

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2011



Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen
MAYOR

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

Unilever Site Best Location for Police Site



After a long, thoughtful and comprehensive review of all possible sites for the construction of a new police station, the Unilever site at Edgington and Belmont was chosen as the most practical, cost effective and accessible site.

Though the Village owns several parcels of property, none were deemed appropriate for the location of a police station. Many of these parcels did not have ideal accessibility and were too close to the railroad tracks to provide optimal safety. Development costs were also taken into consideration, since a smaller parcel such as the Crossings Phase 2, would necessitate building on multi-levels.

The Grand Mannheim site is a prime retail site. We felt it was important that we retain this site for future commercial development and not remove such a desirable site from the tax rolls.

The Unilever site would require considerable and expensive retrofitting to make the property attractive to 21st century industrial users.

The Village was able to purchase the Unilever site at the lowest price per square foot of any recent purchase in Franklin Park or in the surrounding communities. Additionally, the use of this site for our police station will allow more of the Transit Oriented Plan to be implemented, further enhancing our Village's commercial and retail offerings.

For a complete explanation of our decision making process on this site, please go to www.vofp.com.

The Results Are In!

The Board and I are very pleased with the response to our recent survey on the Village's trash removal services. We had a 44% return rate and we are delighted that so many Franklin Park residents chose to have their VOICE heard.

And because we had such a large response, the results were definitive. Residents are happy with their current service and wish to continue with unlimited trash removed weekly, including yard waste and bulk items and are pleased that we will be receiving new 64 gallon recycling carts.

We are currently completing negotiations on a new contract that will include all these features and we are also attempting to get a slightly reduced fee.

We will have complete information on the new contract and the results of the trash survey in the October newsletter.

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◀ Congressman Mike Quigley and Mayor Barrett Pedersen talk to Franklin Park seniors about federal budget issues at the Senior Lunch.

Congressman Mike Quigley and Mayor Barrett Pedersen greet residents at Jewel and promote Baby Ruth candy bars, made ONLY in Franklin Park. ▶





Surrounding Communities and City of Chicago Lend Support in Super 8 Motel Fire

The multi-alarm fire at the vacant Super 8 Motel located at 3010 Mannheim Road began in the early morning hours of August 11 and grew into one of Franklin Park's largest fires in recent years. At least 14 fire companies and including the Chicago Fire Department at O'Hare International Airport quickly responded with aid.

"All of our surrounding communities including Melrose Park, Northlake and Elmwood Park immediately responded to our call for aid," said Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli. "The City of Chicago's fire department based at O'Hare Airport also quickly responded and lent eight firefighting personnel and provided multiple vehicles and major equipment, most of which we do not have available in Franklin Park."

It took firefighters about three hours to get the fire under control in the three-story building because a collapsed roof was obstructing their view and their fire streams. Luckily no one was injured in the blaze which was later declared to be a case of arson.

"I was pleased to see such a strong response by neighboring fire departments including the City of Chicago," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "Local residents and businesses did their part by providing food and refreshments to support the firefighters. Everyone worked together to lend a helping hand."

The village has moved to have the remaining buildings demolished quickly and hopes to have the property cleared and available to be marketed for new developments.



Events Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9-11

The Village of Franklin Park will participate in a **Silent Parade** to honor the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center disaster. Over 200 public safety vehicles from surrounding communities will display their lights only and no sirens will be sounded. The parade will begin at 7:15PM from DesPlaines and Roosevelt Roads in Forest Park and will continue west on Roosevelt through Maywood, Broadview, and Hillside and Westchester ending at St. Joseph High School, located at 10900 W. Cermak Road. A memorial service will be held in the gym in honor of the law enforcement and fire service officers who lost their lives that day. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and the community is encouraged to line the parade route and show support by holding flashlights or American flags.

Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen will give a keynote address commemorating the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America. The Mayor's address will take place at **St. Gertrude Church** on Sunday, September 11, at 3PM, during their annual festival. Everyone is invited to attend the short ceremony to be held outside, behind the church, at 9513 Schiller in Franklin Park.

