

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2013

## Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

## Ribbon Cut on New Police Station

It was a beautiful day in Franklin Park as the Board of Trustees and I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon on our new Police Station. Many of our area's elected officials, residents and business owners attended the grand opening ceremony and were able to tour what is widely-known as one of the most modern, efficient and sustainable public safety facilities in the nation.

We built this new facility to ensure the safety of our officers and also to enhance the safety of our families, our neighborhoods and our businesses. Our officers place themselves in harm's way every day to safeguard our community. They deserve the most up-to-date equipment, state-of-the-art technology and the greatest resources we can offer.

The new, 36,500 square foot building

includes innovative, sustainable energy features, including a high efficiency ventilation system and LED lighting systems with motion switches in every room.

Thanks to Governor Quinn and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) we received a \$985,000 grant that allowed for the creation of cutting edge storm-water management practices, utilizing green infrastructure to capture, filter, infiltrate and detain storm-water runoff. Based on the innovative, sustainable design and construction, the Village has petitioned to be awarded silver or gold LEED status. The determination will be made in September.

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 (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



Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Police Chief Michael Witz, Village Trustees and area elected officials cut the ribbon to officially open the new Franklin Park Police Station.

Have you seen the Village's billboard to attract businesses to Franklin Park? Governor Pat Quinn has! The Governor called Mayor Pedersen to say the Village was doing a fantastic job at reaching out to bring new businesses to our Village. The message appears on the digital billboard on the Tollway near King Street. Best of all, the billboard message costs the Village nothing! The ad was part of the negotiation when the lease was signed for the billboard.

Franklin Park  
**YOUR BUSINESS ADDRESS**

For excellent development opportunities & assistance

847-671-8300



Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.)

## What Our Water is Worth

Last month, we had a special presentation by the Metropolitan Planning Council entitled "What's Your Water Worth". This informative presentation explained that the US has the lowest rate for water and sewer than any developed country in the world. The speaker, Josh Ellis emphasized that water rates do not meet the need of reliably providing safe water to our community. Our current water rates barely cover the cost of the water sold to us by the City of Chicago. Water rates do not cover delivery, transportation, treatment and especially maintenance and system upgrades.

As we have discussed, the City of Chicago passed large rate increases to suburban communities. Some of our neighboring communities have already been forced to raise their rates. Because of these substantial increases from the City, and the need to repair and replace aging infrastructure, Franklin Park residents will soon see a water rate increase.

Our Asset Management Report details the condition of aging infrastructure that requires serious attention. Compounding the problem is the fact that maintenance was ignored and upgrades were deferred for years by the prior administration.

Our residents have indicated to me that they are aware of the critical need to repair, restore and replace aging infrastructure. We have found that our community is united in the belief that we need to prioritize our infrastructure improvements and focus our limited resources accordingly.

I again invite our residents to sign up to participate in our Citizen's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure by calling 847-671-8223.

## Nelsen Steel Owner Remembered

Our community is enriched by the people who live here, the people who work here, the people who volunteer their time for civic endeavors and the people who build businesses here.

This summer, Franklin Park lost someone who greatly enriched Franklin Park, Clifford Davis Nelsen, owner of Nelsen Steel & Wire. Cliff became President of the family-owned business in 1967. He was a nationally respected business leader and served on the United States Department of Commerce's Industry Sector Advisory Committee, advising on trade matters. Cliff retired in 1994 but continued to serve as the company's Chairman Emeritus.

Nelsen Steel has employed countless Franklin Park residents. Thanks to Cliff Nelsen's leadership and vision, the company continues to thrive and offer jobs to our community.

His professionalism, civic involvement and commitment to family and community serve as an example for us all.

He will be missed.

  
**BARRETT F. PEDERSEN**  
 MAYOR



▲ IEPA Director Lisa Bonnet was on-hand to represent Governor Quinn. Mayor Pedersen thanked them for the \$985,000 grant which provided state-of-the-art storm water management practices which will provide benefits to the entire region.



▲ The local American Legion Post performed a formal flag raising ceremony at the Police Station ribbon cutting on August 10.



## Village Opens New Walking Path

Franklin Park residents are encouraged to utilize the new, nearly mile long walking path that runs along the wetlands near the new Police Station. The path was inspired by Village Trustee Cheryl McLean who chairs the Franklin Park's Let's Move Initiative.

The Let's Move Initiative is a national program that encourages healthy lifestyles. No Village funds are used for the Let's Move Committee which is comprised solely of concerned volunteers who want to encourage long-term, sustainable, and holistic policies that improve our communities' access to healthy, affordable food and opportunities for physical activity. It grew out of concern that childhood obesity rates in America have tripled over the past three decades.

