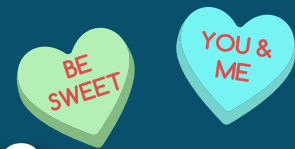




THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

February 2024



## Free Tax Preparation Services Available for Seniors

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is offering free tax preparation services to individuals age 60 or older from low to moderate income households. IRS trained and certified volunteers will prepare tax returns for free. This service is available **by appointment only at the following locations:**

- Triton College (River Grove)
- Leyden Township
- Schiller Park Community Center
- Melrose Park Public Library
- Westdale Park (Melrose Park)
- Elmwood Park Public Library
- Eisenhower Public Library (Harwood Heights)
- Seniors Assistance Center (Norridge)
- Proviso Township Office (Hillside)



To make an appointment, call (708) 456-0300, ext. 3895. For more information about the program, call ext. 3835.

## Rules of the Road Review Course – March 14

The Village of Schiller Park and the Secretary of State's Office will host a Rules of the Road Review Course on Thursday, March 14, from 10 am until Noon. Franklin Park residents are invited to participate in this class that gives drivers, especially senior citizens over 62 and persons with disabilities, the knowledge and confidence to renew or obtain a driver's license. The course combines an explanation of the driving exam with a practice written exam.

The class will be held at the Schiller Park Community Center, located at 4501 N. 25th Avenue. The class is free; however, **pre-registration is required**. Register by emailing Mary Maltese at [seniorservices@schillerparkil.us](mailto:seniorservices@schillerparkil.us) or by calling (847) 678-8765. You may also register at [villageofschillerpark.com](http://villageofschillerpark.com) or in person at the Schiller Park Recreation Center, located at 9638 Irving Park Road, Monday through Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM.

## Need Help Applying for Government Programs?

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month 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.

The next few scheduled dates at Village Hall are:  
**February 21, March 20, April 17**

## Early Voting at Village Hall

The Village of Franklin Park will host Early Voting for the March 19, 2024 Presidential Primary beginning Monday, March 4. Please enter Village Hall through the side door in the parking lot.

Dates and times for Early Voting are as follows:  
Monday, March 4 - Saturday, March 9 from 9 AM – 5 PM,  
Sunday, March 10 from 10 AM – 4 PM,  
Monday, March 11 - Saturday, March 16 from 9 AM – 5 PM,  
Sunday, March 17 from 10 AM – 4 PM, and  
Monday, March 18 from 9 AM – 5 PM

## Mayor's Desk

### A Legacy of Developments That Strengthened and Improved Franklin Park

I want to dedicate this issue of our newsletter to commemorating the incredible service of John Schneider, the Village's Director of Community Development and Zoning, who sadly passed away in late December.

John leaves an unmatched legacy of achievement in the arena of economic development, resulting in new businesses, developments, and investments that have benefited our Village. John used his vast business and government experience to help make Franklin Park into a vibrant manufacturing center, with growing commercial enterprises as well. John's amazing networks cut across all levels of government and aided Franklin Park to secure millions of dollars to fund critical transportation, infrastructure, and sustainability projects.

John joined the Village in 2012 and quickly crafted an aggressive economic development vision. He worked closely with the members of the Village's Economic Development Commission, the Plan Commission, the Tree Preservation Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. John always collaborated closely with our regional partners, the Village Board, and staff. This approach brought forward a variety of perspectives that John formulated into

successful policies, programs, and projects.

John was key in developing a visionary strategic plan for growth for Franklin Park, a new zoning code, revitalizing industrial corridors, and providing 3.6 million gallons of new stormwater storage to prevent flooding. He attracted prominent national corporations and worked to redevelop the former Motorola site on Grand Avenue, which is now home to the Digital Realty Campus, a thriving data complex that continues to expand.

He attracted numerous new developments including logistic centers constructed by Bridge, Panattoni, Exeter, CenterPoint, and Molto in the eastern and western industrial districts. But he also worked to retain our valued local businesses; assisting them to expand, re-invest and of course, create more jobs. John knew it was important to interact with the business community to identify opportunities for future development and to better understand their obstacles to growth.

John accumulated an impressive number of accomplishments that helped to reaffirm Franklin Park as an industrial powerhouse. His strategic vision, influence, mentorship, humor,



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

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

9500 Belmont Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-671-4800  
[www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
[villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com)

Emergency 911

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

**Village Hall  
will be closed  
on Monday,  
February 19.  
Trash and  
recycling will  
be removed as  
scheduled.**





◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

and steady leadership will leave a void. But his influence will live on as we continue to make Franklin Park a robust industrial center and a vital commercial district.

