



Park District Holds Fall Parade and Pumpkin Fest on October 5

Join us as we celebrate the amazing spirit and vision that created the Park District of Franklin Park 50 years ago! Gather your friends, family and neighbors to see colorful floats, marching bands, local Franklin Park schools, horses, antique cars, clowns, local businesses and civic organizations showcasing the heart of Franklin Park on Sunday, October 5 at 1 PM. The annual parade marches from the intersection of Grand Avenue and Scott Street, heads east on Grand, then north on 25th Avenue (Rose Street) and ends at Addison and 25th Avenue. This year we will host a float contest before the parade steps off, and winners will win great prizes! So come out and join in the fun! Afterwards we head to the annual Pumpkin Fest at North Park, located at 10040 Addison. At Pumpkin Fest you will find loads and loads of bright orange pumpkins just waiting to be painted and taken home! Contact the Park District at [847-455-2852](tel:847-455-2852) if you would like a parade float entry form.



Free Property Fraud Alert System

Homeowners can sign-up for a free property fraud alert that will trigger a phone call or email alert when a new document is recorded affecting your property. Homeowners can take immediate action before the criminal uses the fraudulent document to take out a loan against your home. Signup is easy and personal information is never used for anything other than the alert. You can register multiple properties, allowing you to monitor the homes of older parents and relatives. Sign up online with the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds at www.CookRecorder.com or call 800-728-3858.



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2014



Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



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
www.villagenews@vofp.com

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

Franklin Park Moves Forward with Infrastructure Renewal

Last week, the Village Board passed an ordinance increasing the water and sewer rate. This ordinance was based on the recommendations from the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure, a nationally recognized consultant and the findings of the Asset Management Report. As we have discussed, the report found that our aging infrastructure requires serious attention and is in danger of failing. It noted the cost to address the severe need for water and sewer repair is approximately \$235 million over the next 30 years. After reviewing the Village's finances, we the Citizen's Advisory Committee concluded that water and sewer rates must be increased to fund the renewal projects as well as to make the Village eligible to apply for grant funding to support infrastructure improvements.

When maintenance is ignored and upgrades are deferred, the problem is only compounded. As an example, by delaying repair of the King Street Water Storage Tanks, it recently cost the Village \$4 million to rehab them. We are actually saving substantial amounts of money by addressing the problems NOW. The problems will only get worse and construction costs will only increase.

Our residents and businesses have indicated they are aware of the urgent need to repair, renew and replace our 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.

No one likes a rate increase. But The Citizens Advisory Committee recommended it because

it is the only viable solution to our infrastructure needs. Over 80% of our residents who are in Tier 1, (those using less than 900 cubic meters of water per month) will see an average increase of approximately \$14 per month for combined water and sewer.

The ordinance includes a provision that holds rates to low income individuals and families essentially flat. Additionally, there is NO increase in property taxes.

Remember, water conservation will help you save money. We will continue to publish tips to help you conserve water. Also, residents in single family homes can contact the Department of Public Works to request assistance in finding a water leak in your home which may be inflating your bill. Email csliwinski@vofp.com for more details and include your name, address and phone number.

We will continue to update you on all our infrastructure renewal and replacement projects on our web site.

The Board, by accepting the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and addressing our infrastructure problems today, is setting the pace for the future and securing a better tomorrow for our Village.

BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
MAYOR



Village's Credit Rating Raised

Standard and Poor's Rating Service has raised the Village's credit rating two full categories to A+. An increased bond rating indicates that the Village's financial condition is continuing to strengthen. It also allows the Village to borrow money, if needed, at a lower rate and allows the Village to refinance to a lower interest rate on any existing debt. Standard and Poor's raised the Village's rating two categories in November 2012 and the August 2014 review resulted in another two-category jump to A+. Finance experts view a two-category upgrade as rare and two consecutive two-category upgrades are considered extremely rare!

Also, for a third year in a row, the Village has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. It is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting and demonstrates the Village's commitment to improving our budgeting process and applying a rigorous set of standards in our fiscal reporting.

Airplane Noise Hotline

Noise complaints have greatly increased in Franklin Park and in the surrounding communities since last year when O'Hare Airport changed runway patterns. We are working closely with the Chicago Department of Aviation, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) and Congressman Mike Quigley's office to develop short and long term solutions. In order to make critical changes in flight patterns and noise regulations, there must be documented accounts of the negative effects of the new flight configurations.

We urge you to file complaints about noise, low-flying aircraft, frequency of flight operations or vibration of structures to the **O'Hare Noise Complaint Hotline at 800-435-9569**. Please note the date, time, flight path, aircraft type, and impact. Include your address and contact information. **You can file online at the Village website at vofp.com**. Look for the blue Report Airplane Noise button on our Homepage. You can report every incident you experience. By letting them know the volume of incidents we can get relief sooner.

Donate Blood and Get a T-Shirt

While supplies last, donors will receive a free t-shirt when they donate blood at the next Community Blood Drive which will be held on Friday, September 12, from 3 to 7:30 PM at the Community Center. Donate and help impact the life of someone in need. Prepare for your donation by eating well and staying hydrated. Contact Life Source to make an appointment at 877-543-3768 and mention code FR98.



▲ "Mayor Barrett Pedersen met with Senator Dick Durbin recently to discuss issues impacting Franklin Park residents and businesses including train blockages, excessive train horn soundings and the increase in noise since O'Hare Airport changed runway patterns."



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Director of Community Development John Schneider received a certificate of award for \$250,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Village will utilize the funds to make infrastructure improvements, including street widening, in the West Mannheim Residential Area (WMRA).

Chamber Awards Scholarship to East Leyden Graduate

The Chamber by O'Hare, also known as the Franklin Park / Schiller Park / River Grove Chamber of Commerce recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to East Leyden graduate, Yamilex Monarrez, for the 2014-15 academic year. Yamilex was chosen based on her outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. We wish her great success in her academic pursuits at Dominican University!



Village Seeks Veteran Names for Monument

Would you like to submit the name of a veteran from Franklin Park to have it added to our Veteran's Monument? Interested veterans or family members must submit a copy of the veterans DD-214 form to Tommy Thomson, Village Clerk, at Village Hall by October 15th 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.

Leaf Pick-up and Street Sweeping

Autumn has arrived and the leaves are beginning to fall. Residents should place leaves in brown biodegradable bags only 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 5. These dates are established by Allied Waste.



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



Repairing Vehicles On Village Streets

Repair or maintenance of a vehicle is prohibited by ordinance on residential property, except on a vehicle owned by the occupant. The vehicle must have valid state registration plates and a current Village vehicle sticker indicating that the vehicle is registered at that address. The Village ordinance also states that "No person may repair or maintain a vehicle of others on their residential property whether for compensation or not". Please be aware that violators will be ticketed and could face a fine. If you have questions, please contact the Village's Building Department at 847-671-8245.