

Village News

YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Mayor's Desk



One of the Lowest Tax Rates in the Region!

A recent article in the Chicago Tribune had some good news for Franklin Park taxpayers. I know sometimes it is hard to find good news when that tax bill first arrives - but here it is. The Village of Franklin Park's municipal tax rate of 1.929% is one of the lowest in the region, lower than our neighbors Rosemont, Elmwood Park and Schiller Park.

It is important to remember that the Village accounts for only 17.8% of a typical Village resident's tax bill, if you reside within District 84, per the example below. The majority of the tax bill, or about 65.6%, goes to our schools to support

District 84, Leyden High School District 212 and Triton College. The remainder is distributed to Cook County, Leyden Township, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Park District and our Library.

We are pleased that the budgetary discipline we've exercised over the past three years has stabilized Village finances and made it possible to avoid increases in the Village's levy over that period, and we pledge to keep working hard to keep the rate low and protect you - our taxpayer.

Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶

The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson
VILLAGE CLERK

TRUSTEES:

Tom Brimie
John Johnson
Cheryl McLean
Randy Petersen
Rosalba Rodriguez
Bill Ruhl

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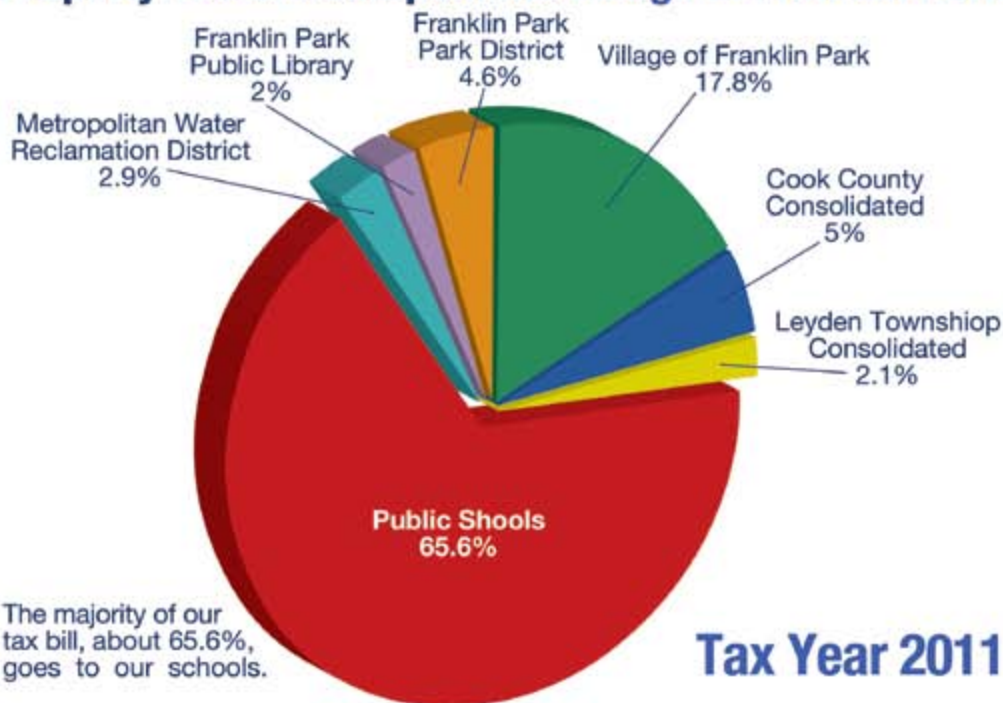
POLICE & FIRE
(NON-EMERGENCY)
847-678-2444
FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
847-678-2400

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, February 18
for President's Day

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Property Tax Bill Components Village of Franklin Park



The majority of our
tax bill, about 65.6%,
goes to our schools.

Tax Year 2011



Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.)

Investing in Our Infrastructure

In 2009, we began an assessment of our Village infrastructure including our streets, sidewalks and sewers. We learned that nearly 70 percent of our streets were in poor or failing condition. In fact, much of our infrastructure was in desperate need of repair or replacement, including our Village water tower which had deteriorated because there was no planned maintenance schedule.

Ten years ago, when our economy was stronger, under the prior administration, the Village was told to replace two water pumps. But the report was ignored. For many years, the roof at our current police station needed to be replaced. This was ignored and now is at dangerous risk of collapse, putting the public and our police officers in harm's way. Now, in tighter economic times, the Board and I have been forced to protect the public health and safety and replace critical infrastructure that is failing.