The **American Legion of Franklin Park**, Post 974, will hold a ceremony on Sunday, September 11, at 9:30AM, at the Franklin Park Veterans Memorial, to commemorate the anniversary of the attack on the United States. The event will include the ceremonial lowering of the American flag to half-staff, a 21 gun salute, the playing of Taps and then raising the flag back to the top. The public is encouraged to attend.

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Farmers Market Wraps Up a Successful Season with New Venders



The Franklin Park Farmers Market will conclude its inaugural season on September 17th during the hours of 8AM to 2PM. The final market day will feature over a dozen vendors providing fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and other baked or prepared goods, spices and plants and flowers. They have also added a Polish food, children's books and tote bag vendors, plus some surprises. Plan to meet up with your neighbors to shop the freshest and finest produce this year's harvest has to offer. 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.



Village Pledges to Let's Move in Franklin Park

Franklin Park has officially become a Let's Move community! Along with the Park District, School Districts, Library and the community committee and volunteers; the Village of Franklin Park has made a pledge to become a healthy community for our children and families. The Let's Move program has established guidelines to help our community create a healthy start for children, empower parents and caregivers, provide healthy food in schools, improve access to healthy, affordable foods and increase physical activity. The next Let's Move meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 28 at 7pm in Village Hall. Residents are invited to attend. Get involved and bring your ideas! To learn more, go to: <http://www.letsmove.gov/>.

LET'S MOVE



Have You Experienced Damage from Flooding?

Throughout the summer, Franklin Park has experienced several high intensity rain storms, including another record rain event with 6.83" of rain in a 5 hour period on July 23rd. If you sustained damage, at any time, from either overland flooding or basement backup, please notify the village by completing the Damage Information Form as soon as possible.

We need your assistance in collecting this data to determine if funding is available to help with clean-up and to help the village to seek resources to alleviate future flooding. Please help us to compile information about where flooding has occurred and the damage it has caused to better facilitate ways to relieve flooding.

For your convenience, the Damage Information Form is available on the village web site at www.vofp.com. The form is also available at Village Hall, the Franklin Park Library and Community Center. If you need help completing the form, please contact Village Hall at 847-671-4800.



Thank you to the more than 50 residents who came to the aid of their neighbors and lent a helping hand by helping to fill sand bags after a record-setting rain storm on July 23rd that caused flooding in our village.

Mayor's Desk

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Many Respectful Voices

We are a community with many voices but with a united vision for a neighborly village that is safe, family friendly, affordable and prosperous. Respecting our neighbors is one of our cherished values.

Recently there was an isolated incident of some hateful, racist graffiti in a Franklin Park home. Though I cannot comment on that incident due to the on-going investigation, I can promise you that no talk, graffiti, threats or taunts of this nature will be tolerated in our Village.

This incident does not reflect our community values and it is not typical of what we stand for or how well we work together. When we hear this terrible story, please remember the joy we have of meeting our neighbors at the farmers market or local festivals, of working with our neighbors at our community garden or enjoying summer block parties as we make new friends. I am proud of our community, our diversity and our neighborly spirit that treats all with respect.



Barrett F. Pedersen
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Community Notes

LEAF PICK-UP REMINDER Please place your leaves in brown biodegradable bags and remember to put them out on garbage day with your recycling for pick-up. Bags are available for purchase at local grocery and hardware stores. Leaves cannot be picked-up if they are placed in plastic bags or in the street. Pick-up continues until December 5.

STREET SWEEPING BEGINS The Utility Department will sweep Village curbs from September 15 until December 1. Residents should check signs posted about street sweeping for more information.

TRIM WEEDS AND SHRUBS IN ALLEYS Remember to cut weeds that grow along your property near alleys to keep mosquitoes from breeding. Residents are also required by ordinance to maintain shrubs and small trees to keep the public way clear for garbage trucks and other vehicles.

