

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2014

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Mayor's Desk



Phone Poll Offers Good Insight

The Village conducted phone polling to determine if we should place a referendum question on the March 18 Primary ballot proposing a 1% sales tax increase. The majority of respondents supported the Board placing the question on the ballot and the Board complied.

Referendum Question on March 18 Ballot

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?

Phone poll respondents offered valuable insight regarding their support of the proposal. Most importantly, they indicated that well-maintained streets make us safer. Police and emergency vehicles can get to crime or accident scenes faster and our ambulances can quickly help someone in need.

The funds from this sales tax, NOT A PROPERTY TAX, will be strictly dedicated to the repair and maintenance of our streets. Groceries and medicine will not be taxed.

Phone poll respondents felt that the sales tax increase was the most equitable way to finance improving our streets because everyone who uses our roads helps to pay and not the homeowners.

We know many of our streets, as those in most mature communities, are in serious or failed condition. The cost of maintenance only rises if repairs are deferred, as they were by the previous administration. Consistently maintaining our streets saves taxpayer dollars over the long run. Potholes and unrepaired streets cause expensive wear and tear on our vehicles.

At the request of the Board of Trustees, strict accountability and transparency was built into the sales tax proposal. Should the referendum question be approved, the Village will report on how the proceeds of the tax were used and will provide updates on the street improvement projects. This information will also be
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The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen
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Tommy Thomson
VILLAGE CLERK

TRUSTEES:

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

Blood Drive - March 14th
from 3 - 7:30 PM at the
Community Center

Village officials cut the ribbon to welcome Sorrento's Village to Franklin Park. The restaurant recently relocated from unincorporated Leyden Township to a new location at 3853 Carnation Street. Sorrento's serves pizza, pasta, sandwiches, desserts and other Italian specialties.





Mayor's Desk CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

available on the Village website. In addition, our Citizen's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure will continue to meet to help prioritize projects.

Well maintained streets increase our property values and make us more attractive to new business and investment. Additionally, our businesses would not be placed at a competitive disadvantage because our surrounding communities already charge this tax.

Telephone Town Hall Scheduled for March

We want to make sure all our residents have the most comprehensive and factual information regarding this proposal so they can make an informed choice. The Village will be holding a Telephone Town Hall regarding this matter and you will be able to ask questions about this proposal. The next Telephone Town Hall will be held on Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 PM. If you do not receive a phone call from the village at that time, you can call in and join the conversation. The toll free number is 847-448-0028.

I urge you to participate so that you can make the best choice for our Village.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

On-Line Payment Option for Water Bills

The Village is now offering a new option to residents and businesses for making water bill payments. Payments can now be made electronically through the Illinois E-Pay system.

"We are very pleased to offer this convenient and easy to use option for paying water bills," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "Twenty-four hour access to bill payment is a necessity given our busy lifestyles. This program is another way we are making it easier for you to work with the Village." E-Pay is a safe and secure electronic payment program that allows you to pay bills 24 hours a day, seven days a week without leaving your home. The Illinois E-Pay System is administered through the Illinois State Treasurers' Office and allows local governments to provide this easy to use payment option to their constituents.

Payments can be made via E-PAY on the Village's website at www.vofp.com. The system currently accepts MasterCard, Visa and Discover. There is a small convenience fee charged for using this system. The fee is not charged or collected by the Village. Water bill payments, which also include sewer and garbage fees, can still be mailed to the Village, put in the drop box and made in person at Village Hall.

THE ILLINOIS FUNDS



Community Fitness Night Join the Fun!

School District 84 is hosting a Community Fitness Night on Tuesday, March 18 from 6 to 8 PM. This free event will be held at the Hester Junior High School gymnasium and is open to all families and students in the area. The fun-filled event will include fitness and nutritional information, games, sports, raffles, prizes and much more! It's a great way to get moving and meet new people. All students must be accompanied by an adult.

**Community
Fitness**



Cook County Needs Your Help to Plan for Natural Hazards



Cook County needs your input to develop a plan to prepare for natural hazards! By participating in this plan, local governments will be eligible for federal funding to help pay for actions that reduce the potential for natural hazards to harm life, property or the environment.

