



THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

February 2025



## Mayor's Desk

### 2025 Street Repaving Program

Construction season is just around the corner. Later this spring, the Village will begin work on our annual Street Repaving Program. Upgrades and improvements will include street repaving, new curbs, and landscaping restoration. Well-maintained roads provide safe passage for everyone who lives or travels through our town and have a positive impact on home values throughout the entire community.

The Village Engineers and Public Works staff identified streets that were the most in need of repair and developed a five-year plan to repave these streets. This year the Village will repave the following streets:

- Gage Ave. from Mannheim Rd. to Sarah St.
- Minneapolis Ave. from Mannheim Rd. to Scott St.
- Chestnut Ave. from Mannheim Rd. to Scott St.
- Sarah St. from Grand Ave. to Franklin Ave.
- Sunset Ln. from Grand Ave. to Franklin Ave.
- Louis St. from Grand Ave. to Franklin Ave.
- Washington St. from King St. to Belmont Ave.
- Robinson Area Subdivision including Crescent Dr., Birch St., Lombard St., and Martens St.

You can view the map that includes the Village's plan for streets to be repaved in 2025 through 2028 on page 2.

### Franklin Park Fest – Save the Date

I know it is only February, but please mark your calendar for our Village's annual summer tradition – Franklin Park Fest! The 2025 Fest will be held June 12 - 15. Watch future newsletters and our Village website for details and the lineup of musical entertainment.

  
Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated Sergeant Rose Rutkoski after being sworn in at the January Board Meeting.



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

**Village Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents Day. Trash will be removed as scheduled.**

### Leyden Family Services at Village Hall to Assist Residents

Leyden Family Services' staff will be at Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month 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. No appointment is necessary. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive. Scheduled Village Hall dates are from 9 AM to Noon on February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, Sept 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17.

### Free Tax Preparation Services Available for Seniors

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is offering free tax preparation services to individuals aged 60 or older from low to moderate income households (annual maximum of \$67k). IRS trained and certified volunteers will prepare tax returns for free. This service is available by appointment only at Triton College, Leyden Township, the Schiller Park Community Center Seniors Assistance Center in Norridge and several other locations in the area. To make an appointment, call (708) 456-0300, ext. 3895. For more information about the program, call (708) 456-0300, ext. 3835. This service is made possible by a grant-funded IRS program called Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE).

## Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Best Decorated Home for the Holidays Contest!



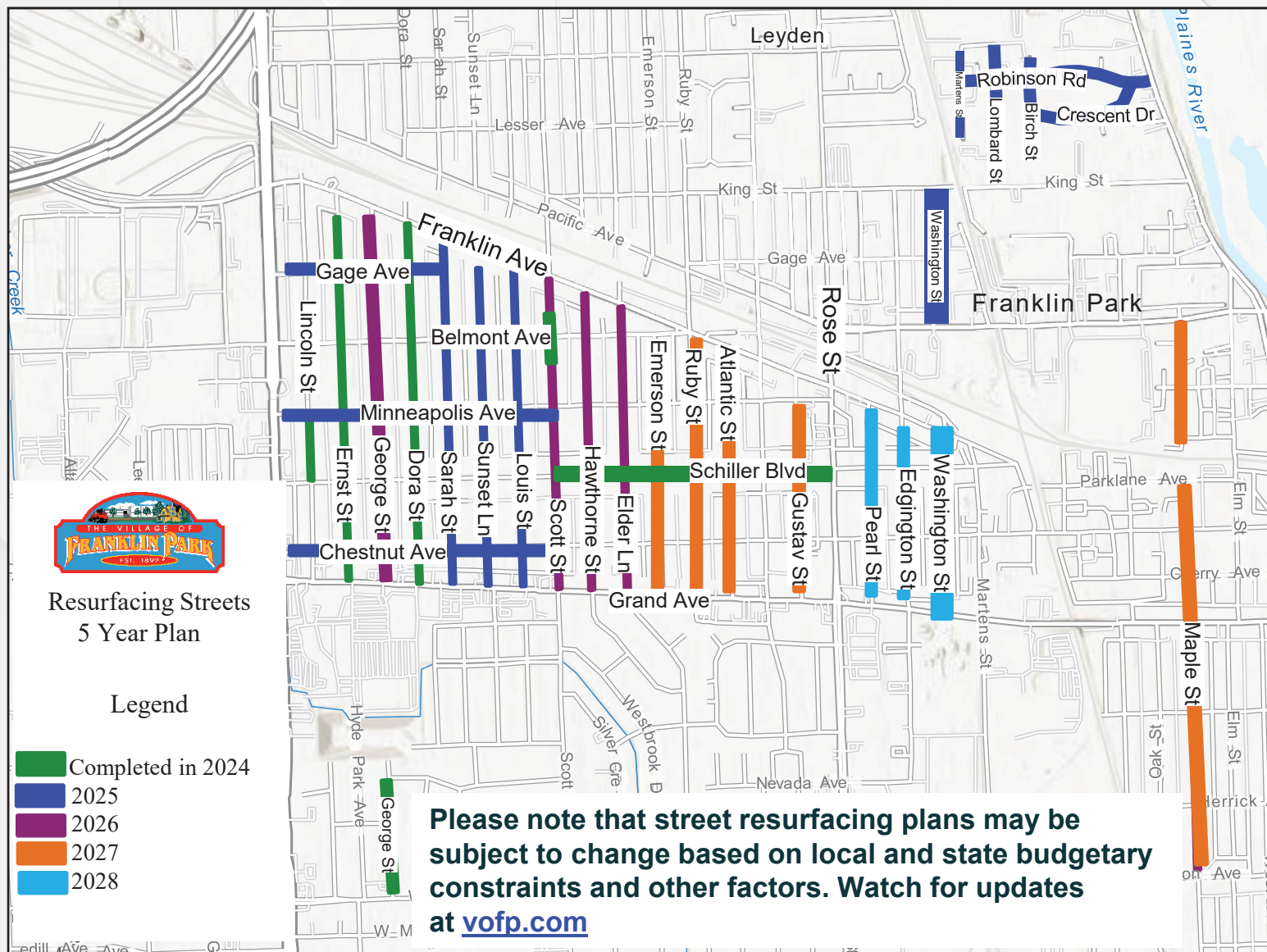
**The Peacock / Chung Family**  
2707 Elder Lane