Based on the current comprehensive and systematic assessments of our infrastructure, we will develop a schedule and a plan for the restoration and repair of the rest of our infrastructure that is based on critical need.

Village Grants & Cost Savings Measures

We knew we had to be innovative in our approach in funding these improvements. We began to aggressively pursue state and federal funding to offset costs to purchase critical equipment and to make much needed repairs and upgrades to our streets, sewers, curbs, public facilities and to help alleviate flooding. We partnered with our legislators to have the state or other governmental agencies make infrastructure improvements, often at no cost to the Village. As a result, Franklin Park has racked up an impressive list of grant awards since 2009 that have allowed us to address our infrastructure needs while still implementing cost-savings measures.

Millions in Grants, Awards, Savings

Increased efficiencies in police officer staffing, while providing adequate street patrols and saving **\$700,000**.

Transferred the 911 Call Center to Leyden Firehouse and saved **\$180,000** in the first year of the contract, **\$250,000** in the second year and in the third year, **\$300,000**. These savings allowed for adding two additional full time sworn police officers.

Awarded a **\$156,000** grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System to purchase a mobile surveillance system, train police and fire personnel responding to intermodal yard incidents and purchase equipment to upgrade to our Information Technology System.

Obtained IPRF grant for **\$33,700** to purchase new safety trailer for Village-wide emergencies.

Awarded over **\$39,000** in IDOT Click It or Ticket grants for seatbelt and DUI enforcement during the holidays since 2010. Also provides increased revenue for our Village.

Received a **\$985,000** Illinois EPA grant for the new Police Station to provide storm-water management improvements, help reduce pollution runoff into the Des Plaines River and promote sustainable practices including use of a cistern to trap rain water and use it and bio-swales.

Obtained **\$12,750** federal grant for purchase of ballistic vests for police officers.

Purchased two new patrol vehicles by utilizing unclaimed money in the Police Department's asset forfeiture account.

Obtained a **\$10,000** State of Illinois grant for enforcement of pedestrian and vehicle traffic violations at rail road crossings.

Increased efficiencies in firefighter staffing, resulting in **\$500,000** savings, while maintaining quality service.

Secured FEMA grant for **\$157,611** to purchase air pack equipment, allowing our firefighters to do their job better, while keeping them safer.

Awarded a **\$333,000** FEMA grant to purchase a new fire engine which will include high tech safety features.

Sold an older model fire truck to a village in California for **\$21,600**.

Received **\$7,500** grant to support repairs to the Fire Department's Drill Tower in Station #2 through the Fire District MABAS program and \$2,500 per year to maintain the facility.

Resurfaced Grand Avenue, from Mannheim Road to Elm, funded entirely by **\$1.2 million** grant from IDOT.

Utilized **\$367,440** in federal stimulus funds to resurface Franklin Avenue from 25th to Ruby. Secured **\$1.2 million** in federal funds and **\$865,000** in state funding toward the resurfacing of Franklin Avenue from Williams Drive to Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to begin May 2013.

Succeeded in having IDOT resurface Fullerton Avenue, Mannheim Road and 25th Avenue from Belmont to Addison, with no cost to the Village. IDOT also reconstructed the Fullerton Ave. Bridge over Sliver Creek to increase its capacity and completely rebuilt the Mannheim Bridge.



These improvements have made our streets and neighborhoods safer and protected our home values.

It is important to note that grant money must be used specifically for the project for which it is intended and the Village cannot reallocate grant funding to support the Village's general fund.

It is the Board's and my responsibility to invest and maintain our infrastructure. This investment makes our residential neighborhoods desirable, stabilizes our property values and allows us to retain and attract new businesses. The following information summarizes the many grants we received and cost savings measures we implemented to save our Village money while providing improvements that have benefited our community.

Barrett F. Pedersen
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Mayor Barrett Pedersen is pictured with Village Trustee John Johnson and Tom Brimie and the store owner Miguel Portillo. The new grocery store Portillo's Deli, located at 9655 Franklin Ave is open for business.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Trustees John Johnson and Tom Brimie welcome Armanetti's to the Village. The store owner Farhan Abdallah is also pictured. Armanetti's is located at 9511 W. Grand Ave. and provides liquor, wine and spirits.

Grants and Funding for Franklin Park

Reconstructed Cherry and Birch through a **\$500,000** grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Resurfaced 12 blocks of residential streets along Emerson, Hawthorne and Elder from Waveland to Pacific through a **\$400,000** State of Illinois grant.

