



Sponsors Make the Holidays Bright in Franklin Park

Franklin Park celebrated the holidays by lighting the Christmas tree in Hammill Square. NESTLE provided candy for Santa to hand out to children and BEAN EXPRESS donated hot chocolate served by our Village Trustees. Thank you to the following corporate sponsors for your generosity and support in funding the Village's annual event. Happy Holidays!

THE HILL GROUP
 NELSEN STEEL COMPANY
 PAN AMERICAN BANK
 SAM'S 24 HR TOWING SERVICE, INC
 SLOAN VALVE COMPANY
 TRANSILWRAP COMPANY INC



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. 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.



◀ The Franklin Park waste and recycling receptacle manufacturer, Ex-Cell Kaiser, filled one of their best-selling steel cans with canned goods and donated them to the Village of Franklin Park in support of the Village's holiday food drive for the Leyden Food Pantry. The company designed the receptacle so the Village could use the can to receive donations all season. Leyden Food Pantry was grateful for the donations.



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2015



Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Happy New Year!

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

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19

Last year, the Board of Trustees and our dedicated staff continued their tireless efforts in saving you- the taxpayer- money.

Our cooperative partnerships with the State and the County have allowed us to find grants and awards that are improving our infrastructure and enhancing our quality of life.

Please read page 2 of this newsletter for a summary of all grants, awards and cost saving measures we have undertaken in the past two years. These grants and low interest loans allow us to improve our public safety at a much accelerated rate. The infrastructure improvements make us more attractive to new jobs, investments and development and provide support to our existing businesses.

Safeguarding the taxpayers' money is a top priority for our Board and stabilizing our finances was critical to fulfilling that mission. Because of our strong financial management, our disciplined spending and our conservative budgeting, we have increased our bond rating four full categories, to an A+ rating, in the last few years.

The Village's solid financial standing enabled us to refinance existing debt at a lower interest rate. We recently refinanced bonds that saved over \$1.6 million dollars without extending the original payment periods, or principal amount owed. Our enhanced financial position allowed us to continue to abate taxes, resulting in five consecutive years of no increase in the Village's property tax levy. This year the Village will actually levy less in property taxes than in years past.

We also want you to save money on your water bill, both by offering conservation pricing and by helping you detect leaks. In the last month, dozens of our residents took advantage of assistance available from the Department of Public Works. Public Works staff can help determine if a water leak in your home

is inflating your water bill. These leaks often go undetected for a long time and cost very much money. The leak detection program helped to save thousands of gallons of water which has resulted in a substantial reduction in monthly water bills for residents who took advantage of this service.

Residents in single family homes can contact Public Works if they suspect a leak. Please e-mail cslwinski@vofp.com for more details and include your name, address and phone number. Our website has information on how to help you conserve water.

The New Year begins and the work continues. The Board of Trustees and I resolve to make this another great year in Franklin Park. We will continue our efforts to upgrade our Village infrastructure, safeguard our neighborhoods and respect the taxpayer dollar.

All good wishes to you and your family for a great 2015!

BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
 MAYOR



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Trustees Bill Ruhl, Karen Special, Andy Ybarra and John Johnson cut the ribbon and welcomed Insure One, located at 9705 Franklin Avenue, to our Village.



Energy Audit House Party

Want to learn how some simple energy efficiency tips can save you money on your energy costs? Register to attend the Energy Impact House Party hosted by Mayor Barrett Pedersen on Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM. A certified contractor will conduct an energy assessment of the home, identify where the homeowner is losing energy and discuss ways to save money. Space is limited! Call now to register at 847-671-8236 or to learn how to host a party at your home and receive a FREE energy assessment valued at \$400. Other dates will be available soon.



▲ Congratulations to Police Officer of the Year, Detective Vito Busse and Firefighter of the Year Ignacio Garcia who were honored at the annual holiday dinner hosted by the Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club. Thank you to all our police officers and firefighters for their hard work and dedication to keeping our families safe and our neighborhoods protected and thank you to Police Chief Michael Witz and Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli for their leadership.

