local, licensed contractors who are familiar with local code and can ensure a timely response.

For questions about this service, or to enroll, please contact Service Line Warranties of America at 866-922-9006 or visit www.SLWofA.com.

Coverage for Water Lines



Village News



Fire Department to Host Open House

The Franklin Park Fire Department will host their annual community Open House on Saturday, October 12, from 11 AM until 2 PM at Fire Station #2, located at 10001 Addison. Come out and enjoy refreshments while we mark Fire Prevention Week. Learn how to prevent home fires and ways to protect your family through careful planning and utilization of life-saving technologies. It's also a great opportunity to meet local fire safety personnel who work to keep our community safe!

Remember, now is the time to check your batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Also fire pits are not legal in our Village. There is a "No Open Burning" ordinance in Franklin Park, despite what area hardware stores and home centers will tell you. Contact the Fire Department at 847-671-8798 for more information.



Free Community Health Fair

State Representative Kathleen Willis will host a free Community Health Fair on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Melrose Park Village Hall Gymnasium, located at 1000 N. 25th Ave. The event will bring together state and local agencies, health care providers, senior service organizations and advocates to provide information about their services and to answer questions relating to health and wellness. Senior citizens and families are encouraged to attend to learn more about resources available in our community. For more information on the Community Health Fair, call 708-562-6970, or e-mail repwillisevents@gmail.com.



Leaf Pick-up and Street Sweeping

Residents should place leaves in brown biodegradable bags and remember to put them out on garbage day with your recycling for pick-up. Bags are available for purchase at local grocery and hardware stores. Leaves cannot be picked-up if they are placed in plastic bags or in the street. Pick-up continues until early December. In addition, yard waste bags will only be picked up through December 6. These dates are established by Allied Waste.

The Utility Department will sweep Village curbs through late November. Please check signs on your block for parking restrictions.



Leyden Career Fair & Business Expo

Got Jobs? Need a job? Want to showcase your company? Then plan to attend the Leyden Career Fair and Business Expo on November 6 from 12:15 to 4:15 PM. The free event is open to students, parents, community members and businesses and will be held at East Leyden High School Field House at 3400 Rose Street. The event will showcase the latest trends in career planning and technology and ways to update your skills and learn new ones. Local businesses will also be on hand to discuss opportunities available for qualified candidates. The Expo is co-sponsored by the Franklin Park/Schiller Park/River Grove Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 847-451-3031.



Don't Text & Drive Presentation Discuss the Danger of Texting While Driving

Did you know that those who send texts while driving are much more likely to be in a car crash? Every year there are more than 100,000 texting-related car crashes. The Franklin Park Police Department is partnering with AT&T to spread the message, when it comes to texting and driving, "It Can Wait". Together, they will host a special presentation on the dangers of texting and driving on October 15, 2013 at 7 PM in the Community Meeting Room at the Police Station. The presentation will help educate all wireless users on the risks of texting while driving in an effort to put an end to this dangerous behavior. For more information, please call 847-671-8286.



Senior Snow Removal Program - Apply Now

Now is the time for seniors to register for the Village-subsidized Senior Snow Removal Program. Seniors pay \$15 per service request. If you were previously enrolled in the program, you MUST enroll again before it fills up. Applications are available at Village Hall or call 847-671-8240.

