

# VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

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THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

March 2019



Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Barrett F. Pedersen

Mayor

Irene Avitia  
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  
villagenews@vofp.com

Emergency 911

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

**Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall from 9 to 11:30 AM on Wednesday March 13, and 27**

## Village Offering Trees for Parkways

Did you know that by planting trees in our community we can increase the canopy cover which improves our air and water quality, helps to reduce flooding, diminishes heat effect, and cuts your energy use? Through our participation in the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI), the Village learned that Franklin Park is in dire need of more trees to help increase our canopy cover. The good news is that we have an opportunity to fix that!

This spring, the Village will begin planting, at no cost to residents, trees on parkways throughout our community. If you would like a tree planted in your front parkway, contact the Utilities Department at (847) 671-8253. Imagine lowering the cost of your air conditioning by simply planting and caring for a tree! You can read more about our "urban forest" at <http://chicagorti.org/sites/chicagorti/files/FranklinParkExtended.pdf>.



## Community Garden Space Available

Around this time of year, many of us start thinking about what we can do to welcome the arrival of spring. Visions of flowers and thoughts of vegetable gardens come to mind. But unfortunately, not everyone has space for a garden. With this in mind, the Village has established a Community Garden located between the Veteran's Memorial and Village Hall on Belmont Avenue. The Community Garden is open to residents interested in growing flowers, veggies and herbs this year. Please call Andy Smolen at 847-708-2963 if you are interested in learning more or to reserve a growing space. Please note that if you reserve a space, you must commit to regularly maintaining and weeding the area. Our hope is to build a community within our community that will offer residents an opportunity to grow their own!

## Branch Pick-up Schedule for 2019

The Village will begin regular branch pick-up service on April 1. Please place all reasonably sized branches where you put your trash for collection by 7 AM on Monday of the pick-up week indicated below. The branches will be picked-up sometime by the end of the day Friday.

If your branches are put out late (after 7 AM on Monday of the pick-up week), it is possible that you could miss the pick-up. Village trucks begin promptly and if they have already driven through your section of town, your branches will not be collected until the next scheduled pick-up week. Also, please be aware that due to unforeseen circumstances such as storm clean-up, the Village may need to delay a scheduled pick-up. In this situation, we will resume branch collection where we left off the following week.

If you have any questions regarding the pick-up schedule or size and weight requirements, please call 847-671-8252. Pick up weeks are:

- April 1, 15, 29
- May 13, 28
- June 10, 24
- July 8, 22
- August 5, 19
- September 3, 16, 30
- October 15, 28
- November is weather permitting due to leaf pick up



Mayor Pedersen participated in World Read Aloud Day at Scott School and read *A Clean Sea: The Rachel Carson Story* to 3rd graders.

## Mayor's Desk

### One of the Lowest Tax Rates of Any Comparable Municipality

One of the top priorities of my administration has been to manage your tax dollars wisely. Thanks to a dedicated Board of Trustees and a hard-working staff who are committed to increasing efficiencies, Franklin Park has one of the lowest tax rates of any comparable municipality in the area. Additionally, our work to stabilize our Village finances has resulted in ten years of virtually no increase in the Village's share of the property tax levy.

We have increased our strong financial position and achieved an A+ bond rating. This is a drastic change since 2009 when we first came to office and the Village was not even considered to be investment worthy.

### Industrial Development is Thriving

Along with our conservative budgeting and careful spending, we have also stabilized our tax rate by attracting more businesses, investment and jobs to Franklin Park. In fact, our industrial development efforts have resulted in \$756,968,699 of new development added over the last six years! We have also garnered \$64 million in grants over the last 10 years, including \$29.5 million in 2018.

Having a robust business community is critical because it helps to keep our residential property tax rate stable. New businesses add to our industrial tax base so that we can keep the residential tax rate low. Franklin Park never offers taxpayer giveaways to relocating companies, nor do we ever offer tax abatements, water or sales tax reductions.

### Franklin Avenue Improvements – Connectivity-Congestion Relief-Quality of Life

Modernizing our infrastructure is critically important to attracting and retaining

businesses. Our proximity to O'Hare International Airport and the regional rail and roadway networks is critical to a strong industrial base.

The Franklin Avenue Improvement Project is an investment of over \$30 million in our community and improves public safety, relieves congestion and enhances access for our residents. This will allow us to attract even more businesses and continue to be an industrial powerhouse location for the region.

Franklin Avenue will be widened from two lanes to five from Runge Street to east of Mannheim Road. Our community will enjoy more regional connectivity with a new connection to and from I-294 to I-490, along with a northbound exit and southbound entry onto Franklin Avenue.

A new sewer system is being constructed to reduce flooding. A shared bike path for cyclists and pedestrians will be added enhancing our quality of life. Modern traffic signals, better lighting and two turn lanes will increase safety.

This important regional project is a great example of how we work to attract industry to and keep residential property taxes low.

### Safety First

One of the primary reasons we are so careful with your tax dollars is to be sure we have the resources to keep our neighborhoods safe. Our Police Department is very focused on spending wisely. In 2018, over \$32,000 in grant money was awarded to the department to supply bulletproof vests, increase tobacco enforcement and awareness and to purchase equipment that enhances traffic enforcement.



◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

Our Police Department has put a strong emphasis on training and providing cutting-edge technology to ensure our officers can capably respond to any situation.

Innovative approaches including a visible presence in the community, our Neighborhood Watch program and increased outreach to our senior residents has proven to reduce crime. In 2018, overall arrests and crime were down. Join me in thanking our Franklin Park Police Department and all officers who serve the community.

**A Year of Giving**

We have dedicated this year to increasing volunteerism and philanthropic efforts throughout our community. If you have an organization that has volunteer opportunities, or would like to volunteer, please use our contact page on our website.

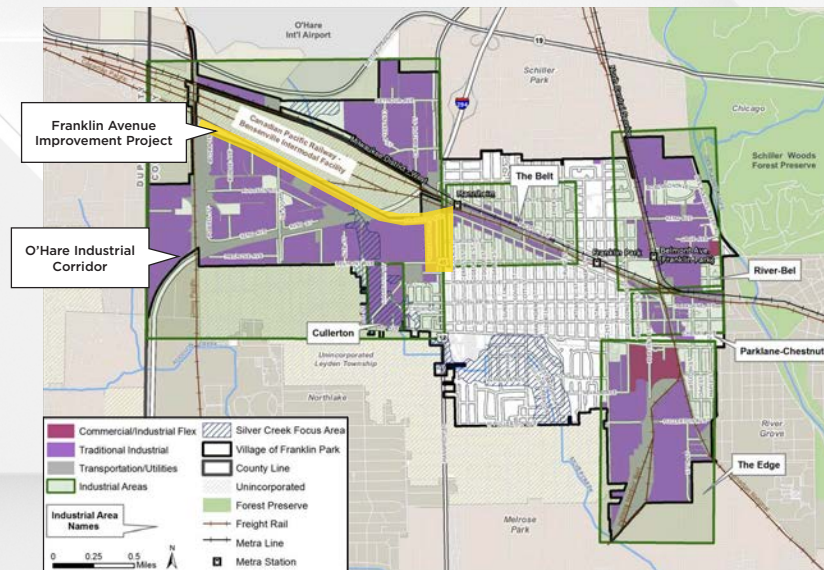
*Barrett F. Pedersen*  
 Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



DB Schenker has moved into their new facility located at 10501 Seymour Avenue. The company is one of the largest integrated logistics Service Providers in the United States. Welcome to Franklin Park!

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- Franklin Park is one of the top industrial communities in Illinois; home to manufacturing, logistics and Canadian Pacific Railway's intermodal facility.
- The O'Hare Industrial Corridor Plan (2015) defines Franklin Avenue as a major truck route for international, national, regional, state and local freight movement. Franklin Avenue is part of the Primary Highway Freight System.
- To foster growth and innovation, and to keep up with growing traffic demands, the project will explore improvements along Franklin Avenue from Runge Street to east of Mannheim Road.



**Smart 911 App Can Better Protect Residents in Emergencies**



Over 80% of calls made to 911 come from mobile phones. When you dial 911 from a mobile phone, the 911 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. This could be a serious problem in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or are unable to safely speak.

The new Smart 911App provides call takers and first responders with the critical information needed in any kind of emergency. Call takers can view your address, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.

Smart 911 is a national service meaning it travels with you and is visible to any participating 911 center nationwide.

You can also sign up for notifications from the National Weather Service based on your current location, including tornado warnings, flash flood warnings, and severe thunderstorm warnings based on your real time location. You can also include alerts regarding traffic, road closures, Amber alerts, police pursuits and other emergencies.

Residents who have registered to receive these alerts can view them even when they don't have cell service. Search "Smart 911" in your mobile app store or text "Smart 911" to 67283 to receive the download link via text message.

**Conduct Transactions Safely at the Police Station**

Buying and selling over the Internet has become very common, but don't leave yourself at risk! Providing your home address to unknown persons or completing transactions in an unfamiliar area is a safety concern.



The Franklin Park Police Department recommends conducting the transaction in a safe location. Residents and business owners, who buy and sell on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace or other exchange sites, can transact in the parking lot or lobby areas of the Police Department. The parking lot and lobby areas are monitored by staff and security cameras 24 hours a day and are well-lit in the evening. Also, only accept cash or a cashier's check for the sale. Personal checks carry some risk.

**Early Vote at Village Hall**

Franklin Park's Village Hall will host early voting for the Consolidated Election on April 2, 2019. Early Voting runs from Monday, March 18 through Monday, April 1. This includes two Sundays, March 24 and March 31. Take advantage of this convenient and easy way to participate! Early voting will be held in the conference room located behind the Clerk's Offices which you can enter directly from the parking lot. Early Voting hours are:

- Monday - Saturday, March 18 - March 23 9 AM – 5 PM
- Sunday, March 24 10 AM – 4 PM
- Monday - Friday, March 25 - March 29 9 AM – 7 PM
- Saturday, March 30 9 AM – 5 PM
- Sunday, March 31 10 AM – 4 PM
- Monday, April 1 9 AM – 5 PM