



Admission is free!

Christmas at Hammill Square

presented by

The Village of Franklin Park

Annual Tree Lighting & Winterfest

Thursday, December 4th

6 to 8 PM

Hammill Square Gazebo
at Belmont & Edgington

Children can have photos taken
with Santa and Mrs. Claus!



- ★ Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 elementary school students.
- ★ Help decorate our Village Tree! Bring an ornament from home or make one at the Park District's Children's Craft Table.
- ★ Winterfest will feature food and holiday items for sale. Enjoy refreshments, served by our Village Mayor and Trustees. Celebrate the season with your neighbors!
- ★ Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry. New socks will be collected by District 84 PTA. The Village will be collecting old and non-working lights and electrical cords to be recycled.



Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2014

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Mayor's
Desk



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

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

Village Hall will be
closed on Nov 11
in observance of
Veterans Day and
November 27, 28 & 29
for Thanksgiving

Our Village Wins Governor's Sustainability Award

Franklin Park was presented with a Governor's Sustainability Award for 2014! The awards are given to organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

This award is a great achievement for Franklin Park. Our Village has embraced the notion that sustainable practices are not only beneficial to our planet but must be fiscally responsible too. The Board and I have made it a priority to adopt sustainable practices when addressing municipal functions whenever possible and we have worked hard to encourage our residents and businesses to also embrace sustainability.

The Village was recognized for building a LEED Gold certified police station that includes cutting edge storm-water management practices which utilize green infrastructure to capture, filter, infiltrate and detain storm-water runoff. The new police station incorporated innovative, sustainable energy features, including a high efficiency ventilation system making the building 96% energy efficient and LED lighting systems with motion switches in every room, helping to reduce energy costs. Rainwater from the roof is collected into a cistern and used to flush toilets and for irrigation to reduce water use.

The Village was also recognized for our efforts to replace outdated vehicles with energy efficient Electric Vehicles and for installing charging stations at Village Hall, the Metra Train Station and encouraging Walgreens to do the same. By adopting an aggressive public information campaign to encourage residents to more fully utilize the existing community-wide recycling program, the Village has increased the amount of recycling per household from 8.2 to 10.9 pounds per week. An anti-idling policy restricts police

vehicles from idling on area streets resulting in gasoline savings of \$40,000 and eliminated the release of 27,818 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere annually.



Construction is in full swing on Westbrook and will provide for important infrastructure upgrades.

All these initiatives help to save our Village money and have a positive impact on our planet.

Construction Underway on Westbrook

Work is continuing in the Scott Street Basin on Westbrook between Scott Street and Fullerton Avenue. This important infrastructure improvement project will separate the existing combined sewer system on Westbrook, Hawthorne, Elder, Herrick, and Wrightwood. In addition to the sewer separation, these streets will be completely rebuilt and this area will also receive new water mains, and sidewalks. The Village has established a coordinated effort with NICOR to install new

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

gas lines preceding and during the project to avoid the newly constructed streets from having to be dug up to repair older gas mains. The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2015.

Happy Thanksgiving!

I am thankful to have a job that I love, being able to serve the people of Franklin Park as their Mayor. I am thankful that I have great friends, healthy children and a loving family.

But I know not all are as blessed.

There are many who awake on this holiday, and every day, hungry, lonely or ill. So as we give thanks for our own blessings, please consider giving to others who may not be as fortunate. I urge all who are able to make a donation to a credible charity or the Leyden Food Pantry, volunteer at a senior home, visit a Veteran's Hospital, or spend time with a lonely neighbor.

Our compassionate community is what makes Franklin Park such a great place to live and raise a family.

I hope everyone's holidays will be filled with health, joy and laughter.

BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
MAYOR



Veterans Day Observance - November 11

Please plan to attend the Village's Veterans Day Observance presented in partnership with the American Legion Post 974. The event will be held on Tuesday, November, 11th at 11 AM at the Veterans Monument, located on Belmont Ave., west of the Village Hall. The observance will honor our veterans from all of our nation's conflicts and will feature a ceremonial "Laying of the Wreath" and a dedication of new names to the Veteran's Monument. For more information, call 847-671-8236.

Village Gets Low Interest Loan for Infrastructure Improvements

A \$5.3 million low interest loan from the State's Clean Water Initiative will allow the Village to make upgrades to our aging water infrastructure. The loan allows us to take action sooner and at a much lower cost to the taxpayers, saving taxpayers \$864,500.



▲ Governor Quinn announcing that the Village will receive an Illinois Clean Water Initiative loan to facilitate making water infrastructure improvements. Mayor Pedersen noted that the repair, replacement and revitalization of our aging infrastructure are critically important to remaining a safe, attractive and viable community.

