

Village News

YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2014

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

Mayor's Desk



Governor Addresses Franklin Park Businesses

This year's Annual Business Appreciation Lunch was especially exciting as we welcomed Governor Pat Quinn. The Governor praised our efforts at creating and retaining jobs.

In 2013, Franklin Park welcomed over 100 new or expanded businesses. We are delighted that so many firms and retail outlets have chosen to make Franklin Park their business address. Several new dining options are among the new retailers. This vitality creates an energy that will bring other retailers to our commercial corridors and other manufacturers to town as well.

Franklin Park meets many of the criteria

for business expansion and relocation. Access to highways and rail spurs, proximity to O'Hare International Airport, good schools and colleges, safe neighborhoods, upgraded infrastructure and a cooperative local government are all amenities Franklin Park can offer.

Governor Quinn has been our great partner in making Franklin Park attractive for business. Over the last four years, we have received over \$7,000,000 in grant funds to resurface streets, improve water and sewer capacity, upgrade waste management and repair sidewalks.

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◀ Governor Quinn outlined how the completion of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access will make Franklin Park an even more attractive place for business expansion and relocation. He explained that Illinois is a transportation hub and new investment is coming into Illinois because the state has improved its infrastructure and offers increased opportunities to move goods regionally, nationally and globally.



Over 200 Franklin Park business leaders attended the Annual Business Appreciation Lunch at Villa Brunetti with special guest speaker, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. Governor Quinn praised Franklin Park, Mayor Pedersen and the business community for working together to create jobs and opportunity for Illinois. "Franklin Park's businesses are thriving, in great part, because of the cooperative partnerships established," Governor Quinn noted.



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 will be
closed on February 17



Mayor's Desk CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

To say that we could not have done this without Governor Quinn, would be an understatement. In these economic times, we cannot overburden our residential property owner. But in order to have a thriving business climate we must have reliable infrastructure.

Governor Quinn's directive has been to put State dollars to work to support economic development and job creation. Here in Franklin Park, Illinois' 4th largest manufacturing center, he has done just that. So as we were appreciating our local businesses, our local businesses also offered their appreciation to Governor Quinn for his commitment and hard work on their behalf.

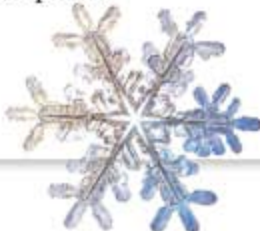
Survey & Poll Results

In past columns, I discussed that our Citizen Advisory Committee on Infrastructure agreed that the best mechanism to fund repairs on our declining streets was a 1% increase in the sales tax, which would be dedicated exclusively to street improvement and repair. I would like to update you on the results of a mail survey and a phone poll that we conducted to help us decide if you were interested in pursuing a ballot measure allowing citizens to vote on a sales tax referendum.

- 81% of those who responded to the mail survey said they would vote in favor of a 1% sales tax increase to fund improving our streets. A majority also supported the measure during the phone poll.
- One of the primary concerns of those responding to the phone poll was public safety and the importance of ensuring that our first responders were able to get to their homes quickly and safely on well-maintained streets.
- Another major concern during the phone poll was that the cost of street repairs increases dramatically the longer they are delayed. Ensuring that we are able to consistently maintain our streets will save taxpayer dollars over the long run.
- Phone poll respondents felt that the sales tax increase was the best way to help finance improving our streets because everyone who uses our roads would help to pay and not the homeowners.

The proposed 1% sales tax would NOT apply to groceries or medicine and it would NOT increase property, utility or gasoline taxes. The sales tax would also NOT impact real estate transfer taxes. I appreciate that you took the time to participate in the mail survey and phone poll. It is important that your voices be heard on this issue. If you would like to read the referendum question that will appear on the March 18 Primary Election ballot, go to the Village website at www.vofp.com.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Steve Smith of Digital Chicago served as Master of Ceremonies for the Business Appreciation Lunch. He told the business leaders that Digital's decision to buy, build and grow in Franklin Park is a direct result of the Village's 'pro-business' attitude.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Village Clerk Tommy Thomson and Village Trustees Karen Special, John Johnson and Andy Ybarra welcomed Grinders Sandwiches to Franklin Park. Grinders is open for business at 9400 W Grand Avenue and features soups, salads and sandwiches to dine in or carry out.



