

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2014

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Mayor's Desk

The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

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VILLAGE HALL HOURS
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.
8-4:30 pm
Wed. 8-6 pm
Sat. 9-12 pm

Village Hall will be closed
on Monday, January 20

Telephone Town Hall
January 23 at 6:30 PM

* If you do not receive a call from the Village at that time asking you to participate, you can join the conversation by calling in at no cost! The toll free number is 847-448-0028.

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

As we begin a New Year in Franklin Park, I want to thank all of our Village staff who help to make our community safe, stable and secure. We continue to add new businesses, jobs and opportunities for our residents.

We want to give a warm welcome to one of the 'hottest' new businesses in town- Smoked on Rose! The owners Kostas Antypas and Kyle and Aaron Goldstein, have invested over \$250,000 in their new barbeque restaurant thus far. Included in that investment is a 6000 pound smoker that was brought to Franklin Park from Texas! This award winning business has over 30 years of experience and is a great addition to our local restaurant offerings. Smoked on Rose and their 25 foot long portable smoker will be participating in our local festivals and events this summer.

Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village officials welcome Smoked on Rose now open at 3531 Rose Street. The owners have hired from the community including from East Leyden High School.



It's GOLD!!!

As you know, the Village worked with its partners, FGM Architects and MTI Construction Services to implement sustainable design features in the construction and operation of our new Police Station. We are proud to announce that the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) have awarded our Police Station LEED Gold Status.

LEED is an internationally recognized standard of sustainable design practices. They are an independent, third party that verifies the project achieved high performance in environmental health, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and in-door air quality.

This facility optimizes energy performance, reduces water-usage and incorporates regional materials and recycled content into the project. These sus-

tainable features will reduce costs for the police department and create a healthier environment for the staff and the surrounding community.

Our citizens have always demonstrated a deep concern for our environment and because of their active involvement, our Village continues to be a model for sustainability.



Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



Mayor's Desk CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 March Ballot Measure

Last month we discussed the critical condition of our streets and that many are in need of extensive and expensive repair. Your Village government asked residents to participate in a Citizen Advisory Committee on Infrastructure to determine the best funding mechanism to bring our streets up to acceptable condition. The Committee met several times and came to the consensus that the funding mechanism to repair and replace failing streets was a 1% increase in the sales tax that would be dedicated to street improvement and repairs. We asked our citizens to respond to a mail survey and a phone poll to gauge their interest in pursuing a ballot measure. We also discussed the issue on our recent telephone town hall meeting.

Based on those responses and the consensus of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Infrastructure, the Board has decided to place the question on the March ballot.

Below is the question approved by the Village Board of Trustees that will be placed on the March 18, 2014, Primary Election Ballot.

This is a primary election, but registered voters do not have to declare a party if they do not wish to do so. You may ask the Judges for a referendum only ballot. This is true of Early Voting and Mail-in Ballots as well.

Franklin Park is strengthened by its engaged, active and involved civic community. We encourage all registered voters to vote and make their opinion known on this important matter.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Shall the corporate authorities of the Village of Franklin Park, Illinois be authorized to levy a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax (commonly referred to as a "sales tax"), each at a rate of 1%, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.3 and 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.4, for expenditures on the repair and reconstruction of public streets?

YES
NO

Franklin Park Focus: Water and Streets Division

It is a source of community pride that when it snows, Franklin Park's streets are often cleared much quicker than the streets of our neighboring communities.

Joe "Tiny" Lauro, the Village's Public Works Commissioner, is in charge of our Water and Streets Division and has the nickname Tiny but his job is not! "Tiny" and his dedicated staff at the Water and Streets Divisions are responsible for clearing over 76 miles of streets and roads and almost 19 miles of alleys. The Streets Division, part of the Department of Public Works, handles all public streets, right-of-way and landscaping responsibilities including street repairs, our forestry program, brush removal, street sweeping, alley maintenance and traffic and street sign replacement. But at this time of year, both Water and Streets Divisions make snow removal duties their primary focus.

They stay ahead of the game by being diligent about monitoring advancing systems. They consistently plan and execute coordinated snow removal strategies to ensure that our streets are passable, trash can be removed, businesses can operate and our children can travel safely to school.

During the historic snowstorm of February, 2011, over 20 inches of snow rapidly blanketed the region. Franklin Park's streets were so clean and clear that Franklin Park School District 84 was one of only three primary school districts in the entire Chicago metropolitan area that was open after the storm ended. We had many happy parents – and many disappointed kids!

Mayor Pedersen always gets phone calls of gratitude from business owners who are pleased they did not have to shut down or lose revenue due to impassable streets. Residents often stop the Mayor on the street to comment on how our roads are consistently cleared so quickly.

We know we will get snow. We know we may get some unexpected storms. Not even Tiny can totally predict Mother Nature. But even with a surprise snow storm, Franklin Park can be assured that the staff of our Water and Streets Division will put our safety first and have those plows ready for action at the first snowflake.



Alma Montenegro was recently appointed to serve on the Village's Plan Commission.

The Water and Streets Divisions make snow removal their primary focus during the winter months.