The loan will be used to replace approximately 174,000 feet of old and deteriorating 4-inch and 6-inch diameter water mains with an 8-inch diameter water main in the Reuter Subdivision (Johanna, Reuter, Richard, Calwagner, Atlantic, Leona, Sonia, Nona, Sheila and Nevada) and WMRA (the West Mannheim Residential Areas). The funds will also cover the construction of approximately 4,500 feet of 16-inch diameter transmission mains between the Main Pump Station on Belmont Avenue to the King Street Pump Station. Additional work includes water main replacement and rehabilitation within the Cullerton Industrial Area (Cullerton, Wellington, and Hart).



◀ Village Plan Commission Chairman Jimmy Caporusso and Village Trustees Cheryl McLean and Karen Special are pictured with Governor Quinn.

New Grant Will Support Development of a Truck Route

The Village of Franklin Park prepared a technical assistance grant for the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMAP) for a truck route study on behalf of 10 neighboring communities. The grant was recently awarded through CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Program. The collaborative effort includes the O'Hare sub-region municipalities of Bellwood, Bensenville, Des Plaines, Elk Grove, Franklin Park, Itasca, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, Schiller Park, and Wood Dale. The grant will allow for the development of a plan which will strengthen existing freight infrastructure and boost the competitive advantage of our region.

The O'Hare sub-region is one of two major freight and manufacturing hubs in the Chicago metropolitan area and is home to over 3,300 industrial businesses, providing jobs to 73,000 employees. In Franklin Park, the truck route supports 424 industrial businesses with 13,000 employees. Excellent access to freight infrastructure is a primary benefit to industrial companies and the O'Hare sub-region truck network is especially vital in supporting our industrial base.

The Village has found that our industrial businesses are relying more on trucks over any other freight mode. Also, the completion of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access project is projected to increase the amount of truck movement throughout the area. This grant will create a truck routing and infrastructure plan to allow the O'Hare sub-region municipalities to best prepare for the increase in truck movement and also better support local industrial activity.

"Disconnected truck routes, poor roadway conditions and congestion are problems in Franklin Park that must be addressed," stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "A truck routing and infrastructure plan will help our Village plan for new connections, coordinate with neighboring municipalities, prioritize capital improvement projects and identify sources of funding. This grant will help to ensure the economic competitiveness of our Village as we prepare for the future."

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

A representative will be at Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning November 5th, from 9:30 AM to Noon to process LIHEAP applications. Please bring the following documents with you: a Social Security / SSI (monthly) benefit letter for 2014, your pension letter for the last 30 days, a valid Photo ID, Social Security Cards for all members in the household, proof of income for the last 30 days for all house members 18 years or older, a current NICOR and ComEd bill (disconnect notices have to be included if you are applying) and bring your Medical Card.



Property Tax Appeal Workshop – November 10

A special Property Tax Workshop will be held on November 10 at 7 PM. Officials from the Cook County Board of Review will be on hand to help residents understand the process of appealing the assessed value of their homes. The property value as assessed determines the amount owed on the tax bill, and residents can oftentimes receive a lower assessment upon appeal, meaning fewer taxes are paid by the appealing homeowner. The workshop will be held at Franklin Park Police Station in the Community Room. For more information about the event, check our Village website at www.vofp.com or call the Village at 847-671-8236.

Township Providing Assistance with Property Tax Appeals

Leyden Township is available to assist residents looking to file a property tax assessment appeal for their 2014 property tax bills (payable August 1, 2015). Residents can file an appeal at the Leyden Township Assessor's office, located at 2501 N. Mannheim Rd. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. The last day to file an appeal at the Township is Thursday November 20. The deadline to file an appeal on line at www.cookcountyboardofreview.com or at any of the Board of Review locations is Friday November 21, 2014. No appointment is necessary, but the Township Office will be closed on Nov 4 and 11. For more information, please call, 847-455-8616.

Telephone Town Hall – November 12

The Village will host a Telephone Town Hall on November 12 at 6:30 PM to discuss a variety of topics including how to file a property tax appeal. If you do not receive a call from the Village at that time, you can join the meeting by calling in at no cost. The toll free number is 847-448-0028.

Police Department's Toys for Tots Campaign

The Franklin Park Police Department will be sponsoring a Toys for Tots program this year to help spread holiday cheer to area children. Please bring an unwrapped toy to the Franklin Park Police Department and drop it off in the lobby at 9451 Belmont Ave. Toys will be accepted from November 28 through December 10. Thank you for donating!

