



Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2014



Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Police Warn of IRS and Deportation Scam

The Franklin Park Police are asking residents to be cautious regarding a scam involving phone calls with the message "You owe the IRS money and if you don't pay, you will get arrested or deported."

Recently, residents in Franklin Park and neighboring communities have been targeted, many of whom are elderly or who may not be naturalized citizens. The caller instructs the victim to purchase a "Green Dot" Money Pak (which is a prepaid debit card) in the amount of several thousand dollars. They are told to mail the money card to the caller and it will cancel the debt.

If you receive a call, DO NOT send money or any other items of value. Contact the Franklin Park Police Department at 847-678-2444 for assistance. If the caller tells you "do not tell anybody or you will get arrested or deported", please contact the police. Even if you actually owe the IRS money, the Franklin Park Police Department cannot arrest you and cannot deport you for a tax debt. In all likelihood the call is a scam.



Recycle Your Christmas Tree



The Village of Franklin Park will pick-up discarded Christmas trees on Thursday, January 8 and Thursday, January 15. Put your tree (real trees only, no artificial trees!) on the front parkway by the street curb. Do not put trees in the alleys. Please be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and other decorations. The Village's Street Division will pick them up and then chip and mulch the trees and use it to support our landscaping.

Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect

The Village's No Parking on designated Snow Route policy is in effect. Parking is not allowed on designated streets after a 2" snow fall until snow clearing operations is complete. Secondary streets have a No Parking restriction after a 2" snow fall from 9 AM to 9 PM on the odd address numbered side of the street and 9 PM to 9 AM on the even address side. Check signs in your area for restrictions. If you are unsure if snow operations have been completed, you can call the police department's non-emergency number 847-678-2444 for assistance.



Drop-off Food at Village Hall

The Village is encouraging residents to donate non-perishable food items to support the Leyden Township Food Pantry's Holiday Food Drive. A drop-off box was created by local company Ex-Cell Kaiser and will be located at Village Hall throughout the holiday season. Please help brighten the lives of those in need during the holidays.



Blood Drive - Donate on December 12

The last Blood Drive of the year will be held on December 12 from 3-7 PM at the Franklin Park Community Center. The drive is held in partnership with LifeSource and the Village's Senior Commission.



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

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847-671-4800
www.villagenews@vofp.com

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

Village Hall will be closed at 3:30 PM on Dec. 23 and will be closed on Dec 24 & 25 for Christmas and on January 1 for New Year's Day

Village Secures Over \$10 Million in Grants and Awards

Our Village staff and Trustees have worked tirelessly to improve our community at limited impact to the taxpayer. In the past few months, the Village of Franklin Park has been awarded over \$10 million in grants and low interest loans that will improve our infrastructure, upgrade traffic signals, increase roadway access for our businesses and support public safety.

Because of our collaborative partnerships with Cook County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), we will be able to address our aging infrastructure, enhance public safety and create jobs.

We have reported on some of these awards in the last few months. But I would like to feature just a few that demonstrate how these partnerships are paying major dividends in making our Village safer and more attractive to business.

The County has awarded a \$3 million "BUILT in Cook" (Broadening Urban Investment to Leverage Transportation) low interest loan to help support infrastructure improvements to the Cullerton Street Industrial Area. The low interest loan fund public infrastructure improvements, including street reconstruction and sewer and drainage work. The County selected Franklin Park to be the first community to receive the low interest loan because of the strong partnership between area businesses and the Village.

IDOT has awarded us a \$1.3 million Economic Development Program grant for the Cullerton Street Industrial Area. The streets in this area, Cullerton, Wellington and Hart, are classified as failed and are in need of complete rebuilding. The grant will support roadway access for ten companies Champion Logistics (Centerpoint Properties), Aallied Die Cast (RCM Industries), Life Fitness (Bally), New Albertsons (Jewel/Osco), Sureway Tool and Engineering, Tukaiz, Cortina Companies, Koehler Enterprise, ComED and General Produce.



The Village plans to finance the cost of these much-needed improvements with the IDOT grant and the County's low-interest loan, which will be repaid by local businesses through a Special Service Area (SSA), and not by the Village.

These repairs will create more than 133 new jobs in our community and continue to make Franklin Park an attractive location for business expansion and investment.

Also, we have also received a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant in the amount of \$200,000 to be put towards traffic signal and roadway upgrades at Grand Avenue and George Street (Jewel Parking lot traffic signal).

Funding Helps to Keep Our Community Safe

Our First Responders have benefitted from IDOT safety grants as well. Our Police Department has received a \$36,686 grant to hire back additional sworn officers to provide traffic enforcement for child restraint, seatbelt, speeding, and alcohol related violations. IDOT's Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program provided an additional grant to support the purchase of new equipment.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has awarded funding to supply eight new bullet-proof vests for our police officers, helping to keep them protected while on the job.



◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission has awarded our Police Department a grant to conduct checks and provide education to retail establishments selling tobacco products, within the Village. Also, a \$26,000 grant will support a Gang/Narcotic Enforcement Program.

As we enter the new year, I know our staff and Trustees will continue to find innovative, cost effective ways to improve our Village's safety, convenience and attractiveness.

