

# Village News



## Property Tax Assistance for Senior Citizens

Remember to check your bill to make sure you are receiving all the exemptions for which you are eligible. If you are over the age of 65, the State of Illinois has a Real Estate Tax Deferral program that allows you to defer your real estate taxes until the home is sold. Information is available at [www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com). Also, information regarding the Senior Freeze Exemption and the Senior Homeowner Exemption is available from the Cook County Assessor's Office at the same website or by calling 312.443.7550.

## Get Connected -- There's An App For That

Have you downloaded the Village's official smartphone application yet? It gives you instant access to the Village while on the go. Street light out? Want to report a pothole? Use the service request form to let the Village know. Users of Android and iPhone smartphones can take a photo of a problem situation and then attach it to a service request and quickly send to the Village. The app also features a news feed that will include important information and updates about Village events and services. To get the free Franklin Park app for iPhone you can search for "Franklin Park" in the App Store and to get the free Franklin Park app for an Android phone you can search for "Franklin Park" in Google Play/Play Store. Go to [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) for more information.



## Mayor's Desk

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

### Village Holds the Line on Property Taxes – Again!

Since taking office in 2009, I have been committed to lowering our tax levy and finding alternative ways to fund much needed Village improvements without impacting property taxes. The Board of Trustees and I made a commitment to stabilizing our Village finances which has resulted in six years of virtually no change in the Village's property tax levy. The Village's real property tax levy is at its lowest since 2008.

pledging to abide by the Property Tax Cap even if residents vote in favor of the Village becoming a Home Rule unit of government.

In January, the Board unanimously passed a resolution for a Home Rule Revenue Rebate program that would take effect if the Village becomes a Home Rule unit. The program would rebate revenue generated from Home Rule to eligible homeowners annually for a minimum of three years. Residential homeowners who live in their home would receive a rebate of no less than \$100 and as much as \$500 and senior homeowners who live in their home would receive a rebate of no less than \$150 and as much as \$500 per tax year. After the three year rebate of Home Rule revenue, all funds generated by Home Rule will be dedicated to road repair and replacement.

### Decreasing Our Debt Service

We made a dedicated effort to reduce our debt service levy by abating four bond levies previously collected from property owners, resulting in a decrease of between \$200,000 to \$250,000 annually. In fact, because of our progress in this area, our debt service levy is now at its lowest point since tax year 2008.

This would not have been possible without the Board's dedication to disciplined spending and conservative budgeting. Additionally, the Village of Franklin Park is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated staff that is committed to delivering high quality services at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

The Board will not waiver from our strong commitment to holding the line on property taxes and we will be responsible in our use of tax dollars if the Village becomes Home Rule. These two Board resolutions and the Board's unanimous support underscore that commitment.

### Home Rule Revenue Rebate Program for Homeowners

In December, the Village Board unanimously passed a resolution

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

Tommy Thomson  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
James Caporusso  
John Johnson  
Cheryl McLean  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-671-4800  
[www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
[villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com)

Emergency 911

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



▲ Illinois State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D. (center) visited East Leyden High School recently to observe the district's college and career readiness programs and interact with students. He observed the culinary, technical support internship and manufacturing programs and spoke with students in the Advanced Placement Capstone program designed to enhance discipline-specific study provided via AP courses. Dr. Smith was very impressed by the students and the opportunities offered at Leyden!

**Village Hall  
will be closed  
on Monday,  
February 15.**



## Telephone Town Hall Scheduled for February 17

The Village will host a Telephone Town Hall on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 PM. If you do not receive a phone call from the Village at that time inviting you to participate, you can join the meeting by calling in a no cost to you. Simply dial 847-400-0841 and you will be connected to the call. Mayor Barrett Pedersen will update listeners on Village programs and updates on road repairs and infrastructure improvements. The Mayor will also take questions from callers on a range of topics including the Home Rule Revenue Rebate Program for Homeowners should the Village become a Home Rule unit of Government.



▲ At a recent Leyden Township Board Meeting Franklin Park Police Officer Donald Kaminski was honored for his heroic efforts during an incident that occurred in unincorporated Leyden Township involving a barricaded subject. Congratulations Officer Kaminski and thank you to all of our public safety professionals who put themselves in harms way to protect the public.”

## Shoveling Sidewalks Helps Everyone



The Village encourages residents to please clear the public sidewalks in front of their property in the interest of public safety. Many residents, including the elderly walk on the sidewalks to get to school, work or to access public transportation. Please do not shovel snow into the street or onto your neighbor’s property. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Jesli chcielibyscie Panstwo otrzymywac nasz biuletyn lub inne informacje w jezyku polskim, prosimy o kontakt pod numerem (847) 671-8252 lub na email [ekubkowski@vofp.com](mailto:ekubkowski@vofp.com).  
Inscríbete para recibir las noticias de nuestra comunidad en Español llamando al 847-671-8236 o por correo al [dhenriquez@vofp.com](mailto:dhenriquez@vofp.com).**

## Fire Department Provides Free Fire Alarms

The Franklin Park Fire Department is giving away one free smoke alarm per residence. The Fire Department is also providing coupons to purchase additional smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers at a discount at Olson’s ACE Hardware located at 10135 Grand Avenue in Franklin Park. The free smoke alarms are available at the Fire Department Station #2, located at 10001 Addison. Residents must provide proof of address and only one free smoke alarm per family is allowed. Batteries and informational packets on these new alarms will also be included. Additionally, residents can pick up coupons for discounted items at Fire Station 2. The department will work to secure additional fire alarms if the demand is high.



Fire officials remind everyone that smoke alarms save lives. Having a working fire alarm reduces the risk of dying in a fire by fifty percent and gives you and your family the time to get out safely. For more information, please call 847-678-2400.

## Clear Snow Around Fire Hydrants



The Village is asking residents and business owners to please clean around fire hydrants when cleaning snow from their properties and driveways. If a hydrant is buried in snow, firefighters will have a difficult time locating the buried hydrant during a fire when every second counts. Please clear an area of about 3 feet around each hydrant to allow firefighters to effectively connect to and open a hydrant. If you cannot participate, please contact the Fire Department at 847-678-2400. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

A representative will be at Village Hall from 9 AM to 1 PM on the following Wednesdays to process applications: February 3 & 17, March 2, 16 & 30, April 13 & 27 and May 4 & 18. Residents interested in applying should bring the following documents:

- A Social Security / SSI (monthly) benefit letter for 2016.
- Your pension letter for the last 30 days.
- A valid Photo ID. Social Security Cards for all members in the household.
- Proof of income for the last 30 days for all house members 18 years or older.
- A current NICOR and ComEd bill (disconnect notices have to be included if you are applying).
- Your Medical Card.

If you have questions, please call the Village at 847-671-4800.

