

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

AUGUST , 2011



Mayor's
Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

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 closed
for Labor Day
on September 5

Complete Your Garbage Survey

Our village's Garbage and Recycling contract is up for renewal soon. I know how important this issue is to our residents and I also know that in these tough economic times, negotiating the best possible rate must be one of our prime objectives. All village residents should have received a survey in the mail that asks for your input on our garbage service options. It is our goal to give our residents the best possible service as well as to negotiate the most affordable rates.

Your input regarding this issue is critical. By answering this brief survey, you will be guiding us as we structure the best possible program for all of Franklin Park. I am hoping that all our residents will please look for this survey in the mail and take the time to fill it out and return it to the village by August 22. Only one survey per household is allowed. Please call 847-671-8240 with any questions or if you would like to get a survey in Spanish or Polish.

Franklin Park Partnership Forging a Path into the Future

Bringing quality, sustainable jobs and investment to our village is one of my top priorities. We are working hard to lure new business to our village despite facing challenges from a difficult economy and aggressive competition from municipalities across the region. However, I believe Franklin Park is also uniquely poised to support the growth of our local business base and to attract businesses to fill our vacant properties and create jobs. The construction of the Elgin - O'Hare and the Southern Ring Road into Franklin Park will provide new opportunities to build our industrial base and revitalize our business parks and commercial corridors. But we must be ready to leverage these opportunities correctly.

Toward that end, I have created The Franklin Park Partnership and have asked our local business leaders to partner with us to forge a path into the future. This public private advisory board is comprised of local business owners and managers, representing commercial, corporate and industrial interests. We want to use their professional expertise and experienced opinions as we explore Franklin Park's strengths and weaknesses and any challenges or obstacles to long term success. The Partnership will also guide us as we create the best strategies to revitalize and promote our commercial areas.

Recently, we held our first meeting and I was impressed with the many ideas and suggestions offered which helped to clarify our goals and objectives. The group identified three priority areas of concern. They will examine literacy issues and explore how to expand workforce training through apprenticeship and internship programs. The Partnership hopes to expand our marketing efforts to promote Franklin Park for business location and expansion and they are considering an economic analysis to better understand our strengths and challenges.

Our business partners provide invaluable insights and experience and I look forward to working together on the Franklin Park Partnership to bring more progress and prosperity to Franklin Park.

BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Let's Move in Franklin Park



Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher in certain ethnic communities, where nearly 40% of the children are overweight or obese. If we don't solve this problem, one third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives or will face chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and lung disease.

Thirty years ago, most people led lives that kept them at a healthy weight. Children walked to and from school every day, got plenty of exercise at recess and in gym class, and played for hours after school and before dinner. Meals were home-cooked with reasonable portion sizes and fast food was an occasional treat.

Today, children ride to school in a car or bus, while gym classes and after-school sports in some communities have been eliminated. Afternoons are now spent with TV, video games, and the internet. These activities, in addition to busy lifestyles leave little time for home-cooked meals. Portion sizes have exploded and are two to five times bigger than they were in years past. The average American now eats fifteen more pounds of sugar a year than in 1970. It is estimated that eight to 18-year old adolescents spend an average of 7.5 hours a day using entertainment media, including, TV, computers, video games, cell phones and movies, and only one-third of high school students get the recommended levels of physical activity.

"Like many Americans, I was concerned when I learned about these statistics," said Cheryl McLean, Village Trustee. "I knew right away that I wanted to help play a role in reducing childhood obesity and to find a way to ensure a healthy future for our children."

While at a municipal conference, McLean learned about "Let's Move", a comprehensive initiative launched by the First Lady, which is dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity in a generation at a community level. Let's Move combines comprehensive strategies with common sense, and

endeavors to put children on the path to a healthy future starting with their earliest months and years and continuing throughout their lives. Recently, McLean initiated an effort to make Franklin Park a Let's Move community and has enlisted the help of the Park District of Franklin Park, representatives from the local schools, health care and government organizations, other elected officials and area residents. The kick-off meeting featured a presentation by Dr. James M. Galloway, Assistant U.S. Surgeon General and Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service. Dr. Galloway provided a detailed overview on the childhood obesity epidemic and discussed ways to address this issue in our community, including the development of strategies to foster environments that support healthy choices for our children. Monthly meetings are planned and information about Let's Move efforts in Franklin Park will be available in the newsletter and on the village website.

"Our families and our residents have expressed enthusiasm about making Franklin Park a more healthy community," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "By participating in the Let's Move initiative, we will be working with our areas schools and the Park District to empower our community to make healthy decisions about food choices and exercise. I look forward to working with our partner organizations and our residents to adopt a long-term, sustainable, and holistic approach to fighting childhood obesity."

"I realize that reducing childhood obesity is quite an ambitious goal," said McLean. "But I believe that by working together, we can decide as a community to make a few simple lifestyle changes that can help our children lead healthier lives and to grow up to pursue their dreams."

To learn more about the Let's Move initiative, go to www.letsmove.gov. or contact Cheryl McLean at 847-204-8333 or at cmclean@vofp.com.

