



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

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

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## Mayor's Desk

### Transcending Challenges, Our Community Endures

Swearing-in ceremonies for the newly elected Village Clerk April Arellano, re-elected Trustees, John Johnson, Karen Special and Andy Ybarra and I were held on May 3.

We all wish to thank retiring Clerk, Roberta Johnson for all her service to our Village and our community. Though no longer on the Board, Roberta will be staying on for a while to help with the transition. She is a valuable asset to our Village staff.

We were fortunate to have Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke officiate at this ceremony. Justice Burke is not only one of the most highly respected jurists, but she has also spent a lifetime as an advocate for children and the disabled. She was a co-founder of the Special Olympics in 1968.

It has been a great honor to serve as Franklin Park's Mayor. I am deeply humbled and gratified that I will be able to continue to serve the people and businesses of our Village. We have faced many challenges including the Great Recession and the global pandemic. We have surmounted those challenges through the teamwork and dedication of our dedicated staff. Our residents and businessowners are caring, compassionate and community minded. They treat each other and our Village with respect. That is how we have succeeded and that is how we will continue to prosper in the future.

### SWEET SUSTAINABILITY

As a component of our sustainability efforts, the Village has installed five beehives on the rooftop of the Water Department Garage. Bees are crucial to our ecosystem. Bees are responsible for the pollination of many fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Those summer treats of cherries and blueberries are 90% dependent on bee pollination, not to mention the honey that can be collected. The spring and summer flowers we enjoy would not be here without active healthy bee colonies. One bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers a day.

Protecting bees becomes even more critical when we realize that 100 crop species provide 90% of food worldwide and of those crops, 71 species must be pollinated by bees. Without bees, our global food supply would be extinguished. Albert Einstein said that if the bees were to disappear, humanity would not survive longer than four years.

Using space such as rooftops to protect and harbor the bees will have great results. Bees travel within in a two-mile radius pollinating trees, vegetables, flowers, and plants. The many benefits these bees bring will be spread throughout our Village neighborhoods. We are helping our Village and helping our planet.

Now that's sweet!

Barrett F. Pedersen

### Renew Vehicle Stickers Online Now

Renewing your vehicle sticker online is quick and easy and will help you avoid standing in line at Village Hall. Simply go to vofp.com to renew. Residents can renew by mail or by using the drop box in the parking lot. If possible, don't wait because the sooner you renew, the sooner the sticker will be mailed to you. Waiting until the last minute can cause a delay in receiving the sticker on time. If you are a Franklin Park resident and have purchased a new vehicle or recently moved to Franklin Park, you will need to provide a copy of your license plate registration showing your Franklin Park address to purchase a sticker.

Every vehicle registered to a Franklin Park resident needs a vehicle sticker including cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc. Stickers must be displayed on the lower right corner of your windshield by July 31. Passenger car stickers cost \$30. Seniors, who are 65 or older, receive one free vehicle sticker per household. Owners of electric vehicles receive a free vehicle sticker and hybrid vehicles pay a reduced rate of \$15. Go to vofp.com or call Village Hall for more details at (847) 671-4800.

### Use the Village Drop Box

The Village's Drop Box is a convenient way to conduct business with the Village any time of day or night. If a document does not fit in the Drop Box, please call the respective department and special arrangements can be made. The Drop Box is located in the parking lot of Village Hall. Please do not put cash in the Drop Box.

- Water Bill Payments
- Vehicle Sticker Payments
- Permit Applications and Fees
- Zoning Applications
- Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIAs)
- Garage Sale Registrations
- Handicapped Application Forms
- Business License Payments
- Grass Cutting Payments

### Stay Connected with the Village

Are you receiving updates and alerts from the Village via email? The Village sends emails to residents with important updates on programs and events and special alerts regarding storms or construction projects. Are you not on the list yet? Simply send us the email address you want us to use at villagenews@vofp.com. Want to be called when we host our next Telephone Town Hall Meeting? Email us at villagenews@vofp.com and include your name, home address and phone number (home and cell).

### Mowing Lawns, Clearing Clutter Helps Everyone

The Village reminds residents to mow your lawn regularly and to eliminate weeds in alleys and areas behind homes. Grass and weeds should not exceed six inches in height. Tall grass, areas with high weeds and cluttered backyards provide the perfect place for unwanted animals including rodents to hide and breed. Remove debris including rotting wood, brush, and dense shrubbery. Firewood stacks should be elevated off the ground. Garbage bins should always be closed with lids securely fastened to prevent critters from reaching a food source. Keep the area around your garbage bins free of trash, food scraps and spills. Make sure to pick ripe fruits and vegetables in your garden right away to eliminate a food source for pests and insects.