Area families are urged to try out the new walking path and can park in the Police Station parking lot and access the path to the rear of the building. You can volunteer for the Let's Move Committee by calling 847-204-8333. The next meeting is on September 11 at 7 PM at Village Hall. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to help foster healthy lifestyles. For more information, go to [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov) or 847-204-8333 or contact Cheryl McLean at [cmclean@vofp.com](mailto:cmclean@vofp.com).



◆ The Franklin Park Police Department respectfully usher in their new police station.



Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka recently saluted Franklin Park Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli and applauded his commitment to the Illinois Fire Services Association.



## Park District to Hold Annual Fall Parade and Pumpkin Fest on October 6

The Park District of Franklin Park invites everyone to come out to celebrate the 36th annual Eddie Biondo Fall Fest Parade on Sunday, October 6 at 1 PM. Gather your friends, family and neighbors to see the marching bands, clowns, local businesses, civic organizations, and other members of our community showcased in the annual fall parade. The parade steps off from Grand Avenue and Scott Street and will head east on Grand and then north on 25th Avenue (Rose Street) to Addison. After the parade ends, the annual Pumpkin Fest will be held at the Park District's Centre at North Park, 10040 Addison. If you are interested in participating in the parade or have any other questions, please contact Phyllis Schmidt at 847-451-8135.



## Village to Remove Diseased Ash Trees

The Village is in the process of removing many Emerald Ash trees in our Village that are diseased and dying. This is a part of a regional problem that has caused the loss of thousands of trees throughout the western suburbs. If you have an ash tree that needs to be removed, please call 847-671-8252. If you have already reported the problem to the Village, please note that staff is working this fall to remove the trees and is proceeding on a first come, first served basis and hope to get to everyone soon. Also, only diseased trees on the parkway will be removed by the Village. Thank you for your patience with this effort.



## Leyden Family Services Provides Assistance with Affordable Healthcare Act

Leyden Family Services can provide assistance to help you navigate through The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Their staff has been trained on how to help you determine your eligibility for Medicaid expansion or qualified health plans on the new Illinois Marketplace. The staff at Leyden Family Services can also work with you regarding your specific eligibility and then discuss the various options for plans that might work for you. Please contact Leyden Family Services at (847) 451-0330.



## Free Mortgage Relief Seminar Scheduled on September 14

State Representative Kathleen Willis and the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network will host a free Mortgage Relief Seminar on Saturday, September 14 in the Fenton High School Field House (Door 22) from 9 AM to 1 PM. Attendees will be able to take advantage of free housing counseling, in addition to learning how to recognize the tell-tale signs of mortgage fraud.

Attendees are urged to bring a mortgage statement, 2011 and 2012 W-2 Tax Returns, a copy of a rental agreement (if necessary), two months of recent paystubs, a budget of household expenses, documentation of other income, two months of recent bank statements, a recent utility bill, and a profit/loss statement if self-employed. If you don't have all the documents on the day of the event, you can still meet with a HUD-Certified counseling agency or your lender on-site to get the process started. Those wishing to attend the event are encouraged to register by calling toll-free at 1-800-532-8785 or by visiting [www.idfpr.com](http://www.idfpr.com).



## Mortgage Relief Seminar

## Village Seeks Veteran Names for Monument

The Village is seeking military Veterans from Franklin Park to have their name added to our Veteran's Monument. Interested Veterans or family members must submit a copy of the Veterans DD-214 form. Please submit copies to Tommy Thomson, Village Clerk, at the Village Hall, by October 16th to ensure the name will be added to the wall before our Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th. For more information, call 847-671-8244.



## Community Blood Drive

The next Community Blood Drive will be held on September 13, from 3 to 7 PM at the Community Center. Donate and help impact the life of someone in need.



## Please Clean up After Your Pets

While you are out enjoying a walk with your dog, all pet owners are encouraged please remember to clean up after your pets. Let's all work to keep our community neat and clean!

## Senior Assistance Available at Village Hall

A representative from West Suburban Senior Services will be available at Village Hall, on the fourth Wednesday of the month beginning on September 25 from 9 AM to Noon to help you complete Circuit Breaker applications. To be eligible, you must be 65 before January 1, 2012 and must live in Illinois. You will need to bring your social security card, proof of 2012 income and proof of rent and property taxes paid in 2012. Income limits are \$27,610 for one and \$36,635 for two people and spouse includes parties to a civil union. For details, call 708-547-5600.

