

# VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

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THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

June 2019



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

Roberta Johnson  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
Irene Avitia  
Gil Hagerstrom  
John Johnson  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

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## Mayor's Desk

### Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon

Each year, the Village welcomes business, community and governmental leaders from around the region to our Annual Business Appreciation Lunch. We get the opportunity to thank these leaders for their continued investment in and support of Franklin Park. By working together, we have been able to keep our industrial areas robust and our commercial areas thriving.

I was pleased to announce that the Village continues to flourish with 1.5 million square feet of new industrial development completed in the last year. In fact, the Village has added 4.2 million square feet of new industrial development over the last 10 years.

Since 2018, Franklin Park added new state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution facilities and modern industrial buildings. But it's also an exciting time for retail in the Village. We developed new retail opportunities in the Grand and Mannheim area and welcomed AT&T and Sprint. Soon a Jersey Mikes sandwich shop will be opening there as well. We also had six new restaurants open last year and our retail vacancy is down from 4% in 2017 to 1.5% in 2018.

One of the key characteristics that distinguish Franklin Park from other communities is the availability of skilled workers thanks in part to programs offered at the high school and college levels. Over the next decade, approximately 2 million jobs are expected to go unfilled due to the skills gap. A large



▲ Mayor Pedersen thanks retiring Trustees Cheryl McLean and James Caporusso for their service and dedication to our community

number of these well-paying and high-tech jobs will be located right here in Franklin Park.

By partnering with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), we are creating an effort to link Franklin Park employers with job seekers and vice versa. This effort will be the first of its kind for the region and will focus on educating employers working with millennials and educating millennials regarding job responsibilities.



### Lawn Maintenance Required

Residents should mow their lawn on a regular basis and eliminate weeds in alleys and areas behind homes. Unkempt, over grown lawns and weeds are breeding grounds for rodents, mosquitoes and ticks which can spread illnesses.

The Village has started issuing tickets to homeowners if their grass is over six inches high. If you are disabled or elderly and need assistance complying, please call us at 847-671-4800. Also, if you see properties that need to be maintained, alert the Village at inspections@vofp.com. Thank you for your cooperation!



### Summer is a Great Time to Host a Garage Sale

Want to clear out your clutter? Plan a garage sale! Franklin Park residents must register with the Village to hold a garage sale. There is no cost to register and a garage or yard sale sign can only be placed on your property. Sales can be held for a maximum of 30 hours within a three day period. Sale hours run from 8 AM to 7 PM.

To register for a sale, call 847-671-8242, visit the Clerk's Office at Village Hall or apply on-line at vofp.com.



### Composting Helps the Environment

Homeowners can help sustain our community and save money by composting. When you put grass or leaves into yard waste bags, it is sent to a location using a diesel fueled vehicle that pollutes the air and where it takes up space and produces methane gas, which contributes to global climate change. The Village pays approximately \$150,000 a year to have the grass clippings and leaves transported to a composting site. A much more economical and environmentally-friendly option is to start composting in your backyard. Want to learn how? Visit the Village's Sustainability Page at vofp.com.



### Sign up for New WaterSmart Program

Want to reduce your water usage and save money on your monthly water bills? Then sign-up for the new online program called WaterSmart! Users can analyze current water use and also review usage history from monthly figures down to an hourly use. You can set up alerts via text or email to help you detect leaks or other unintended water use. In addition, you can compare your water use with other similar users in your area. WaterSmart is available now but you must enroll to participate by calling 847-671-8252. Setting up an account is fast, easy and free from a computer, tablet or smartphone.



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Franklin Park sits at the crossroads of American business with unparalleled connectivity to move goods and services by air, rail and roadway. That locational advantage makes maintaining and improving our infrastructure critical to our continued ability to create and maintain jobs.

Rocco Zucchero, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning at the Illinois Tollway, updated the luncheon attendees on the progress of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. He also discussed the new I-490 spur which will feature exit and entrance ramps into Franklin Park, will provide quicker routes to and around O'Hare and will connect to I-294, I-390 and I-90.

Also speaking at the luncheon was John Yonan, Superintendent of the Cook County Transportation and Highways Department, who made a presentation on the \$340,000 'Invest in Cook' grant awarded to the Village to help reconstruct Franklin Avenue. Also funding this effort is a \$22,900,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Franklin Park came in first in the state-wide competition for this award! The Village also secured a \$2,040,000 grant from the North Central Council of Mayors bringing the total funding for the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction project to an estimated \$29,620,000.

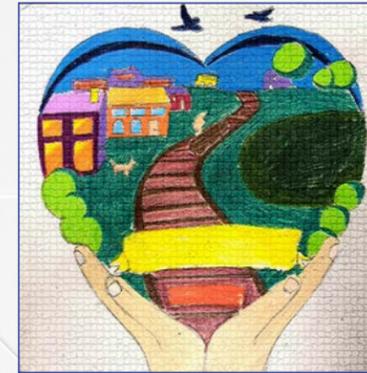
**A Fond Farewell**

At the May 6 Board Meeting, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Joanne Rosado swore in Village Trustees Bill Ruhl, Irene Avitia, and Gil Hagerstrom. I was pleased to appoint Roberta Johnson to the office of Village Clerk and to thank Cheryl McLean and Jimmy Caporusso for their years of service on the Board.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ At a recent Board meeting, Mayor Pedersen awarded Officers James McCroary and Nicolas Padilla with the Medal for Gallantry for their exceptional performance in apprehending an armed and dangerous suspect in St. Gertrude's Church. Their professionalism and courage ended this incident with no injuries or loss of life. Officers Matt Tomaso and Michael Iagulli were honored with the Department Citation award for their assistance and response in the incident at St. Gertrude's.



**2019 Vehicle Sticker**

The 2019 Village vehicle sticker is on sale now. The sticker design was selected as the winning entry in the annual contest in conjunction with the Art Department at East Leyden High School. Mauricio Hernandez captured our theme of community giving and volunteerism in his design of the 2019 sticker.

Vehicle stickers must be displayed on the lower right corner of your windshield by July 1. Every vehicle registered to a Franklin Park resident needs a vehicle sticker. Passenger car stickers cost \$30. Stickers for all vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc., can be purchased online at [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com), at Village Hall and via mail for renewals. Seniors receive one free vehicle sticker per household. Owners of electric vehicles receive a free vehicle sticker and hybrid vehicles pay a reduced rate of \$15. Call 847-671-4800 with questions.

▶ The winner of this year's "Mayor for a Day" writing contest was Nicholas Aguinaga who attends Pietrini Elementary School who wrote a thoughtful essay on ways to encourage our residents to give back to the community. Nicholas and the two runners-up, Araceli Medico Lara who attends North Elementary School and Milo Koziol, a student at Passow Elementary School, received a special Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Trustee Karen Special.

**Special Needs Registry Available In Franklin Park**

Do you have a family member with a special need or permanent disability? The Franklin Park Police Department offers a program that gives law enforcement officials quick access to critical information about a registered individual with special needs during an emergency situation. Residents or family members are encouraged to complete the Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) application at the Police Station. Adults and children with disabilities such as Alzheimer's, Autism, Schizophrenia, Dementia, or any other mental or developmental disorder can be registered. The information is maintained in a confidential database and includes emergency contact information, detailed physical descriptions, known routines or triggers, favorite attractions or special needs of the individual.

To learn more, please contact the Police Chief at 847-671-8203 or visit the Police Station to complete the application. Please include a recent photo of the individual with the application.

