

Village News



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

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Mayor's Desk

Our Spirit of Giving This Holiday Season

Each year, I look forward to attending the Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club annual Thanksgiving Dinner. I am always honored to be a co-host, and this year was no exception. This free event for seniors and people in need is always a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season and to remember that the true meaning of the holidays is the spirit of giving. Our Lions Club does so much for our community, including sponsoring free hearing and vision tests at our Senior Health and Resource Fair.

The most valued traditions to me are the opportunities to serve, share, and give back. Our world can often seem chaotic and in conflict. We could all use more kindness, tolerance, and support. I am enormously proud of our town and of the staff and administration that continue to find ways to give back and enhance our community.

The Franklin Park Firefighter's Association is proud to contribute \$4,000 to the Leyden Township Community Food Pantry and \$4,000 to the Unity in Community Foundation. The donations were made possible by proceeds from the sale of the Fire Department's Hispanic Heritage Month t-shirt's. These donations will support the efforts of these organizations and give back to the community we love to serve. T-shirts are still available at thefpfdstore.com and can be a great gift idea or stocking stuffer.

Officers of the Franklin Park Police Department have once again raised over \$1000 for this year's No-Shave November campaign and have raised more than \$5000 since 2017 to fund groundbreaking cancer research and free services to cancer patients and their caregivers. Our Police Department

is currently collecting unwrapped toys for their annual Toys for Tots campaign at the Police Station through December 18.

Thank you so much to our friends at Ex-Cell Kaiser for initiating this year's food drive for the Leyden Family Services' Food Pantry. There is a drop-off box at Village Hall if you would like to donate non-perishable food items. No one should go hungry, especially during the holidays.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for this country and protected our liberties and ability to maintain our traditions. Today, many veterans now can use a little help. The Franklin Park Public Library is accepting donations for the American Legion's Post Stand Down 2024. You may donate new jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets at the Library's Circulation Desk at 10311 Grand Avenue. A complete list of accepted items can be viewed on **our website**. Our American Legion and the Woman's Auxiliary are integral to the giving, caring spirit of our community.

I am so proud of our staff, corporate partners, and our community for demonstrating a strong spirit of giving. Please join our community in this holiday tradition of caring, sharing and giving.

On behalf of our Village Trustees, Clerk, and our entire staff we wish everyone a safe, healthy, and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

Help Light Up Franklin Park

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Especially as you drive through Franklin Park and see homes lighting up the Village with festive and fun decorations for our annual Best Decorated Home for the Holidays contest. To have your home considered, send an email to villagenews@vofp.com that includes your family's name, address, phone number, and photos of your decorated home by December 18.



Library Holiday Events and Closures

Tall Tales & Silly Songs – Holidays! – December 13

Musician Todd Downing is back with his Tall Tales & Silly Songs – this time with a holiday twist! This event will be held on Wednesday, December 13 from 5 until 6 PM and is open to children through age 11 and must be accompanied by an adult.



Book Club Party – December 13

Popular Page Turners Book Club for adults, but they will take a break this month for a party! Join the fun on Wednesday, December 13 from 7 until 8 PM and enjoy treats, play games, and talk about your favorite (non-book club) books you've read this year with your fellow book club members. Haven't joined the book club yet? Come to the party and get to know the members and talk about books.



The Library will be closed the following days for the holidays:
Sunday, December 24 • Monday, December 25 • Tuesday, December 26
Sunday, December 31 • Monday, January 1, 2024

Cold Weather Safety

When temperatures drop, remember to take action to stay safe. Limit time outdoors. Watch for signs of frostbite including skin that is whitish and stiff and will feel numb rather than painful. Wear several layers of lightweight clothing and keep your head and ears covered and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs. Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves. If you are traveling in a car, bring extra clothing to keep warm in case of a breakdown. Remember also to limit the time your pets spend out of doors.

Take steps to protect your pipes from freezing. Open cabinet doors to warm up the pipes. You can prevent freezing by keeping a small trickle of water running through the pipes on extra cold days.



Fire Protection – Be Safe!

Protect your family from a holiday related fire. Practice Christmas tree safety, have an escape plan and test your smoke detectors regularly. Holiday related fires are common and spread rapidly.



▲ Ex-Cell Kaiser employees contributed to this year's food drive for the Leyden Family Services' Food Pantry. A collection box will be at Village Hall through the end of the year.



▲ Everyone, including Mayor Pedersen had a great time at this year's annual Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club. The event featured great food and a fun-filled afternoon.



▲ The Franklin Park Firefighter's Association awarded \$4,000 each to the Leyden Township Community Food Pantry and to the Unity in Community Foundation. The donations were made possible by proceeds from the sale of their Hispanic Heritage Month t-shirt's.

Seniors Must Reapply Annually for Free Garbage Removal Services

Qualified senior citizens and disabled low-income homeowners are required to reapply each year to avoid receiving a bill for garbage removal service.

Senior citizens aged 65 years or older who own a single residence or two-family property must provide a copy of their most recent (2nd installment) Cook County Property Tax Bill which indicates they are receiving the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption to receive free garbage removal services. A copy of the tax bill can be mailed, emailed, or brought to Village Hall by Friday, December 29 to guarantee you will receive free garbage removal for 2024.

Disabled and low-income property owners must provide proof of qualifications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to be eligible to receive the reduced garbage collection fee of 50 percent. Please email, mail, or bring your LIHEAP award letter to Village Hall to qualify for the reduced fee by Friday, December 29. Emailed documents can be sent to bcollins@vofp.com or mailed to Village of Franklin Park, 9500 Belmont Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60131, Attn: Barb Collins.

For more information, call (847) 671-8240.

Grand Avenue Corridor Plan

We need your help to plan for the future of the Grand Avenue corridor! The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is partnering with the Village of Franklin Park to create a plan to transform Grand Avenue into a safe, accessible, and thriving corridor. Your input will help determine what issues and opportunities should be prioritized as we create the corridor plan. The study area focuses on Grand Avenue from Mannheim Road to Elm Street within Franklin Park. To learn more and to participate in the survey, visit our website at vofp.com.

Need Help Applying for Government Programs?

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall on Wednesday, December 20 from 9 AM until noon to help residents who have questions or need help applying for government programs including Medicare, Medicaid, and LIHEAP. Staff can also help with understanding medical bills, prescription assistance, and more. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive. No appointment is necessary.



▲ Officers from the Franklin Park Police Department raised over \$1000 for cancer research for the No-Shave November campaign. They are currently collecting unwrapped toys at the Police Station through December 18.



▲ Recruits from the Great Lakes Naval Station were hosted at East Leyden High School on Thanksgiving and were treated to a traditional holiday meal.



Village Hall will close at 3 PM on Friday, December 22 and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27. Village Hall will also be closed on Monday, January 1.

Garbage removal will take place on Tuesday, December 26, and January 2. Recycling removal will take place on Wednesday, December 27, and January 3.