Rebuilt Reeves Court and Pearl Street from Belmont to King Street with an Illinois Surface Transportation Grant for **\$600,000**. Secured a **\$575,000** grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the water main on Pearl and Reeves.

Remediated the site of Crossings Phase II on Franklin Avenue to better market it for future development through a **\$200,000** State of Illinois grant.

Funded a new 150 horsepower motor for the King Street pumping station, which will reduce energy consumption with a **\$94,000** grant from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and a **\$13,000** grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Obtained a Cook County Energy Efficiency Grant for **\$75,000** to make energy-efficiency upgrades in village buildings and convert 114 street lights to LED lights.

Received a **\$23,450** grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and a **\$23,367** grant from DECO to convert lighting fixtures in Village Hall and two Utilities Dept. buildings to more energy efficient fixtures.

Consolidated all computer, software and Village-wide related purchases saving approximately **\$50,000** annually.

Saved **\$1,200** by renegotiating phone contracts. Removed unused phone services resulting in **\$4,200** savings annually.

Eliminated underutilized data equipment, saving **\$17,000**.

Consolidated all telecommunications service contracts saving approximately **\$25,000** annually.

Replaced JULIE ticketing communications and discontinued use of leased JULIE equipment saving approximately **\$20,000** annually.

Replaced outdated Water Dept. equipment resulting in a **\$9,000** savings.

Restructured wood, leaf and street debris contracts resulting in **\$68,000** in annual savings.

Secured **\$6,000** USDA grant to preserve our trees and a **\$2,000** grant to plant new trees by the IEPA.

Awarded a planning grant from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to facilitate recommendations for future development of our O'Hare Industrial Corridor.

Received a planning grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to support our downtown district and to attract transit oriented development.

Increased corporate sponsorship and product and services donations for family-focused community events including more than **\$40,000** to support Railroad Daze and Christmas in Hammill Square.



Seniors - Take Charge of Your Health

West Suburban Senior Services is hosting the free informational session for Franklin Park senior citizens. The Take Charge of Your Health program is designed to help seniors with a chronic illness thrive -- and not just survive. The program will consist of six, 2 1/2 hour classes and will be taught by two trained leaders.

Take Charge of Your Health is sponsored by Age Options. The program is made possible through a grant from the US Administration on Aging via the Illinois Department of Public Health. If you would like to participate in the program, contact Lisa Anthony at 847-671-8282.

Register Now for Tours of New Police Station

Franklin Park is currently building a new state of the art, sustainable police station. The current station was neglected for years and as a result, it is unsafe and considered to be severely detrimental to the health and safety of the police officers who work there and visitors to the building. The new police station has been designed to serve our Police Department, and our citizens, for the next 50 years.

Residents may register for a tour of the current and new police stations by calling the Police Department at 847-671-8203.

Residents Without Insurance Eligible for Discount Prescription Program

Franklin Park residents are now eligible to participate in a new program which helps people who are without health insurance or have prescriptions not covered by insurance, obtain medications at a discount. The discount card is accepted at more than 9 out of 10 pharmacies nationwide, including all national chain pharmacies and most local independent pharmacies.

By using the discount card, residents save an average of 23% off the retail cost of their prescriptions. There are no enrollment or membership fees and no limit on how many times the card can be used. All family members are covered and there are no age or income requirements.

This program is available at no cost to the Village through their membership in the National League of Cities (NLC). The program is not insurance and the card cannot be used to supplement insurance benefits.

A discount card is included in this mailing with this newsletter and your water bill. If you have questions regarding this program, please call 847-671-8282.

New App Aids Commuters

The Illinois Department of Transportation has launched a new smartphone app called Travel Midwest Mobile. The app allows commuters to access travel times, traffic updates and road conditions before getting on the road. This free app is available on Android and Apple phones. For more information, go to www.travelmidwest.com/lmiga/home.jsp

Chamber Accepting Applications for Scholarship

The Franklin Park/Schiller Park Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for its 2013-2014 Scholarship. The Scholarship is open to all Franklin Park and Schiller Park graduating seniors. Applicants must be accepted at a full-time, accredited college, university, community college or trade school and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be able to demonstrate financial need based on the FAFSA. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Scholarship Chair at info@chamberbyohare.org. Applications must be completed by May 1st, 2013.



POLICE STATION TOURS



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FREE
TRAVEL
MAP APP**

