

Winterfest at Hammill Square

presented by
The Village of Franklin Park

Annual Tree Lighting

Hammill Square Gazebo
at Belmont & Edgington

**Thursday, December 5th
6 to 8 PM**

- ★ Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 elementary school students.
- ★ Refreshments will be served by our Village Trustees.
- ★ Help decorate our Village Tree! Bring an ornament from home or make one at the Park District's Children's Craft table.
- ★ Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Community Food Pantry. The Village will be collecting old and non-working lights and electrical cords to be recycled. New socks will be collected by District 84 PTA.

*Bring your camera to take a photo of your children with Santa and Mrs. Claus!
(The Village will not be providing photos)*

THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

November 2024

Mayor's Desk

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



New Technology Will Reduce Traffic Delays and Increase Safety at Rail Crossings

Franklin Park worked vigorously to attain a Quiet Zone designation. Now we are proactively addressing the traffic congestion and safety issues caused by stopped trains at railroad crossings.

New roadside electronic signs with state-of-the-art sensors are being installed at three intersections in Franklin Park. The system monitors and predicts train movements and sends information to motorists and first responders in real time via the flashing signs. This advance notice allows drivers the opportunity to choose an alternative route. The new technology will improve traffic congestion, lessen vehicle emissions, and hopefully, relieve driver stress.

The electronic signs are located well ahead of the rail crossings, letting drivers know if they will be delayed by a train and for how long. This information discourages aggressive driving behavior towards rail crossings since drivers do not need to race to the crossing "just in case there's a train." It also sends the information to our first responders, allowing ambulance or fire truck drivers to choose an alternate route.

The new electronic signs will be located at:

- Grand Avenue, east of 25th Avenue
- 25th Avenue, south of Grand Avenue
- Davis Street, north of Addison Street

We also expect that the technology will coordinate with the app Waze

when the system is fully activated. The installation of the new electronic signs will be completed soon, so please look for updated information on our Facebook page and website.

Get The Lead Out

We all know lead exposure can have serious health consequences, especially for children. Franklin Park has been working to protect our families by joining the Get The Lead Out (GLO) initiative. Our Village has been selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for special assistance as we are working towards our goal of having 100% lead-free pipes. This ongoing effort is part of the \$50 billion 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to replace lead service lines.

We are working to develop a comprehensive service line inventory, but we need your help! Please take a few moments to fill out the survey on our website at vofp.com.

Grateful

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. No matter one's circumstances, I believe we all can find reasons to be grateful. If you are able, please share your blessings with others. Consider donating non-perishable items to the Leyden Community Food Pantry. We will have a donation bin available in the lobby of Village Hall. You can bring



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

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

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Emergency 911

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





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unwrapped toys to our Police Station for the annual Toys for Tots campaign by December 11. Maybe bake an extra batch of cookies for your neighbors or share some pumpkin pie with a senior citizen in need. As I count my blessings, I include having the opportunity to serve as Mayor in such a caring community.

Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you at the Village's annual Tree Lighting on December 5!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



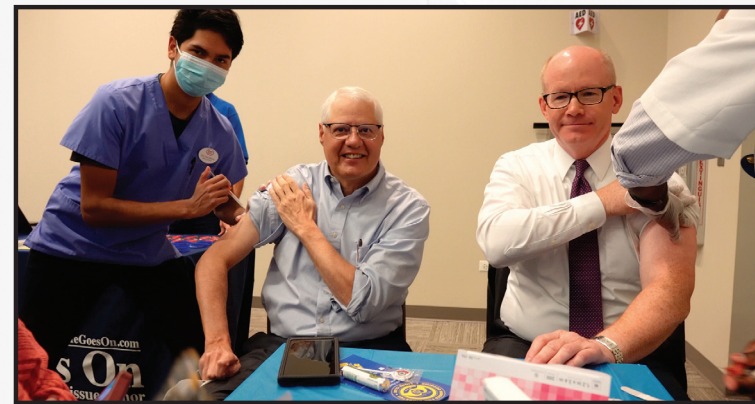
▲ Village officials cut the ribbon for Maharaj Restaurant and Banquets located at 3400 River Road. Welcome to our community!

Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Village Clerk April Arellano and Trustees Bill Ruhl and Karen Special celebrated the Grand Opening of the new McDonalds on Grand Avenue with representatives from Leyden Township, the Chamber by O'Hare and Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar.

Do You Need Help with Government Programs or Veterans Issues?

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall on Wednesday, November 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. In addition, Leyden Township's Veterans Affairs Liaison will be available that day to answer questions about benefits and services that are available for the Veterans. No appointment is required.

Last day for yard waste pick up is Tuesday, December 3.



▲ Thank you to Illinois Senate President Don Harmon for co-sponsoring our annual Senior Health and Resource Fair. Mayor Barrett Pedersen reminds residents that it is not too late to get your flu and Covid booster vaccine too!



Village Hall is closed on Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day and will close at 3 pm on Wednesday, November 27 and will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving.

There's No Place Like Home For the Holidays – Be the Best Decorated Home

Help us light up Franklin Park and make it sparkle! To enter your home in the contest, please email your family's name, address, phone number, and photos of your decorated home by December 20 to salarcon@vofp.com. Photos will be posted on our Village Facebook page and the winner will receive Board recognition and a prize. If you have questions or would like to enter the contest via the phone, call Sandra at (847) 671-8236.



The Library Will Host Santa – December 4

Who's that on the library's rooftop? Out jumps good ol' Santa Claus! Kids of all ages are invited to a special holiday event on Wednesday, December 4 from 4:30 until 6:30 PM that will include holiday stories and the opportunity to take a picture with Santa!

Climate Resiliency Open House – November 13

Stop by this free, family-friendly event to learn more about this initiative, provide your feedback about different solutions, and win giveaways! The event will be held on Wednesday, November 13 from 5 until 7 PM in the community room at the Police Station. The effort seeks to improve Franklin Park's resiliency to the effects of climate change, including severe weather events such as heavy rain, flooding, and extreme heat.

Important Notice Regarding Garbage Collection Rates

The Village has been notified that Republic Services has increased the monthly garbage collection fee for owners of a single-family or two-family home in Franklin Park effective October 1, 2024. This increase is included in your November billing statement for water and sewer service. Homeowners currently pay a monthly garbage collection fee of \$26.60, and the new monthly rate is \$27.80, an increase of \$1.20 per month. The collection service days remain unchanged and continue to include removing unlimited garbage and recycling on Mondays and removal of yard waste on Tuesdays.

If you are contracting with Republic Services for an additional trash bin, the cost will be \$3.83 per month and will be billed to you by Republic Services.

The Village will continue to subsidize the garbage collection rate for qualified senior citizens, age 65 and older, to allow them to receive FREE monthly garbage collection services. Qualified disabled and low-income residents will continue to be eligible to receive a reduced garbage collection fee of 50 percent. Seniors and disabled residents must demonstrate their eligibility every year by January 15. Eligibility information is available at vofp.com.

The Village continues to pay the cost to provide FREE unlimited, year-round access to the electronic recycling bin located at 9364 Franklin Avenue (north of Franklin & Martens intersection) which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 3 PM. Residents also receive free seasonal branch pick up in Franklin Park.



▲ Congratulations to Lieutenant Dan Torres who was sworn in to his new rank with the Franklin Park Fire Department.



▲ Craig Burmeister, newly sworn-in Battalion Chief, Fire Chief Mark Stewart, new Firefighter and Paramedic Brendan McManus, and newly promoted Lieutenant Bart Borowiec are congratulated by Mayor Pedersen.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated Jake Galanis after being sworn in as a new Police Officer.