On behalf of the Village Board, Clerk, and the administration, I extend our deepest condolences to all of John's family and friends. You will be missed, John, but you will not be forgotten.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ Congratulations to Firefighter and Paramedic (FF/PM) Rogelio Rodriguez who was selected as the Paramedic of the Year for the Village of Franklin Park. Rogelio embodies the Fire Department's ambitious standards of care and is a sterling example for all new and experienced members. From maintaining a cool head during stressful calls, to providing the best bedside manner possible, FF/PM Rodriguez goes above and beyond for the residents he was sworn to protect.

### When Snow is Expected – Check Signs

Please adhere to parking restrictions, especially on side streets so Public Works crews can clear the roads and emergency vehicles can get through. Also please park as close as possible to the curb so vehicles can pass. If you have questions regarding parking restrictions, check posted signs or call (847) 671-8252 between 8 AM and 4:30 PM and the Village's Non-Emergency Police Department phone number at (847) 678-2444.

### Passport Processing Events at the Library

The Clerk's Office is pleased to partner with the Franklin Park Library to offer passport appointments on Saturday, March 30, from 11 AM to 3 PM. To schedule your appointment or for more information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 847-671-8242.

### Community Blood Drive – March 1

The Village will host a Community Blood Drive on Friday, March 1 from 3 until 7:30 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station. Please consider donating if you are able. It could save someone's life. Remember to eat a healthy meal and to stay hydrated before donating.

### Franklin Avenue Construction – A Project with Regional Significance

Construction on Franklin Avenue continues with Franklin Avenue and Williams Drive with only one lane open in each direction through the winter. **This work is part of the multi-year Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project which is upgrading infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing industrial corridor while also creating safer, more efficient travel options for residents and visitors.**

This important project is funded with grants from the County, State, and Federal governments. An additional \$3.3 million in funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is supporting the project and will help to eliminate traffic bottlenecks when the work is completed.

Franklin Avenue west of Mannheim Road is a significant component of the region's network of roads and highways. Franklin Avenue will tie directly into the tollway system and provide improved access to I-294 via the future I-490 interchange. Together with the Tollway's regional improvements, the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project will help to decrease congestion and travel times locally by getting trucks off local roads and onto the tollway system more efficiently.

Franklin Avenue improvements include widening the road from two to four lanes, modernization of traffic signals, creating two-way turn lanes, new storm sewers, new lighting, and constructing a shared pathway for bicycles and pedestrians. Construction on Franklin Avenue will continue through 2024. Other construction on roadways in the area including on Green Street and on Acorn Street will be completed in 2025. Please watch this newsletter for updates.

### Library Events



The Franklin Park Public Library, located at 10311 Grand Avenue hosts events year-round that are open to the community. For information about Library hours, programs, services and the events below, please visit [fppld.org](http://fppld.org).

### The Great North American Eclipse – February 12

Did you see the solar eclipse in 2017? Get ready to do it all over again! Michelle Nichols from the Adler Planetarium will discuss the impressive solar eclipse coming up in April 2024. Learn what eclipses are, where to see them, when to look, and how to view solar eclipses safely. A pair of solar eclipse glasses will be given to everyone who attends. This event is open to children ages 10 and older and adults and will take place on Monday, February 12 from 6:30 until 7:30 PM.



### Friends of the Library Book Sale – February 24

Looking for great deals on new or gently used books, CDs, and DVDs? Join the Friends in the Library on Saturday, February 24 from 11 AM until 2 PM for a special, expanded book sale. You can also buy a reusable Friends of the Library tote bag full of materials for \$5!

### Irish Cuisine – March 5

Everyone's Irish in March! Join Chef Susan Maddox on Tuesday, March 5 from 6:30 until 8 PM for this exploration of tasty contemporary Irish cuisine. While staying close to its traditional agrarian roots, the new Irish cuisine is lighter, more urbane, and reflects global influences while keeping its comfort food soul. This event is open to adults only and has a limit of 40 participants. Registration is required.



▲ The Village Board thanks John Schneider, Director of Community Development and Zoning for his years of service to Franklin Park and extends their condolences to his family and friends. John leaves a legacy of achievement in the arena of economic development, resulting in new businesses, developments, and investments that have greatly benefited our Village.