Fire Department Wins Grant to Fund New Hires

Franklin Park will soon be able to add three new Firefighter Paramedics thanks to a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The Fire Department was awarded a \$461,724.00 grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will allow the Village to hire the new personnel immediately and will cover the cost of their salaries and benefits for a two year period.

Beginning in 2010, the Fire Department began using it's own Firefighter Paramedics to decrease costs and eliminated the need for contracting with a private paramedic company. They also cut costs by changing the hiring requirements as all applicants must now be a Paramedic prior to being hired.

Congressman Mike Quigley visited Fire Station 2 recently to congratulate Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Fire Chief Steve Iovinelli on securing a FEMA grant which will provide for the hiring of three additional Firefighter Paramedics.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Police Chief Mike Witz officially received LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) at a recent Village Board meeting. Also participating were our Village Engineers, FGM Architects and MTI Construction Services. The sustainable features will save energy and reduce costs for the police department, while creating a healthier environment for our officers, staff and the visiting public.



Innovative and sustainable energy features were incorporated into the design and construction of the facility and as a result, the new police station is a model of sustainability for the region.



Franklin Park Focus: American MetalCraft

As part of our on-going FOCUS series, as well as Business Appreciation Month, this month we are featuring one of our many outstanding businesses, American Metalcraft, Inc.

American Metalcraft recently relocated their Corporate Headquarters to Franklin Park where they also manufacture products. They currently have 88 employees at this location and plan to grow this facility and add even more jobs. The company manufactures equipment for the food-service industry and specializes in fine dining, catering, buffet service & pizza supplies for restaurants, hotels, clubs and resorts. They produce custom designed equipment, including custom orders for the White House and Wrigley Field.

American Metalcraft is a company that believes in giving back to the community. They also encourage a spirit of community among their employees. When they moved to Franklin Park late last year, they wasted no time becoming good corporate citizens. They learned from the Village's website that we were seeking contributions to the Leyden Food Pantry.

American Metalcraft encourage employee donation with an incentive. For every 10 non-perishable items donated, the employee's name was entered in a raffle to win an extra vacation day. The response was enthusiastic but many employees who donated asked not to be included in the raffle because they just wanted to do something to help others during the holidays.

In a few short weeks, American Metalcraft, and their generous staff, donated over 363 lbs of food!

"We look forward to many years in Franklin Park and expect to continue to donate to the worthwhile causes the Village supports," Tim Talsma, Human Resource Generalist at American Metalcraft, Inc. told us.

We are proud of our active, committed and compassionate business community. Their generosity is just one the reasons we appreciate our businesses. And our businesses are one of the reasons we appreciate our community.

Thank you American Metalcraft!

Let's Move Meeting Scheduled



Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled. Today, almost one in every three children in our nation is overweight. Franklin Park has joined with towns across the country to inspire their community to make healthy lifestyle changes that will help reduce childhood obesity. The next Let's Move meeting will be held on Feb 13, at 7 PM in the Police Station. To learn more, contact Cheryl McLean at cmclean@vofp.com.

Our Police Chief, Mike Witz will be hosting a "Coffee with the Chief" on Saturday, February 22 at 9 AM in the Community Room of the new Police Station. Chief Witz will update the community on the Village's crime prevention efforts and public safety upgrades and will be available to answer your questions. In addition, Chief Witz will conduct a tour of the police station which recently received LEED Gold certification from the USGBC. If you would like to attend the Coffee with the Chief, you must register by calling 847-671-8203.

Coffee with the Chief



Budget Hearings

Budget hearings to present and discuss the FY15 Village budget will be held on February 10 and 24 at 7 PM in the Community Room of the Police Station. Residents can attend the hearings and will have the opportunity to comment. For more information, please call the Comptroller's office at 847-671-4800.

Property Taxes Support Multiple Taxing Bodies

By looking at your tax bill, you can see the amount and portion of your property taxes that go to each taxing district in your area. These taxing bodies include our school districts, the Franklin Park Park District and Public Library, Leyden Township, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Cook County. These taxing bodies rely on property taxes to operate. In Franklin Park, on average, over 65% of your property taxes go to support our public schools.

Depending on where you live in Franklin Park, approximately 20% of your property tax bill goes to the Village and is used to provide essential services including police, fire and public works. It is also important to note that Franklin Park has held the dollar level of the Village tax levy flat for four years and has one of the lowest tax rates in the region which is lower than our neighbors in Rosemont, Elmwood Park and Schiller Park.