Franklin Park's Business Update

Business activity for Franklin Park continues to be busy with many new companies locating or expanding in our village during the last month. **Advanced Fire Equipment** has located at 10358 Front Street and provides servicing of fire extinguishers. **Affordable Fire Protection, Inc.** provides automatic sprinkler systems and now established at 2426 Rose Street. The manufacturing firm **D Sign in Plastic, Inc.** has located to 10915 Franklin. **Northern Light Energy Inc.**, a company that recycles cooking oil and bio fuels, has moved to 9151 Fullerton. **Hi-Rise Metal Corp.** has moved into a facility at 9251 Parklane and provides polished metal services. **Home Choice**, a retail subsidiary of Rental Centers of America has located to 2717

Mannheim. **Pollux**, a company specializing in retail sales for cosmetics has located at 9645 Grand. The **CEDA** educational facility has expanded at its current location at 10113 Grand Ave to also include a Head Start Center. The firm **JCMS, Ltd.**, a small wood shop owner who creates, toy boxes, picture frames and various wood products has made 9249 Parklane, their new business address. **Mirello Mazzulla, LLC**, has located their warehouse operation at 10100 Franklin. **Schiller Park Auto Sales** is a car warehouse business and is anxious to open at 10251 Franklin. And finally, a new towing and wrecking operation, **Grand and Aberdeen Service Station, Inc.**, is open for business at 3450 River Rd. Welcome!

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Farmers Market Enjoy Summer's Harvest



The Franklin Park Farmers Market has been steadily adding vendors since it premiered the open air market in June and now features a dozen vendors providing fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and other baked or prepared goods, spices and plants and flowers. Interest has increased significantly in a just a few short weeks from vendors who would like to have a booth at the market and from the community who has come out regularly to support this first ever Farmers Market in Franklin Park. Village staff hopes to continue to grow the market through the summer and are looking to offer additional fresh and prepared food items.

"We started the Farmers Market in hopes of creating a meeting place for our neighbors to come together to enjoy the rich bounty of summer and enjoy the summer weather," said Pedersen. "So far

this summer, we have seen our residents join together to work in our community garden, to volunteer together to plant flowers along Grand, Franklin, Belmont and 25th, to clean and beautify our Metra Station and to hold block parties with their neighbors. These types of activities bring neighbors together and in communities where families know their neighbors, we see safer and more vibrant neighborhoods."

The Franklin Park Farmers Market will be open on the first and third Saturdays of the month through September (August 6 & 20 and September 3 & 17) during the hours of 8AM to 2PM. The market is located in the Police Station parking lot at 9545 Belmont, on the southeast corner of Rose / 25th Street and Belmont. Free parking is available.



Drive Now, Text Later – You Can't Do Both

January 1, 2011, marked the first anniversary of the state law that bans texting while driving in Illinois. However, a recent online survey indicated that 40 percent of Illinois Tollway customers did not know that it is illegal to text or e-mail at any time while driving on Illinois roads.

That's why the Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police, Illinois Secretary of State and AAA Chicago are urging drivers to "Drive Now Text Later." The statewide campaign is raising awareness of the dangers of texting while driving in an effort to reduce the number of cell phone-related accidents on Illinois roadways.

Over 90 percent of Consumer Reports' survey respondents believe texting while driving is very dangerous. About half considered using a handheld phone very dangerous. But while 60 percent said they are very concerned about distracted driving, almost a quarter of all respondents reported that it hasn't led them to reduce or stop such behavior.

In Illinois, preliminary 2010 data indicate that cell phone distractions, including texting, were the primary or secondary cause of more than 1,100 crashes. Nationally, nearly 5,500 people died in 2009 in distracted driving-related crashes and nearly half a million people were injured. An estimated 28 percent of all traffic crashes — about 1.6 million a year — are linked to motorists texting or talking on cell phones.

Unfortunately, texting while driving is a problem that isn't going away anytime soon, so getting others on board will make the roads safer for all of us. To learn more about the campaign and how to avoid distracted driving, go to www.illinoistollway.com.



Police Department Wins Two New Grants

The Franklin Park police department has been awarded a grant from Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System for \$156,056.88 to provide information technical support for cameras and license plate recognition software to help the department monitor the Intermodal Train Yard, and to provide training to officers in first response for train yard incidents.

The Franklin Park police department was also awarded \$19,646.40 from the Illinois Department of Transportation to support a 2012 Click It or Ticket Campaign. Over the past Memorial Day weekend, officers added to the safety of our streets by issuing over 140 citations through this program designed to increase seatbelt usage.



RAIL CROSSING

Thank you to all those who made this year's Railroad Daze 2011 a success, especially our Platinum & Gold Sponsors who made large donations to the event.

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Community Notes



West Nile Virus Alert

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Public health officials are asking all residents to take precautions to avoid bites by limiting your time outdoors between dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outdoors, wear long-sleeves, pants and socks, and use insect repellent with 30% DEET, primarily applied to clothing. Residents can also help reduce the mosquito population by eliminating breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down, covering trash containers to keep out rainwater and emptying birdbaths and wading pools every few days. It also helps to keep grass and weeds cut short and to make sure your screen doors close tightly to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

Dead bird collection is available by calling 847-671-8245 and they can determine if the bird is suitable for testing. Village inspectors are larviciding mosquito pools that are found and reported. Also, backyard catch basins will be treated by Inspection Services by contacting them at 847-671-8280.

Fire Pit's Are Not Legal in Our Village

Residents need to remember that there is a "No Open Burning" ordinance in Franklin Park that includes residential use of fire pits, despite what area hardware stores and home centers will tell you. Residents can contact the Fire Department at 847-671-8798 for more information.

Railroad Crossing Closed for Repair

The 25th Avenue Railroad Crossing will be closed for repairs beginning Monday, August 8 until approximately August 22. Watch for detour signs in the area.

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Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli meet with Durango, Mexico State Fire Marshall and representatives from Club Durango. They were in town to solicit new and used police and fire equipment to support the public safety efforts in Durango, Mexico. The Village of Franklin Park was pleased to lend support by donating \$3,000 of used fire department equipment including turn-out gear (firefighter pants and coats) and airpicks.