

# Village News



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

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Emergency 911

Police & Fire  
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847-678-2444

**Village Hall  
will be closed  
on Monday,  
January 18.**

## Mayor's Desk

### Protecting the Taxpayer

In November we announced three referendum questions that the Village Board of Trustees has placed on the March, 2016 ballot. One of those referenda asks residents if the Village of Franklin Park should become a unit of Home Rule government.

As you know, most of our neighboring communities are Home Rule. Home Rule status is allowed, by state law, to municipalities with a population of over 25,000. This binding referendum would give Franklin Park the same self-governing privileges.

We are very aware that many have concerns that if our Village becomes Home Rule, property taxes would increase. The Board of Trustees and I have conscientiously held the line on taxes for the last six years. Although the Village could have legally raised real estate taxes each of these years, we did not. We exercised restraint, as well as budget discipline to protect you, the taxpayer.

The Board and I have a strong commitment to keeping costs low and responsibly using tax dollars. We made it a priority to find non-property tax revenue to improve our streets, sewers, and sidewalks through the 1% Non-Home Rule

sales tax. We also aggressively sought grants that allow us to enhance our Village and maintain the public safety without impacting the property tax.

*Because of our sensitivity to property taxes, the Village Board unanimously passed a resolution pledging to abide the Property Tax Cap even if the Village becomes Home Rule.*

The Illinois Property Tax Cap restricts real estate tax increases in non-home rule communities to no more than the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less. We pledge to you that we will abide by that Tax Cap.

### Increasing Safety, Transit and Mobility

I want to offer our thanks to Senator Dick Durbin and our Congressman Mike Quigley for passing the FAST Act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation. This important legislation gives our region much needed resources for transit and highways. Of great importance to Franklin Park, and an aspect of the bill for which I lobbied, is increased safety regulations for freight trains

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## Sponsors Light Up Franklin Park for the Holidays

Local sponsors helped to make the Village's annual Tree Lighting event a fun evening for area families. Mrs. Dahl and the children of District 84 got everyone in the holiday mood by singing Christmas carols and then helped Mayor Pedersen to light up our tree. Thank you **Nestle** for once again generously donating candy for Santa and Mrs. Claus to hand out to the children. Our friends at **Bean Express** and **Two Chefs** provided the hot chocolate. Also, thank you to the **Kiwanis Club** for donating peanuts and **Starbucks** for the festive cups!

Thank you to the following corporate sponsors for your generosity and support in funding the Village's annual event:

**The Hill Group**  
**Nelsen Steel Company**  
**Pan American Bank**  
**Sam's 24 HR Service Towing, INC**



## Please Recycle Your Christmas Tree

The Village will pick-up discarded Christmas trees (real trees only!) on January 4 and 11. Put your tree on the front parkway by the 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 up and then chip and mulch the trees and use it to support our landscaping.



◀ *Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) President Mariyana Spyropoulos and Chairman of Finance Frank Avila presented Mayor Barrett Pedersen with a special award. The award is in recognition of the Village's commitment to the health of our residents and the environment by utilizing natural lawn care on all Village-owned properties and for educating residents and businesses about natural lawn care techniques.*





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especially tank cars carrying crude oil and ethanol. These enhanced safety regulations are critical for the well-being of our families and neighborhoods.

**Check Your License Plates!**

Due to the Illinois budget crisis, the Secretary of State is not mailing vehicle registration renewal reminder notices. Please check the sticker on your plates and make sure you are up to date. You can sign-up to receive notices via e-mail and also get more information at the Illinois Secretary of State website, [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

Wishing you and your family a very happy and healthy 2016!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ *Congratulations to Police Officer of the Year, Officer Tom Ferris and Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Doug Halverson who were honored at the annual holiday dinner hosted by the Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club. Also attending the event was Fire Chief Bill Brehm, Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Police Chief Michael Witz. Thank you to all the dedicated members of our Police and Fire Department for their hard work and commitment to our community!*



▲ *When the Franklin Park Fire Department needed a wall-mounted organizer for emergency supplies in Fire Station #2, they turned to a local company for assistance. Design in Plastics, located on Franklin Avenue, was able to custom build one at a lower price than any other supplier. The new organizer provides equipment for the new ambulance currently in service to our Village.*

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](tel:847-671-8236) o por correo al [dhenriquez@vofp.com](mailto:dhenriquez@vofp.com).



▲ *Have you noticed our new fence that was installed from Calvagner to 25th Street? The fence helps to improve the look of the area along the railroad tracks which is visible to local residents. It also creates a positive perception of our town for Metra riders who travel through Franklin Park.*

**Best Decorated Homes for the Holidays**



2500 Westbrook



9532 Nichols



3527 Britta



**Thank you for making our Village shine a little brighter this year!**