HELP CATS FROM MULTIPLYING IN OUR COMMUNITY Due to the downturn in the economy, more pets are being forced onto our streets. The only effective, humane and economical way to control, reduce and care for the cats is through a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program. CatVando, a TNR Group is targeting the area between Grand & Fullerton and Mannheim & Ruby. They hope to reduce the population and train volunteers to continue TNR in Franklin Park. If you feed or know someone who feeds one or more cats in that area, inside or out, contact CatVando at 708-829-6013. To learn more about TNR and street cats, go to <http://catvando.org>. They are also seeking trained trappers to assist with the program. All information is confidential.

FALL FUN FOR FAMILIES The annual **St. Gertrude Fest** will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 3 – 10PM and on Sunday, September 11 from 11:30AM – 5PM. The festival will feature ethnic food, entertainment and a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The ceremony will include an address by Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen on Sunday at 3PM. St Gertrude Church is located at 9513 Schiller. Admission to the festival is free.



Triton College will host **Fall Family Fun Fest** on Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in their Botanical Gardens, located at 2000 Fifth Ave., in River Grove. Enjoy a full day of family-oriented activities including, a pumpkin patch, a corn maize, face painting, horticulture activities pastry decorating and a mechanical cow. For more information, call 708-456-0300, ext. 3220.

Join the fun on Sunday, October 2 starting with the **34th Annual Eddie Biondo Parade** starting at 1PM at Scott Street and Grand Avenue. The day kicks off with the **4th Annual Foundation 5K Fun Run/Walk** from 1:00-2:00PM. and the newly added, **Kids Mini Mile** for children 11 & under at North Park from 1:30-2:30PM. The 5K costs \$20 per person and at a discounted rate, \$70 for a team of four. The Kids Mini Mile costs \$10 per child and \$35 for a team of four. Families are encouraged to get moving for these great events! If you are unable to participate in the race, cheer on your family, friends and neighbors! Be sure to catch them at the finish line at North Park, where the Park District's **Pumpkin Fest Celebration** will take place immediately after the race and parade. Residents can select a bright orange pumpkin to paint and then bring home. The afternoon will be full of family fun - including music, prizes, face painting, games and great food!

Take Control of Your Health

The Franklin Park Community Center and Age Option challenge you to take control of your health!

Class Dates: Mondays, September 12 thru October 17 from 9:30AM – 12PM

Where: Franklin Park Community Center, 9560 Franklin Avenue

To register: Call Franklin Park Community Center at 847-455-2852 and sign up at least one week in advance. The cost is free.

This program is a series of six classes taught by two trained class leaders. Topics include:

- Coping with fatigue, frustration, and isolation related to ongoing health conditions
- Exercising to maintain and improve strength and flexibility
- Using medications
- Communicating with family, friends and health professionals
- Practicing good nutrition
- Evaluating new treatment options

Tomando Control de su Salud

Si usted es una persona que vive con una condicion de salud cronica. Age Options y La Biblioteca Publica de Franklin Park los invitan a participar en un programma que le ayudara a manejar su condicion para que pueda vivir una vida mejor.

Dia y Fecha: Lunes - el 12 de Septiembre al 17 de Octubre – 9:30 AM a 12:00PM

Lugar: Biblioteca Publica de Franklin Park, 10311 Grand Avenue

Costo: No hay costo – el programa es gratuito

Para Inscribirse: o si desea mas informacion, comuniquese al 708-383-0258 o al 848-455-6016.

El programa “Tomando Control de su Salud” es un taller de seis clases donde se reunen personas con enfermedades cronicas y aprenden a:

- Evitar problemas como el cansancio, la depresion y el dolor
- Desarrolla programas de actividad fisica para mejorar y mantener la fuerza, flexibilidad y resistencia
- Comunicarse mejor con familiares amistades y proveedores de salud
- Preparar una alimentacion saludable
- Evaluar nuevos tratamientos

Estamos investigando la posibilidad de hacer el boletin de noticias en espanol pronto. Si usted desea inscribirse para recibir una copia en espanol, por favor comunicase con Denise al 847-671-8236 o dvillasenor@vofp.com. Gracias y nos mantendremos informados.