A Path to Achieving a Quiet Zone Designation

Recently, our Village Engineer Dave Talbot made a presentation to the community to explain that we are working with the Village of River Grove to pursue a Train Horn Quiet Zone. The status would impact the intersections at Scott Street, Ruby Street, Calwagner, 25th Street, and Elm Street (shared with River Grove) in Franklin Park and the intersections of Des Plaines River Road and Thatcher Road in River Grove.

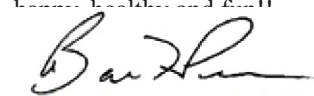
The Village is notifying all railroads that travel through Franklin Park to let them know we are seeking quiet zone status. We will be required to make safety upgrades including changing traffic patterns and some driveways near some of the crossings. Creating a quiet zone requires approval from the Federal Railroad Administration, Illinois Department of Transportation and Interstate Commerce Commission. The process to achieve a quiet zone designation will take about a year and we will work with an engineering firm who will manage this process on behalf of the Village.

Also, Citizens Advisory Committee on Quiet Zones was formed at the presentation and several residents volunteered to serve. The Committee will determine appropriate ways to finance safety upgrades. If you would like to serve on this Committee, please contact my office at 847-671-8236. We anticipate that the Committee will begin to meet later this month or in early January.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I love the holidays! Holidays can be stressful and expensive. They are a challenge for some and an annoyance for others. But fundamentally they are a time, no matter our faith or our culture, to celebrate what is meaningful to us and our families.

I hope all in Franklin Park will find a way to celebrate their culture, to embrace their traditions and to cherish their loved ones in ways that are meaningful and memorable. The holidays give us an opportunity to break from the routine and focus on some of the more festive aspects of life. The holidays are what we make them. So revive some traditions or make some new memories. Most importantly, make your holidays


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
 MAYOR

Paul G. Ruch Food Drive - December 13

In the mid-1990s, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troops in Franklin Park began to collect food donations from local residents to distribute to families in need. The Paul G. Ruch Food Drive has grown into one of the largest food donation events in Franklin Park. If you would like to participate this year, please place a bag or box of non-perishable food items on your front doorstep by 9 AM on Saturday, December 13. The scouts will collect the food items and bring the donations to the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry. If you cannot donate food for this event, you can still donate to the Leyden Family Services Food Pantry by visiting their office at 10200 W Grand Avenue or by calling 847-455-5688.



▲ Representatives from Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Michael Cabonargi's office gave a presentation and helped homeowners with the necessary paperwork to initiate an appeal.

Property Tax Workshop Helps Our Homeowners

Last month, the Village hosted a special Property Tax Workshop. Officials from the Cook County Board of Review Office of Commissioner Michael Cabonargi were on hand to help residents understand the process of appealing the assessed value of their homes. The property value as assessed determines the amount owed on the tax bill, and residents can oftentimes receive a lower assessment upon appeal. This could mean fewer taxes are paid by the appealing homeowner.

Over 150 people attended the workshop and received assistance with their paperwork. We will host more of these workshops when the appeal process reopens in Leyden Township in 2015. Watch our newsletter and website for these dates.

Make Your Home the Best Decorated!



It's time for our Annual Best Decorated Home for the Holidays contest. Our residents and businesses are encouraged to demonstrate their holiday spirit with festive decorations that demonstrate that the holiday season is truly the most wonderful time of the year. Let your creativity run free and help make Franklin Park sparkle bright! Winners will receive a prize and special recognition from our Board of Trustees for demonstrating true holiday spirit.

Village Updates Zoning Code to Meet Modern Day Needs

The Franklin Park Board recently adopted new zoning regulations that will help to regulate future development in downtown Franklin Park and encourage transit friendly development around the Franklin Park Metra station. The zoning code was last revised in 1971 and this update will make it more relevant to modern day businesses and development standards. These new regulations will also streamline the approval process for potential projects that adhere to the zoning standards. Additionally, the modernized code will enable the Village's development staff to more efficiently work with developers on potential projects.

The work to amend the zoning regulations was funded by a technical assistance grant from the Regional Transportation Authority's Community Planning program and aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the Village's Transit Oriented Development Study, completed in 2006. The plan's goal is to provide guidance to the municipality on ways to attract and retain businesses, increase tax revenues for the Village, enhance transit access and encourage development in the downtown area.

Existing businesses and properties will not be affected by the new code. The updated zoning code will apply to new land uses, developments or properties undergoing substantial rehabilitation. The Village believes that this updating of the zoning code will spur development because it will streamline the business occupancy process as it accommodates for a greater range of land use types in the downtown area. The new zoning regulations will assist the Village in realizing a balanced mix of land use that is pedestrian-friendly and complementary to the character of our downtown area.



▲ The Village recently adopted new zoning regulations that will help to regulate future development in downtown Franklin Park and encourage transit friendly development around the Metra station.

Inscríbete para recibir las noticias de nuestra comunidad en Español llamando al (847) 671-8236 o por correo al dhenriquez@vofp.com.

Jeśli chcielibyście Państwo otrzymywać nasz biuletyn lub inne informacje w języku polskim, prosimy o kontakt pod numerem (847) 671-8312 lub na email ekubkowski@vofp.com.