

Village News



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
villagenews@vofp.com

Emergency 911

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

Mayor's Desk

Our Sustainability Efforts Acknowledged

Labor Day is the unofficial start of fall. Now that our students are back in school, I ask everyone to be especially mindful of traffic safety. Kids can be excited, distracted, and playful. They may not be aware of traffic rules, but we need to be very aware. Please observe the stop signs on school buses; when they are in use it means NO traffic can proceed in either direction. Let's all contribute to making going back to school safe!

There is still great weather to enjoy. Inside our newsletter, you will find details on fun, family-friendly fall festivities. The Park District's Annual Fall Parade is coming up and we all love a parade!! The Pumpkin Fest will be held following the parade on October 2. Triton College will hold their annual Fall Family Fun Fest on October 1. Our Cook County Forest Preserves are a beautiful place to enjoy the beautiful fall colors. We are fortunate to have access to many acres of Forest Preserve land near Franklin Park. Plan a hike, a leisurely stroll, or the last family picnic of the season while the weather is still warm.

I want to thank the Morton Arboretum for selecting the Village of Franklin Park as the recipient of a grant to plant 50 new trees. The trees will be planted this October along 25th Avenue from Armitage Avenue to Grand Avenue. The no match grant is funded through the Chicagoland Tree Initiative, a regional effort to increase the tree canopy.

Trees are a vital part of our fragile ecosystem. They are critical in cooling the atmosphere and cleaning the air. Adding to our tree canopy will make our Village a healthier, cleaner, and greener community. Research has also demonstrated that communities that have tree-lined streets tend to experience less crime. Trees signal that a community is well cared for and that the local government and residents take steps to protect their neighborhoods.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, through the Powering Safe Communities Program Grant in partnership with ComEd, has awarded the Village a \$10,000 grant for EV (electric vehicle) charging projects. Recognizing that EVs can reduce carbon emissions, and improve public health outcomes, there is a special focus on electrification projects this year. EV projects that improve public health outcomes, provide for cleaner transportation options, and conserve the usage of energy are eligible. Our grant will be used to fund a portion of the purchase and installation of new electric vehicle charging stations. The stations will be designated to serve municipal owned electric vehicles at the Public Works facility. The charging stations may also be used by the public when not in use by Village personnel.

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World Honey Bee Day

The Village celebrated World Honey Bee Day by hosting a community event that focused on building awareness of the importance of preserving the health and habitat of the honey bee. The honey bee is an essential pollinator which is crucial to protecting the world's food supply. Without bees, the availability and diversity of fresh produce would decline substantially, and human nutrition would likely suffer. The Village has installed five beehives on the rooftop of the Water Department Garage. Event attendees watched how honey was extracted from live hives and were able to sample honey too!





Passport Service Available at Village Hall

The Clerk's Office is available to assist you with passport services and can also provide passport photos for a fee of \$15. As a reminder, all applicants must be present and if the applicant is a child, both parents must be present.

Appointments are encouraged but not required. Please note that appointments are prioritized over walk-ins. You can contact the Clerk's Office at (847) 671- 8242. To learn more about what is needed to apply, including information on identification and proof of citizenship requirements, visit our website at vofp.com.



Leyden Family Services at Village Hall – September 21

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall to help residents who have questions or need help applying for government programs like Medicare, Medicaid, LIHEAP and more. Staff will be available on Wednesday, September 21 from 9 AM until noon. They can also help with understanding medical bills, prescription assistance, and more. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive. No appointment is necessary. Check the Document checklist at vofp.com prior to visiting.



▲ Once again, our Police Department participated in the Cop on a Roof effort at our local Dunkin'. Thanks to community support, over \$3600 in funds were raised for the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. All who donated also received a coupon for a free coffee and donut! Our compassionate, caring community once again in action.

Submit Names Now for Veteran's Monument

Do you know a veteran from Franklin Park? If you would like their name engraved on the Village Veteran's Memorial wall, you may submit their name to have it added. To qualify, the veteran must have lived in Franklin Park, and you need to provide a copy of the veteran's DD-214 form (Honorable Discharge Papers) to the Village of Franklin Park Clerk's Office, by October 14 to ensure the name will be added in time for the Village's Veterans Day ceremony on November 11. For more information, please call the Clerk's Office at 847-671-8242.



◀ Joe "Tiny" Lauro, the Village's beloved long-time Public Works and Utilities Commissioner was honored by his co-workers with a memorial outside his office in Hamill Square.

Triton Host's Fall Family Fun Fest - October 1

Triton College will host its annual Fall Family Fun Fest on Saturday, October 1 from 10 AM until 2 PM. The event is free and open to the public. This year, Fall Fest will return to college's Botanical Gardens for an in-person event. The Fest will include food, games, and seasonal entertainment. The Botanical Gardens are located on the east side of the Triton College campus, directly behind the R Building.



Park District's Fall Parade – October 2

The annual Eddie Biondo Fall Parade will be held on Sunday, October 2 starting at noon. The parade will display the heart of Franklin Park and will include floats, marching bands, and local schools and organizations. The parade starts at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Scott Street and then heads east on Grand to 25th Avenue (Rose Street) and ends at Addison and Scott Street by North Park. The entire parade takes approximately an hour.

Pumpkin Fest Follows the Parade

Immediately following the Fall Parade, the Park District will host Pumpkin Fest from 2 until 4 PM at North Park. The event will be filled with plenty of family-friendly activities including music, food, and of course pumpkins waiting to be decorated and taken home. Join the fun and bring home a pumpkin!

Going Solar Will Save Money on Utility Bills

The Grow Solar Chicagoland program, supported by the Citizens Utility Board, aims to make solar power more accessible and affordable to communities like ours, even if you cannot install solar on your own roof. Participating households have reported a 10% to 20% reduction in their electricity bills per month through the community solar program! Want to learn more about the basics of solar, how it can save you money, and how the solar group buy program works? Go to growsolar.org/chicagoland/.

The Grow Solar Chicagoland program will be offered through September 30, 2022. Visit vofp.com for more information.

Please Complete the Water Service Line Survey



The Village is requesting that homeowners complete a survey to determine how many lead service lines are still in use in the Village with the goal of eventually replacing them. It will ask you to identify the type of material used in your water service. Instructions on how to identify the material of your water service line are included in the informational brochure. To learn more and to complete the survey, go to vofp.com.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village officials welcomed A Plus Nail School to their new location at 10231 W Grand Avenue. They are currently enrolling new students interested in an education in the latest nail techniques. To learn more, go to <https://aplusnailschool.com/>