

Village News



Mayor's Desk

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

Street Improvement Program Wraps For 2015

Our 2015 Streets Program is winding down as we prepare for winter. We have been fortunate to complete so much work this season thanks to the 1% Non-Home Rule sales tax that was dedicated to this effort.

Many residents and business owners have commented on how happy they are to see these improvements throughout town. While not everyone has seen their street improved, these infrastructure improvements provide benefit to our whole community. We prioritized our work by rebuilding and resurfacing streets that were considered in failed condition. I want to thank our Citizens Advisory Committee on Infrastructure for helping us select these projects.

These much needed street improvements have enhanced our quality of life and increased our safety. Emergency and law enforcement vehicles can access incidents more quickly and safely. Vehicle damage is lessened when we do not have to travel on pot-holed streets. New businesses find our Village more attractive for investment because our streets are well maintained. Existing businesses are encouraged to invest and expand because they know we have reliable infrastructure.

None of these critical projects would have been possible without the funds received from the 1% Non-Home Rule sales tax. Franklin Park residents approved the referendum to enact this tax in November, 2014. These funds are dedicated solely to repair and maintain Village streets. They are not diverted for other purposes.

Referendum Questions on March Ballot

The Village Board approved resolutions calling for the placement of three referendum

questions on the March 15, 2016 ballot. The first referendum will ask residents if the Village should conduct a feasibility study regarding the construction of a pedestrian underpass near the Metra Station from Ruby to 25th. As you know, over the years, there has been some discussion about this major safety issue. Some Leyden High School students often go around stopped trains and lowered gates to get to school on time. Many parents have told me that though there has been education and awareness campaigns to stop this behavior, sometimes students follow their own rules. To address this issue, the Village wanted to allow residents the opportunity to provide input on this safety improvement. The feasibility study would give us a better idea of the practicality, budget and timeline to construct an underpass.

Another issue we frequently hear about in the news is the hiring of family members of elected officials within local government. While my administration has established a policy against such hiring, this referendum question asks if the Village should prohibit the hiring of a family member of any Village Officer, Director and Department Head as well as Elected Official.

The third referendum question asks residents to decide if the Village of Franklin Park should become a unit of Home Rule government. Most of our neighboring communities are Home Rule and this status is automatically allowed, by state law, to municipalities with a population of over 25,000. This binding referendum would give Franklin Park the same self-governing abilities.

Giving and Saying Thanks

Seems like such a simple statement, but one



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
November 11
in observance
of Veterans Day
and
November 26,
27, & 28 for
Thanksgiving**

Admission is free!



Christmas at Hammill Square

presented by

The Village of Franklin Park

Annual Tree Lighting & Winterfest

Thursday, December 3rd

6 to 8 PM

Hammill Square Gazebo
at Belmont & Edgington

Children can have photos taken
with Santa!

- ★ 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.





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that does not get said often enough. Now, as we approach the holiday season, I want to say **THANK YOU** to you, the residents of Franklin Park.

We have a warm, caring and committed community and I have the privilege of working with you as we maintain our quality of life and move our Village forward. **THANK YOU!**

THANK YOU! Thank you to our amazing, professional and dedicated Village staff. They work tirelessly to keep our Village safe, strong and beautiful.

THANK YOU! Thank you to our Village Trustees. There is no finer group of people and I am honored to serve with them.

I know I am fortunate. I have a job that I love, in a Village I love. I have great friends and healthy children.

Many do not share that good fortune. I hope all in our compassionate community will remember many who may be hungry, lonely or ill. So please remember to say **THANK YOU** to all you hold dear. But please, if you are able, make a donation to a credible charity, volunteer at a senior home, visit a Veteran's Hospital, send a card or just call someone who may be lonely. This Thanksgiving let's all pledge to share our blessings.

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

THANK YOU!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ *Lazy Moe's Mediterranean Grill has opened its doors at 9660 Franklin in downtown Franklin Park. Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Clerk Tommy Thomson, and Village Trustees James Caporusso, John Johnson, Bill Rubl and Andy Ybarra attended a ribbon cutting to welcome the business to Franklin Park.*

Village Welcomes New Fire Chief

Mayor Barrett Pedersen recently appointed long-time resident Bill Brehm to the post of Fire Chief. As Chief, he will work to enhance departmental training and education to continue to provide superior services to our community. He also plans to work on ways to increase the physical levels of our firefighters so they can safely perform their duties throughout their careers. "We say in the stations, 'Everybody Goes Home' meaning we all watch out for each other," said Chief Brehm. "Our goal is that at the end of every shift, every person goes home to their family. I want that to apply to the end of our career as well, where everyone goes home on their last day happy and healthy."



Bill Brehm is the Village's new Fire Chief.

Veterans Day Observance – November 11



Everyone is invited to attend the Village's Veterans Day Observance on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 AM. 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. The event is presented in partnership with the American Legion Post 974 and will be held at the Veterans Monument, located on Belmont Ave., west of the Village Hall. For more information, call 847-671-8236.

Senior Center and Community Café is New and Improved

The Senior Center and Community Café is giving our seniors a reason to visit the facility at the Park District's Center at North Park. They recently partnered with Hoffman House Restaurant of Rockford to prepare meals and have been receiving good feedback from diners. They added a steam table serving freshly prepared meals and a salad bar. And best of all, their price is still only \$3 per hot meal or salad bar!

The Community Nutrition Network & Senior Services Association provides funding to serve meals to senior citizens each weekday. For many of these seniors, it is the only hot meal that they will eat and for some, it is the **ONLY** meal they will eat. The Center and Café also provides a friendly place to socialize with other seniors, watch movies, play bingo & other games, and share information on nutrition and other resources.

Many seniors are on fixed incomes and cannot cover the cost of the meals, The Café is accepting donations from the community to provide additional support. For every \$3 collected, they can serve another meal to a frail senior. Volunteers are also needed to help with senior programs. For as little as one hour per month, volunteers can bring smiles and good nutritious food to seniors. To donate or volunteer, call 847-678-8777.



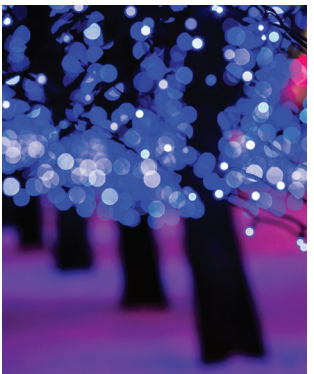
Police Department Collecting Toys



The Franklin Park Police Department annual Toys for Tots campaign aims to 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 14. Thank you for donating!

Bus Tour Of Holiday Decorations – December 11th

Sign-up now to participate in the Franklin Park/ Schiller Park/River Grove Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Bus Tour. View fabulous holiday light displays at the Lincoln Park Zoo and see the Carousel, enjoy refreshments and shopping and take a photo with Santa. The next stop is the Christkindlmarket in downtown Chicago at Daley Plaza. The Christkindlmarket offers great holiday shopping with unique gifts, a festive atmosphere and refreshments. You will have adequate time to walk and shop at both locations. The tour lasts about 3½ - 4 hours and departs at 4:45 PM at The Franklin Park Ice Arena. The fee is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child between the ages of 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. Seating is limited so reserve now at info@chamberbyohare.org or call 708-865-9510.



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

A representative will be at Village Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Dec. 9, and Dec. 23 from 9 AM to 1 PM to process LIHEAP applications. Go to voftp.com for details on requirements and documents needed.

Senior Snow Removal Program

Apply now for the program that allows seniors to pay \$15 per service request. Enroll now before it fills up by calling (847) 671-8240.