Village News



The Franklin Park Manila Lion's Club honored Lieutenant William Horn for his achievements with the fire department at their annual holiday dinner.

Lions Club Names Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year

The Franklin Park Manila Lion's Club recently held their annual holiday dinner and thanked our police officers and firefighters for their valuable service to our community. The organization also recognized two individuals for their hard work and dedication and selected them to receive the honor of Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year.

Officer Joseph Gulino was named as the Police Officer of the year for being one of the department's top officers in arresting drivers who are impaired. As a result of his effort and commitment, our roadways are safer. Officer Gulino has been a member of the Franklin Park Police Department since 2007.

Lieutenant William Horn was named the 2013 Franklin Park Manila Lions Club Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Horn proudly served with our Fire Department for over 29 years. Bill was born and raised in Franklin Park and his father taught in the Franklin Park School system. Lieutenant Horn recently retired and was thanked for his impressive career of service to our community.

Congratulations to Officer Gulino and Lieutenant Horn! Thank you also to all of our public safety professionals who work hard to provide superior service to our community!



Officer Joseph Gulino was honored by The Franklin Park Manila Lion's Club for his achievements as a police officer.

Let's Move This Winter! LET'S MOVE!

While the temperatures are dropping and the cooler winter weather is here, there are still plenty of ways for you and your family to stay active and healthy this winter!

Up for some outdoor activity?

Get Moving to Stay Warm:

Get your blood pumping during a game of neighborhood tag to stay warm on a chilly afternoon. Or, if you have a bigger group, organize a game of soccer or flag football for an action-packed hour of physical activity.

Play in the Snow:

Put on your boots and coat and get outside for some snow-filled fun! Make a life-sized snowman or build a snow fort.

Go for a Ride:

Grab a sled and find the perfect hill. Once you reach the bottom, race back up to the top for your next ride.

Explore the Great Outdoors:

Find a nearby trail and take a hike to explore nature this winter.

Too cold outside? Here are some ways to be healthy and active while staying warm indoors this winter.

Dance the Day Away:

Turn your living room into a dance floor and get moving to all of your favorite holiday tunes!

Shoot Hoops:

Check out your local community center and start a game of basketball to stay active and meet new friends in your community.

Cook a Healthy Recipe:

Head into the kitchen with your family and cook a new healthy recipe! Follow @LetsMove on Twitter to access healthy recipes and to learn tips for eating healthy.





Celebrating the Holidays in Franklin Park

The Village thanks all our generous sponsors who made a donation to support our annual Tree Lighting event. Bean Express Coffee and Two Chefs donated hot chocolate and Nestle USA provided candy for Santa to hand out to the children again this year. A very special thank you to The Godlewski Family for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree that lit up Hammill Square. Thank you to our corporate sponsors for making this a special night for our local families:

The Hill Group
Nelsen Steel Company
Reebie Storage
Sam's Towing



◀ The Franklin Park Holiday Tree lights up Hammill Square. The Tree Lighting event was made possible by local sponsors.



New Cell Phone Law Will Save Lives

In an effort to deter distracted driving, the Illinois legislature has made it illegal to use cell phones while driving without a hands-free device. Motorists could face a \$75 fine if they are caught. The new law takes effect on January 1 and also makes it illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving through a school zone or a construction zone.

The new hands-free driving law comes after Illinois lawmakers already banned texting while driving. Illinois becomes the 12th state, and the first in the Midwest, to prohibit the use of a hand-held cell phone while driving.



It's
the
law
in
Illinois

Leyden Credit Union ATM Installed at the Franklin Park Police Station

A Leyden Credit Union ATM is available to the public inside the Franklin Park Police Station. The machine will accept any credit union or bank ATM / Debit Card. There is NO charge for Leyden Credit Union members who use the machine or for members of any other credit union that are part of the Co-Op Network. There is a \$2 surcharge for non-members. The ATM is available from 8 AM to 10 PM.

Membership for Leyden Credit Union is open to anyone who lives, works, or worships in the townships of Leyden, Addison, Elk Grove, Lyons, Maine, Proviso and York. For more information on the Leyden Credit Union, visit www.LeydenCU.org or call 847-455-8440.



Dial-A-Ride Service Available in Franklin Park

Franklin Park residents can utilize the RTA's Dial-A-Ride service for assistance getting to medical appointments and for transportation to shopping destinations within Leyden Township and to select locations outside the area. This service is open to everyone and requires advanced call-in of up to seven days for medical appointments and up to one day for all other trips. Fares are Disabled \$1.25, Senior \$1.25, Student \$1.25, Other \$2.50. To make a reservation or to get the schedule, call 1-888-699-6999, 1-800-504-7689 TTY.



Library Announces New Hours

The Franklin Park Library, located at 10311 Grand Avenue, will be changing its hours beginning January 1. The Library will be open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM and on Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM. The new expanded hours on Friday will allow access to the Library after school and work on Friday evenings. The Library will also offer new programs for children, teens, and adults during the evenings.

In order to extend Friday service hours, the Library will be closed on Sundays. For more information about the Library and the services it provides, please call 847-455-6016.

