

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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**Village Hall
will be
closed on
March 25
and 26.**

Mayor's Desk

Telephone Town Hall Answers Questions On Home Rule

Our Telephone Town Hall meetings always include a great exchange of information. I enjoy getting feedback from our residents on our progress. Residents also have the opportunity to bring any issues in their neighborhoods to my attention. It also is helpful because it gives participants the opportunity to ask questions or to get clarification on Village programs.

During a recent Telephone Town Hall, many residents said they were happy that the Village Board 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.
- 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.

Participants also applauded the fact that the Board has held the line on property taxes for the past six years, and thanked us for being fiscally responsible.

But there were several questions about from where the tax revenue would be coming in order to rebate the property tax.

A New Revenue Stream

If we become Home Rule unit, the Village would explore imposing a fifty cent per day user fee at parking lots near O' Hare that are located in Franklin Park. These fees would be paid by non-residents who travel on our streets but pay no property taxes towards their upkeep. All our neighboring communities, who are Home Rule, impose such a fee, but at this point Franklin Park cannot. This new revenue stream would not only diversify our revenue sources but also reduce our reliance on property taxes.

I hope that clarifies questions concerning the potential revenue stream.

◀ Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2.

Please Recycle Correctly

Franklin Park residents have embraced the practice of recycling since the Village provided large recycling carts. According to our waste hauler Republic Services, the volume of material recycled per household has increased 15% from 2014. Over 1658 tons were recycled in 2015, an increase of over 200 tons over 2014!

The bad news is that a significant portion of material that residents are putting in the recycling carts is not recyclable. In fact, by placing the wrong items in the recycling bin, the acceptable recycling items become contaminated and must then be hauled away and deposited in a land fill.

The Village has created a Guide to Recycling which details what is and what is not acceptable. Please go to vofp.com to learn more.

The following items should NOT be placed in the recycling carts:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic film including shrink wrap
- Non-food and non-beverage plastic packaging, such as hard casing for compact disks
- Plastic objects such as toys, plastic knives, forks, spoons and disposable plates
- Metal hard ware items and fixtures
- Paper and cardboard with food waste or liquids



Community Blood Drive Scheduled For March 11

The next Blood Drive will be held on March 11 from 3 to 7:30 PM at the Franklin Park Community Center. The drive is held in partnership with Life Source and the Village's Senior Commission. Blood Drives help to save millions of lives each year! The donation process is quick, easy and painless! Please take the time to donate blood and give the gift of life.

Earth Day – Save The Date



The Park District of Franklin Park's annual Earth Day Celebration will take place at North Park on Saturday, April 23 at Noon. Everyone is invited to join us for this community celebration featuring District 84 and 212 students, music, interactive booths, sustainability vendors, nature, crafts, games and prizes!

This fun, family-oriented event is free and is held outdoors. You can take some time to explore the nature garden at North Park while learning how to keep the earth clean. Hope to see you there!



▲ Engineers and construction crews continue to make progress on the Silver Creek Channel Improvement project. Check our website at vofp.com for updates.





◀ **Mayor's Desk** Continued from Page 1.

If you have not participated in a Telephone Town Hall, I encourage you to get on our next call. You can get informed without leaving your home! Upcoming calls will be listed in the newsletter and our website!

A Caring Community- An Inspiring Young Man

Nothing reflects the nature of a community more than the character of our youth. Travis Hall was bothered by the public health crisis in Flint, Michigan. He wanted to do his part to get clean, safe drinking water to the people of Flint. He called upon his friends and family to begin a water drive and then contacted our terrific Police Officers and Fire Fighters to lend support to the effort. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the collection drive was a big success and featured on Channel 2 News. Travis gave up his President's Day holiday weekend to deliver the water to Flint.

Thank you Travis for bringing our community together for such a worthy cause!

A Safer Community - Village Crime Rate Declines

As always, we are grateful to our Police Department for keeping our community safe. The State's Uniform Crime Reporting Index and the Police Department's 2015 Annual Report noted that crime continues on a downward trend in our Village. Since 2010, our town has seen a steady decline in the number of total offenses and also experienced a significant reduction in the number of burglaries and thefts in our area. Congratulations to all our officers, as well as all the law abiding citizens who help make this a great Village.

Barrett F. Pedersen
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▲ Local resident and fourth grader Travis Hall worked with the Franklin Park Police and Fire Department to collect water at Village Hall for the residents of Flint, Michigan. Travis and his mom delivered 548 cases of water and 40 gallon jugs to the citizens of Flint. Mayor Pedersen and Travis were interviewed by CBS TV Channel 2.



▲ Franklin Park welcomes Zacatecas to our Village! The new restaurant is located at 10150 West Grand Avenue and offers authentic Mexican food. Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Trustees Karen Special, Bill Ruhl and Jimmy Caporusso cut the ribbon with the owners recently to celebrate their grand opening.

Village Receives \$90,000 To Fund Facade Rebate Program

In 2015, Franklin Park was awarded \$90,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to be used for a new Grand Avenue Facade Rebate Program. This is the second consecutive year the Village has been awarded CDBG funds from Cook County. The CDBG program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), distributes funds to communities to solve critical, social, economic and environmental problems facing urban communities.

The goal of the Grand Avenue Facade Rebate Program is to beautify and revitalize the Grand Avenue commercial corridor and encourage economic development in the area. The program provides incentives in the form of rebates for work that contributes positively to the public right-of-way by improving individual storefronts and facades. The specific work may include:

- Repair or replacement of wall materials
- Tuck pointing and masonry
- Complete facade renovation
- Exterior lighting (attached to facade)
- Window/door replacements
- Awnings
- Decorative features

Applicants who plan to complete a minimum of \$5,000 worth of eligible improvements and who meet program requirements will receive a rebate of 25% of the total cost of the project. The maximum amount eligible for rebate is \$5,000 per project. Applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis in the order they are received until all the program funding is allocated. Applicants that receive a rebate must adhere to HUD regulations and any requirements set forth by the Cook County Department of Planning and Development. If you are interested in learning more, please call (847) 671-8278 or download an application at vofp.com.

Beware of Water Filter Scam

The Village is not endorsing nor is it requiring that you purchase a water filter for your home. There is no need to test your water for chlorine or others chemicals. Village officials have been informed that companies are representing themselves as Village employees in an attempt to sell water filters. If someone contacts you, please call the Department of Public Works at 847-671-8253 or the Police Department at 847-678-2444.



▲ The Façade Rebate Program aims to beautify and revitalize the Grand Avenue commercial corridor.

Sign Up For Information In Polish & Spanish

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