



Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



## Mayor's Desk

### Strong Financial Standing, Higher Ratings, With Lower Tax Levy

Hard work by our staff and due diligence by our Board of Trustees has allowed the Village's overall tax levy for 2016 to be at the lowest level since 2009.

Outstanding financial management has prompted Standard & Poor's to raise our credit rating to A+. This has allowed us to considerably lower our debt service levy which has declined over 25% since 2009, as well as our cost of borrowing, which we have used to achieve interest expense savings of \$3.4 million, over the next several years.

The Village portion of your overall Franklin Park tax bill has also declined. Only 17% of your property tax bill goes to the Village.

We know how hard you work for your money. Please know we are working hard to manage it wisely.

#### New Business, New Vitality, Without Incentives

We are all excited that Franklin Park will now have a Starbucks and a Chipotle. Digital Realty's expansion and new construction will revitalize Grand Avenue and make our town even more attractive for future business expansion and relocation.

Businesses seek out Franklin Park because of our convenient location, our access to markets and skilled labor and our reliable infrastructure. They also know that we

have cut the red tape, making it easier to expand, invest and grow. Our economic development professionals work closely with our business community to make sure that they have the resources they need to be successful.

What we do NOT offer in Franklin Park is taxpayer give-a-ways from the Village to attract business. How did we do it? The old fashioned way – hard work! I am proud that we have seen excellent growth. We have partnered with our local business and community leaders to create an environment for success. We listen to their needs and they have responded. You can look forward to more new business activity in the coming months.

#### Are the Trains Getting Longer?

Several residents have told me that it seems like trains are getting longer. Well they are right. As a matter of fact, the federal government now allows some trains to be up to two miles long! Waiting for a two mile-long train to pass can be frustrating, but being held up by a stopped train can be infuriating.

I have been in contact with the Federal Railroad Administration to discuss this situation and to express that this is a serious safety issue for our residents, especially students trying to get to school on time and also a commerce issue for our businesses. It is imperative that we

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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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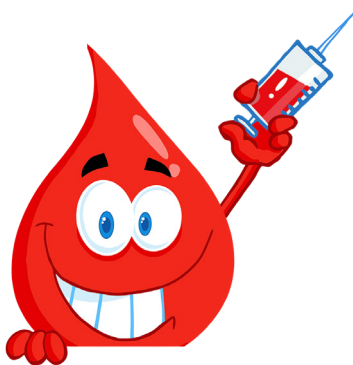
Emergency 911

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

**Save the Date  
for Franklin  
Park Fest  
featuring  
Railroad Day  
June 8 - 11**

## Apply Now for Sidewalk Program

Homeowners can apply now for the Village's 50/50 Sidewalk Program to replace damaged and cracked concrete or trip hazards on the public sidewalk near your home. The homeowner and the Village share the cost evenly. Please call Monica at 847-671-8217 if you would like to be placed on the list. The Village will contact you to make an appointment and discuss the details.



## Blood Drive In New Location on March 10

The next Blood Drive will be held on March 10 from 3 to 7:30 PM in the Community Room at the Franklin Park Police Station. 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.

## Village Will Name Street For Polish President

The Village recently passed a resolution to rename a section of Schiller Blvd. as Honorary Lech Kaczyński Way. The unveiling of the official street sign will take place at 11:30 AM on Sunday March 12 outside of St. Gertrude's Church. The section of Schiller, located between Gustav and 25th Street is being named in honor of Lech Kaczyński, who served as the Mayor of Warsaw from 2002-05 and as President of Poland from 2005 until his death in 2010.



## Sign-up for Information in Polish and Spanish

If you would like to receive information and updates in Spanish or Polish, please contact us!

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.





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report train stoppages. Please call 847-678-2444 and report the location of the stopped train; i.e. Cal Wagner, Ruby, 25th. Norcomm dispatchers will convey the time and date to our Police Department for further review. Making railroad officials aware of the problem will speed up a resolution.

**Are the Trains Getting Quieter?**

Soon! The Trustees and I know that Quiet Zones, areas where trains cannot use their horns, is of utmost importance to our residents. The Village submitted an application for a Quiet Zone on the Canadian Pacific line and was notified recently that our application was approved. We have been completing the necessary steps to qualify for a Quiet Zone and have Hancock Engineering designing the required safety measures at Rose and Ruby Streets and at the pedestrian crossings at the Metra Station and Calwagner Street. We will be working with Metra to get the improvements at the Metra Station and Calwagner designed and installed. Upon completion, the operating railroads will be notified that a Quiet Zone is in place. That will make us all sleep easier!

**Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen**

**Early Voting at Village Hall**

Take advantage of this easy and convenient way for you to Early Vote by visiting Village Hall. The Clerk's Office is hosting the site in the conference room located behind their offices, with easy access from the parking lot.

Early Voting hours for the upcoming April 4 General Election run from Monday, March 20 through Monday, April 3. There are no Sunday hours at this site. Early voting hours are:

- Monday – Saturday (both weeks) – 9AM to 5PM
- Monday (April 3)- 9AM to 5PM



**Telephone Town Hall – March 21**

Want to learn more about what is new in Franklin Park? Want an update on important Village projects? Then plan to participate in the next Telephone Town Hall scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 PM! If you do not receive a call from the Village at that time, you can call in toll free at 847-400-0841. Participants will be able to ask Mayor Pedersen questions and also participate in survey questions.



**BELMONT AVE. AND RIVER ROAD—FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS**

▲ **Remember this? The Club Hollywood was a restaurant and night club located at the corner of Belmont and River Road. A fire from a defective neon sign destroyed the building in 1951. As we celebrate our Village's 125th anniversary this year we will continue to highlight photos and memories from our past.**



▲ **Recently all Village employees participated in customer service training to ensure that our residents and businesses receive the clarity, courtesy and promptness they deserve in their dealings with the Village. The Village also has employees who speak Spanish and Polish available to assist as well.**

**Senior Seminar on Reverse Mortgages and More – March 30**



Mayor Barrett Pedersen will host a special seminar for seniors entitled “Reverse Mortgages, What the TV Ads Don’t Tell You”. The session will include a detailed explanation of the mechanics of a reverse mortgage loan and will provide a comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of reverse mortgages versus other various financial alternatives.

The seminar is sponsored by the Fair Lending/Home Preservation Law Project at The John Marshall Law School. It will also include information on how to recognize and avoid the most common scams and frauds that target seniors including financial exploitation.

This FREE seminar will be held on Thursday, March 30 at 10:30 AM in the Community Café in Park District's North Park. Registration is not required. The event will also include information from other organizations that serve our senior community. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 847-671-8236.

**Senior Citizens – Apply Now for Grass-Cutting Program**

The Village is accepting applications now for the Senior Grass Cutting Program, which will run from May until the end of October. Qualified seniors will pay \$7 per cut. Applications are being mailed to past participants. New applicants should go to Village Hall or call 847-671-8240. If you have previously been on the grass or snow program and your health condition has not changed, you will not need to send in a new doctor's note, but will need to submit an application. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited, so get your applications in as soon as possible!



**Are You 65 or Older? Then You Qualify for Exemptions!**



Senior Citizens receive free garbage pick-up service in Franklin Park. To receive this benefit, bring your water bill and a valid Drivers License or State ID to Village Hall to update your records. Seniors also qualify to receive a free vehicle sticker each year and for the Village-subsidized grass-cutting and snow removal.

Also, state law now requires that seniors have to reapply annually for their Senior Exemption on their Property Taxes. Go to [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) or contact the Cook County Assessors Office for assistance.