**The Annoreno Family**  
3339 Ruby Street



**The Legaspi Family**  
2505 Ernst Street



### You Can Help Improve Traffic Safety in Your Community

Northeastern Illinois is experiencing a traffic safety crisis. Roadway deaths have been increasing over the past decade and an increasing number of those killed are people walking or riding a bike. You can make a difference by participating in the nationwide Safe Travel for All initiative to reduce — and ultimately eliminate — fatalities and serious injuries on our roads.

As a resident, you know the roads in your community better than anyone, and your personal experience is key to understanding safety issues and developing solutions. Please visit the Cook Safety Action Plan website at [engage.cmap.illinois.gov/cook](http://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/cook) to:

- Drop pins on the safety hotspots map.
- Take the traffic safety survey (and get entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card!)
- Get information about future events and open house details.
- Sign up for project updates.

Safe Travel for All is a region wide initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in northeastern Illinois. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Cook County along with five other area counties were awarded nearly \$4 million from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant to develop a traffic safety framework for northeastern Illinois.

### Apply NOW for Sidewalk Program

The Village is accepting applications now for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to replace damaged and cracked concrete on the public sidewalk near your home. Homeowners and the Village will share the cost evenly. Please call (847) 671-8308 to be placed on the list for repair this summer. The Village will contact you to make an appointment to discuss the details. If you apply after May 30, 2025, you will be placed on the list for next year.



### Early Voting Available at Village Hall for April 1 Election

- March 17 – March 22 – Monday through Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
- March 23 – Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM
- March 24 - March 29 - Monday through Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
- March 30 - Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM
- March 31 - Monday - 9 AM to 5 PM

Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day, you must cast your ballot at your designated Polling Place on Election Day. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at (847) 671- 8242.

Voters are asked to enter the Early Voting area via the parking lot.

### Voter Registration Event at Angel's Closet – February 13

Make sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming April 1 election! Residents can enjoy refreshments and do some shopping before registering to vote at Angel's Closet on Thursday, February 13, from noon to 2 PM. Angel's Closet is a resale boutique that provides a selection of budget-friendly clothing and items for the home and is located at 9706 Franklin Avenue.



### Saturday Dates for Passport Services at the Library - February 22 & March 22

Are you planning a vacation out of the country this summer? Don't forget your passport! For your convenience, the Clerk's Office will provide services at the Franklin Park Library on Saturday February 22 and March 22. These Saturday sessions will be by appointment only from 10 AM to 3 PM and will include on-site photo services. To schedule your appointment or if you have a question, call the Clerk's Office at (847) 671-8242.



Congratulations Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for being recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for their work on the Des Plaines River Trail Improvement Project. The engineering firm was a key partner in the \$12.5-million investment project along the Des Plaines River Trail on the segment from Lawrence Avenue to Touhy Avenue.

The engineering firm relocated portions of the trail away from the river and out of the floodplain by rerouting low-lying river segments to higher ground. Their work also included upgrading the trail surface to provide a more enjoyable experience for bikers and pedestrians. In addition, a pedestrian bridge was installed over Lawrence Avenue to provide better access for surrounding communities to the Forest Preserves.

To learn more about the Des Plaines River Trail Improvement Project, watch the informative video on the Sustainability Page of the Village's website at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).