



# Village News



Attendees enjoyed the beautiful summer weather at the 2022 Franklin Park Fest! We were happy to welcome back train viewing again this year on Saturday. The carnival was a big hit with families and the music and food offered something for everyone to enjoy!

## Mayor's Desk *HELLO Summer*

### Solar Panels Save Money and Save the Planet

Lessening our dependence on fossil fuels is one of the best ways we can thwart climate change. Using alternative energy sources including installing solar panels can help us do just that.

learn about the benefits and incentives of going solar, and how it can become more affordable through the group buy program. A Grow Solar presenter will walk you through the basics of solar energy and will explain how you can save money with rebates and incentives.

Worried about rising energy costs? Solar panels can make a significant difference in lowering your energy bill, especially during summertime. Long sunny days produce lots of solar power that can be used to keep your house cool.

There are two options to participate in the FREE educational Solar Power Hours:

• **In-person Presentation on Wednesday, July 13 at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Police Station (no registration required)**

• **Online Webinar on Tuesday, August 2 at 11 AM – (Registration required: go to [vofp.com](http://vofp.com), a link will be provided when you register)**

Residents throughout Cook County are now eligible to participate in Grow Solar Chicagoland, a volume purchasing program that is designed to make installing solar energy more accessible and affordable. The program, sponsored by Cook County, the Citizens Utility Board, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, provides education and customer preparedness so that installation is quicker and more economical.

If you have been interested in reducing your carbon footprint and think solar may be of interest, I urge you to participate in the Solar Power Hour sessions to explore the program. Going solar will help you save the Earth and save money at the same time.

### A Franklin Park Fire Prevention Expert

Keeping Franklin Park safe and saving lives is the mission of our Firefighters. We are proud of these well-trained and courageous men and women who put

**We are pleased to announce that the Village of Franklin Park will host two "Solar Power Hours."** Join us to



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
Irene Avitia  
Gil Hagerstrom  
John Johnson  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-671-4800  
[www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
[villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com)

Emergency 911

Police & Fire  
(Non-Emergency)  
847-678-2444



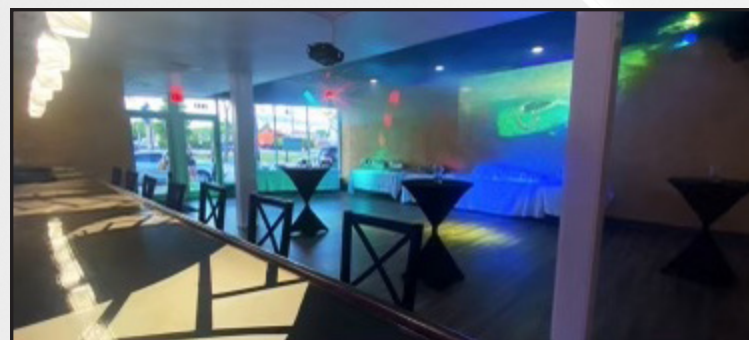
◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

their lives into harm's way for our safety.

We are especially proud to tell that you that Battalion Chief Nicholas Steker assisted in the development and authoring of the latest book instructing new Fire Investigators across the country. 'Prevention and Practices in Arson Investigations' is published by the International Associations of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Arson Investigators, and the National Fire Prevention Association.

Well done Battalion Chief Steker and thank you for all you do for Franklin Park!

**Barrett F. Pedersen**



**Village-wide Garage Sale - August 19, 20 and 21**



It's time to clear out your clutter and sell it to a bargain hunter at the Village-wide Garage Sale! The Village's three-day event will be held on August 19, 20, and 21 from 8 AM to 7 PM. If you would like your address to be included in the sale, please email [clerk@vofp.com](mailto:clerk@vofp.com) or call (847) 671-8242. Register no later than August 15 to be included in the list of addresses that are participating!