Grants, Awards and Cost Savings Measures Provide Millions of Dollars for Franklin Park

The Village Board and staff have been committed to aggressively pursuing state and federal funding to offset the cost to make much needed infrastructure upgrades, enhance public safety and improve Village services. The result is an impressive list of grant awards from 2013 and 2014 that have allowed us to make our streets safer, our community more attractive and to help us attract business investment.

Awarded a **\$1.3 million** grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Economic Development Program to improve roadway access in the Cullerton Industrial Area for ten companies including Champion Logistics (Centerpoint Properties); Aallied Die Cast (RCM Industries); Life Fitness; New Albertsons (Jewel/Osco); Sureway Tool and Engineering; Tukaiz; Cortina Companies; Koehler Enterprise; ComED and General Produce.

Received a **\$3 million** Low Interest Loan from HUD/Cook County Section 108 for infrastructure improvements in the Cullerton Industrial Area including street reconstruction and sewer and drainage work. The loan will be paid back from area businesses, and not taxpayers, through a Special Services Area.

Widening north and south bound streets in the West Mannheim Residential Area (WMRA) funded through a **\$250,000** Community Development Block Grant. This improvement will allow for parking on both sides of the street, and allow police and fire equipment easy access during snow falls.

Secured a **\$600,000** Cook County/USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant on behalf of seven communities to evaluate

environmentally contaminated sites, select sites to analyze severity of contamination and assess their redevelopment potential.

Upgrading traffic signals and making roadway improvements at Grand Avenue and George Street funded by a **\$200,000** Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant.

Rehabbing and replacing water mains in the Cullerton Industrial Area, the Reuter Sub-division and the WMRA area through a **\$5.3 million** Illinois Clean Water Initiative low interest loan. The loan will also facilitate pump replacement at the King Street Pump Station. The grant will allow repairs to be made sooner and at a cost savings of **\$864,500** in interest.

Upgraded our bond rating four full categories to **A+** which translates into real savings for our Village.

- Refinanced bonds that saved over **\$1.6 million** without extending the original payment periods.
- Continue to abate taxes resulting in five consecutive years of no increase in the amount the Village's property tax levy.
- This year, the Village has levied less in property taxes than last year.

Developing a Comprehensive Plan to help create a roadmap for Franklin Park as it pertains to land use, development

opportunities, public facilities and open space. Funding is provided by a Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMAP), Technical Assistance Grant valued at over **\$90,000**.

Received a CMAP grant to provide assistance to study, assess and make recommendations for the future development and redevelopment of the Franklin Park-O'Hare Industrial Corridor.

Adopted new zoning regulations to regulate future development in downtown Franklin Park through a Regional Transportation Authority grant to facilitate attracting more transit oriented developments.

Secured a CMAP Technical Assistance grant to allow for the creation of a truck routing and infrastructure plan. The plan will assist ten area municipalities to best prepare for the increase in truck movement, better support local industrial activity and boost the competitive advantage of the region.

Received a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant for **\$3101.79** to fund the purchase of eight Bulletproof Vests to help protect our officers.

Secured a **\$36,686** grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to allow the Franklin Park Police Department to hire back sworn police officers to provide traffic enforcement for child restraint, seatbelt, speeding, and alcohol related violations.

Obtained a **\$1980** grant from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission to allow our Police Department to conduct three separate checks and provide education to retail establishments selling tobacco products, within the Village.

Secured an IDOT E-Lap Grant for **\$18,140.50** to support purchasing equipment to facilitate traffic enforcement.

Awarded a Department of Homeland Security grant for **\$26,000** to fund a Gang/Narcotic Enforcement Program in Franklin Park.

Received a **\$461,724** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to allow the Village to hire three new firefighter paramedics and cover the cost of their salaries and benefits for a two year period.

Increased efficiency in emergency services creating faster response times to resident's doorsteps by redeploying an ambulance to Fire Station #2.

Awarded an Illinois Youth Recreation Corps Grant for **\$25,920** to allow the hiring of summer youth employees to beautify Franklin Park.

Saved over **\$4200** in gasoline costs with the replacement of outmoded Village vehicles with two electric vehicles.

Increased corporate sponsorship and donations for family-focused community events including more than **\$70,000** to support Railroad Daze and Christmas in Hammill Square.