



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2014

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Mayor's Desk



**The Village of FRANKLIN PARK**  
**Barrett F. Pedersen**  
 Mayor  
 Tommy Thomson  
 Village Clerk

Trustees:  
 John Johnson  
 Cheryl McLean  
 Randy Petersen  
 Bill Ruhl  
 Karen Special  
 Andy Ybarra

9500 Belmont Ave.  
 Franklin Park, IL. 60131  
 847-671-4800  
 www.villagenews@vofp.com

Police & Fire  
 (Non-Emergency)  
 847-678-2444

Village Hall will be closed on August 30 and September 1.

**Report Recommends Investing in Water and Sewer Infrastructure**

As the Board and I have expressed many times, the public health and safety of our residents and businesses is our top priority.

The availability and safety of clean, reliable, potable water is essential to safeguarding public health.

Our water and sewer infrastructure requires major upgrades, repairs and replacements in order to continue to offer a clean, safe water supply. Mature communities, such as Franklin Park, are in dire need of these repairs and upgrades.

As we learned in the Asset Management Report, the cost to address the severe need for water and sewer repair is over \$235 million. Without new revenue, a dedicated fund to pay down the infrastructure costs, the Village will not be able to afford \$7.8 million annually in repairs over the next 30 years.

We know that the City of Chicago drastically increased the rate suburbs pay for water by 94.3%. All suburbs that rely on Lake Michigan water are forced to pay the increase. In addition, we have noted that water rates around the United States have risen and are rising substantially.

After considerable research and review, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Infrastructure submitted a series of recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees for renewing and reinvesting in

our water and sewer infrastructure.

As we know from our Asset Management Report, and our discussions regarding the upgrade of our streets, sidewalks and curbs, reliable infrastructure helps us attract new business and investment, retain our existing job base and create more jobs and a bigger tax base in the future.

We have a plan in place to deal with our streets. Now we need to address our water and sewer challenges. The Committee listed the many advantages of repairing our failing system now:

- Protect the safety of drinking water
- Substantially reduce future costs
- Better water pressure
- Flood relief
- Fewer sewer back-ups
- Job creation
- Improving our attractiveness as a business location
- Operational efficiency and future cost savings

As the report noted, if we do not pay for these system-wide upgrades soon, our kids and grandkids will pay for them later, and the price will be higher.

If we address these issues now, the Committee has demonstrated that we will save substantial costs. Not only will the system continue to deteriorate, construction costs will increase.

Public Works staff working overtime to repair a recent water main break.



The Village of Franklin Park and Park District of Franklin Park present  
**Car Shows and Live Music Events**

Admission is FREE

**Family fun! Bring the kids!**

Join us for summer car shows and festivals in Downtown Franklin Park. The events will include live music from a great variety of bands. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a night of live music, cars and food. Live music from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.



Live music from 7 to 9 PM



Enjoy food vendors, drinks and great music!

Enjoy the music at the Car Shows and check out:  
 Thursday, August 14 ■ Second Time (Classic Rock)  
 Thursday, August 28 ■ Nevery Brothers (Oldies)  
 Thursday, September 4 ■ Recycle the Day (Top 40 Variety)

**Time: 5:00 to 10:00 PM**

**Location: Franklin Avenue & 25th Street**

For more information, call (847)671-8278 or visit vofp.com & fpparks.org

**Fun Family Activities**  
 Crafts for kids  
 Face painting  
 Free kids' raffle to win 10 trees and a rain barrel\*  
 Composting and recycling activities

\*Raffle participants limited to children aged 12 and under accompanied by an adult. 10 trees and 1 rain barrel will be awarded at each event.



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◀ **Mayor's Desk** Continued from Page 1.

In 2013, Franklin Park experienced 94 water main breaks. The overtime on continually repairing our aging water and sewer infrastructure failures is over \$169,000 a year.

We are losing revenue due to this aging system because we are losing water. In 2012, 20% of our water was unaccounted for due to our faulty system. This is well-above the allowed leakage standards (under 8%) set by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. We must make the necessary repairs to be in compliance.

Without these repairs there will come a day when you turn your faucet on and there will be no water. The Committee and the Board agree -we cannot allow the system to fail.

The Board is opposed to funding the cost of this massive infrastructure project through property taxes. Though the Board has agreed that these upgrades are essential for the future of our Village, we are continuing to review the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Infrastructure which calls for a water rate increase.

As we consider a possible water rate increase, I have also requested that we work on a parallel path to increase conservation. I have also asked that we develop an Affordability Program that will help families who may be at an economic disadvantage.

No homeowner or business operator wants to see an increase. Despite the fact that communities throughout the region are facing similar dilemmas, an increase is an increase.