**Save the Date – World Honeybee Day**

The Village will host a special event on Saturday, August 20 to celebrate World Honeybee Day which will include a demonstration of honey being harvested from the Village's beehives. Protecting the bee population is critical to the planet. More than 100 crop species provide 90% of food worldwide and of those crops, 71 species must be pollinated by bees! The event will feature vendors, information, and give-a-ways. More details will be available soon so watch our website and this newsletter for more details soon.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen dedicated the long-awaited traffic light at River Road and Robinson Road with Representative Brad Stephens, who was instrumental in getting IDOT to install the traffic light and Senator Robert Martwick who also helped to secure the important safety measure. Area residents now have safer access into and out of the community and can avoid the dangerous experience of attempting the turn onto River Road.

◀ The Village of Franklin Park is excited to welcome Sky Café, a new dining and drinking option located at 9743 Franklin Avenue in Downtown Franklin Park! This family-owned and operated, modern gastropub features American and globally inspired flavors including soups, salads, burgers, pasta, pierogies, sandwiches, and more.

**Village Completes Comprehensive Update of Zoning Code**

The Village's Department of Community Development and Zoning has completed a comprehensive update of the Franklin Park Zoning Code. The current version of the Village's Zoning Code was written in 1974 and amended countless times over the past 45 years. A comprehensive review and update of the zoning code was necessary to facilitate modern redevelopment and contemporary uses while respecting existing conditions in the Village. The update will also make it more user-friendly, easier to read, and will have well organized standards and procedures that regulate clearly and effectively.

This comprehensive update, which adheres to the vision outlined in the Village's Comprehensive Plan, will allow the Village to facilitate construction that preserves existing development when necessary while encouraging emerging industries, promoting sustainability, and revitalizing commercial corridors. It is important to note that the update does not affect properties in residential zoning districts..

The Village's Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on the comprehensive update of the Franklin Park Zoning Code on Wednesday, August 3 at 7 PM in the Community Room of the Police Station. The public is invited to attend.

A copy of the new zoning ordinance is available at [franklinparkzoning.com](http://franklinparkzoning.com). If you have questions, please call Nicholas Walny at (847) 671-8278.

**Village's Water Quality Report Available**

The Village's annual Water Quality Report contains valuable information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2021. A copy of the report is now available on the Village website at [https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/FRANKLIN\\_PARK\\_SO\\_326644.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/FRANKLIN_PARK_SO_326644.pdf)

If you would like this report in Polish, go to [https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR\\_2022\\_Polish.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/CCR_2022_Polish.pdf)

If you would like this report in Spanish, go to [https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/2021\\_FRANKLIN\\_PARK\\_WATER\\_QUALITY\\_SPANISH\\_REPORT.pdf](https://www.villageoffranklinpark.com/assets/1/7/2021_FRANKLIN_PARK_WATER_QUALITY_SPANISH_REPORT.pdf)

**Village Water Rate Information**

The rates for water, sewer and garbage services are assessed in compliance with Village Code. Each June, the water rate will increase to reflect the new amount charged to the Village by the City of Chicago. In 2022, the increase from the City of Chicago is 5% and 3% from the Village of Franklin Park, which is used to fund critical infrastructure improvements. This new water rate will be applied to the July bills. Funding from the Village's portion of the rate increase allows the Village to obtain low interest loans from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to support improving water and sewer systems in Franklin Park. Funds are currently directed to multi-year projects throughout the Village to replace sanitary sewers, water mains, and increase storm-water capacity to help prevent street flooding.

The cost of garbage is \$25.45 for a single-family residence and for each dwelling-unit in a two-family residential dwelling for unlimited weekly garbage, recycling, and yard waste pick up. Senior citizens, 65 or older receive free unlimited garbage, recycling, and yard waste removal in Franklin Park. Disabled and low-income residents receive a 50% reduction in these services. All Franklin Park households receive free branch pick-up and have year-round access to the Village's free unlimited electronics recycling drop-off bin located at 9364 Franklin Avenue (directly north of Franklin & Martens intersection) which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

If you have questions or concerns regarding water bill payments, please call Village Hall for assistance at (847) 671-4800.