Also, please remember to clean-up after your pet while on walks and in your own backyard. Dog waste is full of disease-causing bacteria and parasites that can be harmful to humans and is a food supply for rodents. Also, do not leave pet food or water bowls outside which can attract unwanted wildlife.

If you are disabled or elderly and need assistance complying, please call (847) 671-4800. Also, if you see properties that need to be maintained, please call the Village.



Thank you to the volunteers who assisted the Village with the Arbor Day tree planting on Schiller Boulevard.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen was sworn in for a new term as Franklin Park Mayor by Justice Ann Burke at the May 3 Village Board Meeting. Justice Burke also administered the oath to Trustees Karen Special, John Johnson and Andy Ybarra.



▲ Thank you for your service to outgoing Village Clerk Roberta Johnson and congratulations to the new Village Clerk April Arellano.

### Village Receives Green Infrastructure Grant

Thanks to a \$100,000 green infrastructure grant from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the Village will soon be making improvements to the intersections along Pacific Avenue from Dora to Hawthorne. This project will add new rain gardens at each intersection and improve the visibility for motorists turning onto Pacific Avenue. The Village will add over one thousand square yards of rain gardens within the parkways along Pacific Avenue. The rain gardens will also help to deter flooding in the area.

These green infrastructure improvements are in line with the Village’s comprehensive sustainable energy vision. The Village is hoping that this is the first phase of many which will “green up” the areas along Pacific and Franklin Avenues from downtown west to Mannheim Road.

### Building Permits Required for Most Outdoor Improvements

We are all ready to get outside and enjoy the summer weather and many of us are thinking about initiating a backyard property improvement project. Make sure you understand the building codes and local ordinances before proceeding with your improvement project. The Village of Franklin Park requires permits for most outdoor structural work and the addition of new freestanding structures such as a fence, shed, or pool. The permit process ensures that safety standards are met, and that the construction meets Village building and zoning requirements. If you are unsure about building codes and if you need a permit, it is best to check with the Village’s Building Department first. Permits are required for the following residential projects:

- Patios, driveways (including paver ribbons), sidewalks, stoop or stairs - any material
- Constructing or replacing a driveway, sidewalk, patio, stoop or stairs
- Building or replacing a deck, shed or roof
- Building or replacing a fence
- Installing a pool or hot tub
- Installing a pergola
- Adding a sunroom or 3-seasons room
- Tree removal

Please note that this list is not all-inclusive. Please contact the Building Department with specific questions at (847) 671- 8245 or go to [villageoffranklinpark.com/departments/building/](http://villageoffranklinpark.com/departments/building/).

### Check Your Mail and Complete the Cross-Connection Survey

Please check your mailbox for the recently mailed cross-connection survey. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires all water systems to have and maintain an effective cross-connection control program, which protects against the contamination of the drinking water system through a backflow event – or when the flow of water is reversed.

The Village has partnered with Backflow Solutions, Inc. (BSI Online) to conduct a comprehensive mail survey of the water system to determine if a current or potential cross-connection exists and to inform you of the steps you may need to take to eliminate this hazard and protect yourself and the public from the dangers of backflow. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey online at [backflow.com/franklinpark](http://backflow.com/franklinpark). If you do not have internet access, please mail the form back to the PO box listed on the letter. If you have any questions, contact the BSI Customer Service Team at (888) 966-6050 or [support@backflow.com](mailto:support@backflow.com).



◀ Five beehives were installed on the rooftop of the Water Department Garage as part of the Village's sustainability program. The bees will pollinate trees, vegetables, flowers, and plants throughout our community.

### Take the Pledge to Help Save the Monarch Butterfly

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) wants you to help save the monarch butterfly from extinction. They are offering free milkweed seeds (while supplies last) to Cook County residents willing to take the pledge to save the monarchs. Milkweed plants benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators throughout the growing season. Take the pledge at [mwrdd.org/form/monarch-butterfly-pledge](http://mwrdd.org/form/monarch-butterfly-pledge). To learn more about why milkweed is the single most important source of food for the threatened monarch butterfly, visit the Village’s Sustainability Page at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).