A public information survey is available online to allow you to provide input on your experiences with natural hazards in Cook County. Your survey responses will provide important information about how much citizens already know about natural hazards and how they are most vulnerable. The survey results will also be used to help prioritize projects to reduce our risks from natural hazards.

The survey will take only about 10 minutes to complete, and your participation and responses are completely anonymous. You can access the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CookCountyHazMit>. You can also use the camera on your phone or tablet to scan the QR code on this page and take the survey.

For more public information on the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan and how to participate in its development, please visit the plan's website: <http://www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org/hazard-mitigation-plan/>.



Scholarship Opportunity for Area Students

The Franklin Park/Schiller Park/River Grove Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student based on the following criteria: educational goals, grade point average, campus/community involvement, and application content and quality.

Applicants must be accepted as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, community college or trade school in the United States and have had a minimum 3.0 GPA in high school. In addition, applicants must be a resident of Franklin Park, Schiller Park, or River Grove; a U.S. citizen or permanent

resident, demonstrate financial need based on the FAFSA, and have developed in a leadership role in school, the community, employment, etc.

The scholarship opportunity is open to all Franklin Park, Schiller Park, and River Grove residents. The application may be accessed by contacting the Scholarship Chair, at info@chamberbyohare.org. Please include a contact phone number. Applications and all required information must be received by May 1, and the award selection will be completed by May 31. Please direct any inquires to info@chamberbyohare.org.



◀ Our Village Staff collected 913 items to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry recently, more than quadrupling their goal! A contest to see who could donate more took place between the 2nd Floor Team comprised of the IT, Community Development, Engineering and Building Departments against the victorious Clerk's Office, Finance Department and Administration team.

▶ Mayor Barrett Pedersen was this year's recipient of the Government Partnership Award from the Alliance for Illinois Manufacturing. The Mayor was selected based on his support and advocacy for manufacturers throughout the region. Joining Mayor Pedersen was John Schneider, the Village's Director of Community Development.





Seniors – It's Time to Apply for Grass-Cutting Program

The Village is accepting applications for the Senior Grass Cutting Program now, which will run from May until the end of October. Qualified Seniors will pay \$7 per cut. You can obtain an application at Village Hall or by calling 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 please get your applications in as soon as possible!



Grass Cutting for Seniors

Branch Pick-up Schedule for 2014

The Village will start branch pick-up on Monday, April 7. Please place all reasonably-sized branches where you place your trash by 7 AM on Monday of the pick-up week. Branches will be picked-up sometime by the end of Friday. Please note that the following dates are subject to change due to storm-related clean-up. If you have questions regarding size and weight restrictions, please call 847-671- 8217.

- April 7 & 21
- May 5 & 19
- June 2, 16 & 30
- July 14 & 28
- August 11 & 25
- September 8 & 22
- October 6 & 20
- November 3

Branch Pick-Up



Veterans Park District Hosts Football & Cheerleading Registration

The Veterans Park District will host the Leyden Bears Football and Cheerleading registration on Sunday, March 9, from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Grant Park Recreation Center, located at 44 Golfview Dr. in Northlake. The cost of registration is \$225 for one child, \$200 for the 2nd child and \$175 for 3 or more children in the same immediate family. A deposit of \$200 is due for each participant on March 9th. Cash, checks and Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Final balance for raffle tickets and the Volunteer fee will be due in July on equipment/uniform pick up day.

This is not a school sponsored event. All participants must have a parent or guardian present at registration and all children must be present at registration. Please note that each participant must have a copy of their birth certificate on file. If you have questions, please call Bill Otte 708-562-8323.



Cheer

Football Registration

Railroad Daze Needs Volunteers and Food Vendors

The Village needs your help at Franklin Park's annual Railroad Daze Festival scheduled for June 12 - 15. Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 14 during the main event which features train viewing including walk-on displays. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt!

The Village is also inviting area restaurants to participate in the fun! Sign-up now and reserve your space as a food vendor at the festival during the evenings of June 12 & 13 and during the day and evening of June 14. Each year our festival draws larger crowds who come to sample the food, enjoy the carnival, unique train display and musical talent. This opportunity offers great exposure to our local community.

For more information on volunteering or to sign-up as a food vendor at Railroad Daze, please email bcollins@vofp or call 847-671-4800.

