

Village News



Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

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Mayor's Desk

All Aboard for Franklin Park Fest – June 9-13

Our beloved Railroad Daze festival has grown and expanded every year. To reflect that growth, we are now calling our event **Franklin Park Fest featuring Railroad Day**.

This year, the festival site will be expanded to accommodate even more visitors and add more and varied food vendors. The festival will have an improved sound system as well as a stage that offers better sight lines. Our music programs will continue on Friday and Saturday and Jazz Fest will be back by popular demand on Thursday night.

New food vendors, along with old favorites will offer a variety of flavors at family-friendly prices. To create an even more festive atmosphere, we will be adding convenient picnic benches and a large open area if you wish to bring your own lawn chairs.

Train viewing, and a celebration of our railroad heritage, will take place on Railroad Day on Saturday, June 11. You will still be dazzled by the vintage and specialty train cars available for touring as well as exhibitors with train memorabilia. Watch our website, Facebook Page and this newsletter for more details and a complete schedule of events and activities.

Our Planet, Our Home

This year we celebrate the 46th anniversary of Earth Day. Across the nation communities come together to discuss climate change, explore renewable energy, share ideas on sustainability and

develop ways to counter our environmental challenges.

In Franklin Park we think every day should be Earth Day. Our efforts at sustainability have gained us recognition throughout the country. We have greatly increased our recycling, promoted pesticide free lawn care and rain barrel use and have made a commitment to renewable energy. Our Police Station achieved LEED Gold status and is a model for sustainable construction.

Please read about the Village and Park District's plans for Earth Day on April 23 on page 2 of this newsletter. Also, I am inviting everyone to join me at 11 AM on Saturday, April 23 to start the celebration as we plant trees at the corner of Edgington and Grand Avenue. We are very proud that Franklin Park has been designated once again as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation!

Franklin Park Votes No To More Pollution and Noise

Last month Franklin Park joined nine other communities in rejecting new criteria offered by the O' Hare Noise Compatibility Commission that would have increased jet traffic over our Village.

The new plan did not address the serious public health and safety impacts of air pollution, noise pollution, the emission of gases and fluids by aircraft, and similar factors regarding the quality of life, health, and property values on Franklin Park.

◀ Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2.

Schedule Your Garage Sale



Residents must register to hold a garage sale by contacting Clerk's Office at 847-671-8242 or at Village Hall. There is no cost to register. A garage or yard sale sign can only be placed on your property. Sales can be held for a maximum of 30 hours within a three day period. Sale hours cannot be earlier than 8 AM and must end by 7 PM.

Village Offers Free Rain Barrels

The Village has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to offer free rain barrels to qualified property owners. Rain barrels capture rainwater from your roof and save it for when you need it. By keeping this water out of the sewer system, they help prevent sewer overflows and flooding. You can use rain barrel water to wash your car, water your lawn, water your garden, or clean work boots and tools.



The 55-gallon rain barrel kit includes a flexible connecting elbow to attach the barrel to your downspout, a linking hose to connect it to a second barrel, detailed instructions and free delivery to your home. You can install the rain barrel yourself or request assistance from Village staff. Download an application at vofp.com or email ekubkowski@vofp.com.

Seniors to Apply Now for Grass-Cutting Program

The Village is accepting applications now for the Senior Grass Cutting Program, which runs from May until late October. Qualified senior citizens will pay \$7 per cut. Applications are available at Village Hall or by calling 847-671-8240. If you have previously been on the grass or snow program and your health condition has not changed, you will not need to send in a new doctor's note, but will need to submit an application. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited so apply early!

Yard Waste, Branch Pick-up and Street Sweeping Begins

Place yard waste in brown biodegradable bags and put out on garbage day with your recycling. Purchase bags at local grocery and hardware stores. Residents can select alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles to help you and the Village to save money!



Please place all reasonably-sized branches where you put your trash by 7 AM on Monday of the pick-up week. Branches will be picked-up sometime by the end of Friday. Pick-up dates for 2016 are April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23, June 6 & 20, July 5 & 18, August 1, 15 & 29, September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24 and November 7. These dates are subject to change due to storm-related clean-up.

Village street sweeping has begun. Please check posted signs for information on dates, times and parking restrictions. If you have questions, please call [847-671-8200](tel:847-671-8200).

Summer Jobs Available for Students

The Village has seasonal job openings in the Public Works Department and at Village Hall. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, currently enrolled in high school or college and have a "C" average. Salary is \$8.50 per hour. To apply or obtain more information call [\(847\) 671-8282](tel:847-671-8282) or go to vofp.com for an application and guidelines for the program.





◀ **Mayor's Desk** Continued from Page 1.

Trustee Bill Ruhl, who sits on the O' Hare Noise Commission, and I voted No because we cannot support a plan that jeopardizes the health of our residents. A 'Fly Quiet' program that simply moves the noise from one community to another is not acceptable. We will support a plan that offers true relief to all in our region.

Also voting NO were Elmwood Park, Melrose Park, Northlake, Palatine, Rosemont, Park Ridge, and Stone Park. The City Department of Aviation says they will now continue to refine the 'Fly Quiet' program and come back to the Noise Commission in May with revisions.

Village Earns Recognition for Excellence in Financial Reporting

I am very proud to inform you that our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY 2015 has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the fifth consecutive year that we have earned this highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting.

Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to make this award possible!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ Our Utility Department purchased this dumpster enclosure to hide unsightly trash and to stop garbage from blowing into the street and alley. The Village is encouraging local businesses to consider adding one to their property to deter rodents and to keep our town clean. Please call [708-899-0200](tel:708-899-0200) for more information.

Natural Lawn Care – A Safer Alternative



The Village utilizes natural lawn care on all its properties. Unlike conventional lawn care which relies on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to artificially green your lawn, natural lawn care focuses on restoring balance to the soil system, including nutrients that make a lawn healthy. Over time, your lawn will become naturally healthy, green and beautiful. Plus, it requires less watering, fertilizing and mowing, saving you time and money! For more information on how you can limit the use of herbicides and insecticides that can harm your family's health and hurt the environment, please visit our website at vofp.com to download details.

Celebrate Earth Day in Franklin Park on April 23



The Park District of Franklin Park will host its annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23 from Noon to 2 PM. This free, family-oriented event will be held outdoors at the Centre at North Park and will include live music, games, give-a-ways, nature crafts,

and the opportunity to recycle items from your home. Learn about how to increase recycling in your home and ways to conserve energy to help our planet. Interactive booths will feature information about alternative energy sources, conservation, using rain barrels and information on planting and composting.

Bring your electronics to be recycled! Acceptable items include, computer equipment, TVs, printers, phones and cell phones, stereos, game consoles, DVD & VCR players, copiers, MP3/iPod players, UPS batteries, microwaves, toaster ovens, curling irons, hair dryers and electronic tools.

Plan to drop off prescription drugs to ensure they are properly disposed. Also, the Health Department will collect eye glasses for the Lions Club and cell phones with their charger to be recycled for senior citizens to use in an emergency. A complete list of items to be collected will be featured on the Village's website in mid-April .

Spotlight on Industrial Development

2015 was a banner year for industrial development in Franklin Park! The Village approved several large scale developments and redevelopments last year. The Village's Department of Community Development assists businesses looking for space to expand their operations and to locate sites in Franklin Park to be redeveloped into modern, industrial facilities. In the next few months, we will highlight several key industrial developments.

Olympia Foods

Olympia Foods purchased the former Fresh Express property at 9501 Nevada Avenue in 2014 and is building out the space to accommodate the company's food manufacturing operations. The company recently completed an addition and renovations to the existing 106,000 square foot building. Olympia Foods was founded in 1972 by brothers Andre and Kosta Papantoniou and is recognized as a leader among a handful of Gyro giants. Along with gyros, the company has developed a line of over 100 food options. The business is relocating from Chicago to the Franklin Park facility to accommodate the need for a larger production facility. Including the cost of the property, the total investment by Olympia Foods is in excess of \$28 million. Olympia Foods currently has 65 employees and expects to add 10 to 15 additional full-time positions over the next several years.

Molto Properties

Molto Properties purchased the 24-acre former Centrella Grocers site at 3801 Centrella Street in 2010 and has initiated site work for construction of a new 367,000 square foot building. Molto Properties is a privately held, entrepreneurial industrial real estate firm that currently has 4 million square feet of industrial properties under management. Started in 2008, the company focuses on the acquisition, development and operation of quality industrial real estate primarily in the central portion of the United States. The site will accommodate a second phase of development, which is expected to consist of an approximately 106,000 square foot industrial building. As a part of the redevelopment, Molto properties will also be undertaking the reconstruction of Centrella Street.



▲ Rendering of the 367,000 square foot industrial speculative building to be constructed in 2016 by Molto Properties. Franklin Park's industrial vacancy rate has dropped from 9.3% in 2014 to 6.1% in 2015.

CONSTRUCTION AHEAD Public Improvement Projects for 2016



Spring is here and so is construction season! Construction projects for the 2016 calendar year include the following:

- Cullerton Industrial Area Project – Resurfacing roadways will be completed this spring. The project includes Cullerton, Wellington, Hart and Lucy Lane.
- West Mannheim Residential Area (WMRA) Project. Last fall utility repairs were initiated and work has begun to widen and resurface roadways. Ruth, Prairie, Bright, Houston and Schiller (from Jill to Mannheim Road) are included.
- Centrella Street is being reconstructed under a TIF (tax increment financing) agreement and extends from Seymour to Waveland.
- Reuter's Subdivision – Phase I. The roadway reconstruction portion of that project will be funded by the FY 2017 Non Home Rule Sales Tax Street Improvement Program. The project will possibly break ground this summer as the village is awaiting final approval of IEAP loan funding. The project will include Richard (from Elder to Calwagner), Reuter Ave., Johanna Ave., (from Reuter to Calwagner, including the cul-de-sac off of Johanna), Atlantic (from Johanna to Richard) and Calwagner (from Grand to Richard). The remainder of the Subdivision and the area just to the south will be constructed over the next several years.

Interactive Construction Map on Village Website

The Village's Interactive Construction Map identifies construction projects across Franklin Park. By clicking on highlighted streets, you will be able to identify the description and status of current projects, view projects completed in the last few years and learn about projects slated through 2019. Go to the Engineering Page of the Village website at vofp.com. Also, watch our Homepage and Facebook Page for updates and information regarding road closures and project progress.