The cost of water is a huge bargain. Over the last five years, the Board has placed a major emphasis on cost control. But the system is just too old to delay improvements any longer. Historically, the cost of water around the US, and by the previous Franklin Park administration has been under-priced. This is not a budget crisis, it is a revenue crisis that cities throughout the nation are facing.

As the Board and I continue our deliberations, we will be holding a community meeting on August 21 at 7 PM at the Police Station to explain the Committee's report in more detail and to listen to your concerns.

We will continue to keep you informed on this important issue.

**BARRETT F. PEDERSEN**  
MAYOR

**Water Conservation Tips**

- 💧 Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- 💧 Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and water is not wasted on your house, the sidewalks, or the street.
- 💧 Repair leaking faucets and toilets; this is the number one water waster in homes.
- 💧 Install a rain barrel to capture and re-use storm water.
- 💧 Spread a layer of organic mulch around plants to retain moisture and save water, time and money.
- 💧 Check your shower to see if it fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds. If so, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model. If you shorten your shower by a minute or two, you will save up to 150 gallons per month.
- 💧 Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- 💧 Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Consider composting vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time. Please go to vofp.com for composting information.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen was awarded the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) Sustainable Landscaping Award in recognition of Franklin Park's newly constructed Police Station which incorporated multiple sustainable features. Pictured with Mayor Pedersen is MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos, Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson and Commissioner Debra Shore.

**Solar Panel Discounts Offered to Franklin Park Residents**

Franklin Park is one of just five communities selected to receive discounted solar panels for homeowners. Available this summer only, the Solar Chicago program offers a 25% discount off average market prices as well as a streamlined process for selecting, installing and financing panels that are right for your home.

The collective buying power of homeowners throughout the five communities (Franklin Park, Hanover Park, Oak Park, Wilmette and Chicago) allows Solar Chicago to negotiate lower prices. The program guarantees a 25% discount off average market prices, and prices may come down even lower.

A contracting team will work with homeowners from start to finish. Experts from Juhl Renewable Energy Systems and Microgrid Solar will assess your home for its solar potential, install the solar panels on your roof, complete all permitting work with the Village and utility, help you secure a loan, and help you apply for any available state or federal rebates. These rebates will further decrease the cost of solar panels and your electricity bills will also decrease. Most homeowners will recoup the cost of their solar panels in about 8 years.

Franklin Park was selected for this special program because unlike many other communities, the Village already has in place a permitting program for installing solar panels on residential buildings. That makes it easier for solar companies to work in our community.

If you are interested in learning more, go to [www.mygroupenergy.com/solarchicago](http://www.mygroupenergy.com/solarchicago) by Sept. 30 to express interest in the program. A representative will set up a free, no-obligation consultation with a contractor.

**Franklin Park Earns Tree City Designation**

Congratulations to the Village of Franklin Park on earning recognition as a 2013 Tree City USA! Our Village was awarded this distinction by the Arbor Day Foundation because it makes the planting and care of trees a priority. Trees are vital to the public infrastructure of a community. Trees offer numerous environmental, social and economic benefits, including helping to provide cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increase our property values. To learn more, go to [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

**Pet Licensing Required**

All dogs older than six months are required to have a current pet license. In order to obtain a license, owners must furnish proof of a rabies inoculation made within the last calendar year. Current pet licensing fees are \$5 per pet when purchased before June 30, and \$10 per pet when purchased on June 30 or later. Having pets licensed maintains the public health and can help police reunite a lost pet with its owner! For more information, call 847-671-4800.

**Community Meeting**  
Thursday, August 21, 7 PM  
Franklin Park Police Station – Community Meeting Room  
Join us for a special presentation on the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Infrastructure's report and recommendations on how the Village should address our water and sewer infrastructure repairs and the funding of these critical projects.

## 2014 FRANKLIN PARK FAMILY FUN DAYS

**August 21st - 24th**  
Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, IL

**CARNIVAL \* FOOD \* FUN**

### Carnival Hours and Promotions

Day	Date	Hours	Promotion Hours	Price
Thursday	August 21st	5:30 PM - 10:00 PM	5:30 PM - 10:00 PM	\$20
Friday	August 22nd	5:30 PM - 11:00 PM	none	
Saturday	August 23rd	2:00 PM - 11:00 PM	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	\$20
Sunday	August 24th	2:00 PM - 8:00PM	All Hours	\$20

**Regular Ticket Sales**  
 1 coupon: \$1.25  
 22 coupons: \$25.00  
 55 coupons: \$60.00  
 (rides accept 2-4 coupons)

For more information, call (847) 671- 4800 or visit [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)