

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

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THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

April 2020



Respond to the Census to Support Community Needs

Franklin Park needs your help! Please take a few minutes to answer a series of simple questions for the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) to help make sure our community gets its fair share of billions of dollars in federal funds distributed each year. The results of this count also affect the number of seats Illinois will have in Congress. Local decision-makers use Census data to help determine future needs for new schools, clinics, roads and other services for families, older adults and children.

Households should have received a mailing recently from the Census Bureau. This correspondence provides detailed information on how to [respond online, by phone or by mail](#).

Residents who do not return the questionnaire by the end of April will receive a visit from a census taker in May through July to make sure the count is as accurate as possible. All information is confidential under federal law and provided to the Census Bureau is for statistical purposes only.

For more information, including an explanation of why each question on the Census form is asked, visit www.2020census.gov.

Apply Now for Senior Grass-Cutting Program

The Village is currently accepting applications for the Senior Grass Cutting Program, which will run from April until the end of October. Qualified seniors will pay \$12 per cut. Applications have been mailed to past participants. New applicants should call 847-671-8240 to apply. If you have previously been on the grass or snow program and your health condition has not changed, you will NOT need to send in a new doctor's note but WILL need to complete an application again this year. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited so please apply early!



Students Can Apply Now for Summer Job with the Village

The Village is currently hiring students for part-time summer jobs at Village Hall and in the Public Works Department. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, currently enrolled in high school or college and have a "C" average. Salary begins at \$9 per hour. Go to vofp.com to download an application and guidelines for the program.

Stay Connected with the Village of Franklin Park

Are you receiving updates and alerts from the Village via email? The Village has been sending emails to residents regarding important updates on the Coronavirus - COVID-19. Are you not on the list yet? Send us the email address you want us to use at villagenews@vofp.com.

Want to be called when we host our next Telephone Town Hall Meeting? Email us at villagenews@vofp.com and include your name, home address and phone number (indicate home and cell).

Are you signed-up to receive Public Safety Alerts from our Police Department? You will receive calls from the Village in case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action to help ensure public safety. Go to vofp.com to access Public Safety Notifications on the Homepage and Police Department page.

The new Smart 911 App provides call takers and first responders with the critical information needed in any kind of emergency. Call takers can view your address, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. Smart 911 travels with you and is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide. To sign-up, search "Smart 911" in your mobile app store or text "Smart 911" to 67283 to receive the download link via text message.



Mayor's Desk

Staying Home Saves Lives

These are extraordinary times. During this period of uncertainty, the Village is making every effort to keep our residents safe, our businesses viable and our services accessible.

One of the difficulties of this healthcare crisis is that information changes frequently, sometimes hourly. For this reason, we have compiled a list of resources in this newsletter, including phone numbers and websites that can supply you with timely information. We will also continually update our Village website, so please check our site often. If you are unclear about the information on the website, PLEASE call us at 847-671-4800. Though our website is comprehensive, we are here to help you navigate ever evolving information. Staff will return your call.

The Governor's "Stay at Home" directive has been put in place to contain the further spread of the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. That is how we as a community, a country and a civilization will conquer this pandemic.

Doctors, nurses and healthcare workers have coined the slogan "We stay here for you, please stay home for us." This will save lives. If the stay at home order is still in effect when you read this, it is your duty to your family, friends and neighbors to follow it.

People with underlying health concerns and those over 60 are the most vulnerable to severe cases of Coronavirus. But ANYONE, at ANY AGE, can be infected and spread the illness.

As I write this, we can still go to the grocery store, the pharmacy, to medical visits, the bank, laundromat and to restaurants that provide take out service. There is no need to hoard items or panic. If you hoard, you jeopardize your neighbor's ability to get essential items. Stores are restocking every day. Food, toilet paper and other supplies will continue to be available throughout this ordeal.

We can walk our dogs, go for a walk, ride our bikes or take a run but must always practice social distancing. You cannot use playground equipment because the virus can live on the equipment for longer periods than you think. You can get or transmit the virus to others by using playground equipment. Obey the signs at our Parks. And please, do not visit friends or hold gatherings of any size. Although these precautions seem drastic, and we all agree inconvenient, lives will be saved by containing the spread of the virus.

Continue to wash your hands thoroughly and often, avoid touching your face and surfaces in public places and always keep 6 feet or more away from others.

I anticipate that our Village Hall will continue to be closed to foot traffic, but the Village is open and available to assist you with most services, via phone, email, or our website at vofp.com. We strongly encourage you to use online bill pay.

Our emergency services are fully operational and Public Works is maintaining our streets, water mains and sewers. Garbage and recycling will continue to be collected on Mondays.



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

Roberta Johnson
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
villagenews@vofp.com

Emergency 911

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





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Franklin Park continues to be a 'community of neighbors' despite the restrictions of social distancing. If you go shopping, call an elderly or disabled neighbor and offer to shop for what they need, and you can leave the items on a porch or in a lobby to avoid contact.

Take a minute to call a friend and express well wishes. Pull out the old board games, grab a deck of cards, try a new recipe, use the exercise equipment in your basement or read that book you received for Christmas.

These difficult times shall pass. We will endure these substantial inconveniences and come out a stronger, safer and healthier community.

Be Well,

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Trash and Branch Collection Update

Trash and recycling will continue to be collected every Monday by Republic Services. Trash and recycling must be placed in their respective carts. Other services including yard waste pick-up and bulk pick-up has been suspended at this time and pick-up will resume at a future date. In addition, the Village is suspending branch pick-up and will only collect branches for emergency situations. Please watch our website for updates.

Street Sweeping Suspended

The Village has suspended street sweeping activity temporarily. With residents adhering to the Governor's directive to stay at home, it would be too difficult for residents to move their cars to complete street cleaning. Please watch our website for information and updates.

Virtual Village Hall

Village Hall is closed to foot traffic. The Village is open and operating virtually to assist you with most services via phone, email, or through our website at vofp.com from Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Emergency services are fully operational and Public Works is maintaining our streets, water mains and sewers. The Governor's directive also encourages local governments and private industry to complete existing construction projects.



Water Bill Payments and Due Dates

Please use online bill pay. Water bill payments that were due in March, will be extended to April 15. The Village has waived fees and penalties for this period. There will be NO shutoffs. If you need help with payments, call the Village at 847-671-4800.

You can also put payments in the outside drop box located in the parking lot, behind Village Hall. Please do not put cash in the box. You can also mail a payment to Village Hall, 9500 Belmont Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60131.

The Building Department will not be open for walk-ins. Permits can be facilitated by using online services or you can fill out forms and place them in the parking lot drop box. If you have questions for the Building Department, please call 847- 671-8245.

The Clerk's Office will be closed to the public but available through email at clerk@vofp.com and by phone at 847-671-8242. Passport services are suspended until further notice.

The Community Development Department has information for small businesses and employers at www.villageoffranklinpark.com/departments/community_development_zoning/.

Coronavirus Pandemic Information and Assistance

Shopping and Pharmacy Delivery Information

Many local grocery stores are offering shopping hours available exclusively to seniors, disabled, pregnant individuals and other vulnerable members of the community. Call your local store or see the list of participating stores and their hours on the Village website at vofp.com.

Some pharmacies have adjusted their prescription delivery options to help people who are staying home because of the coronavirus.

- CVS prescription delivery is free, now through May 1 and you can get 1 to 2- day delivery once your prescription is ready for pickup.
- Osco is offering home delivery and mail service. Please contact the local Osco pharmacist at 847-455-0633 for information.
- Walgreens is offering free prescription delivery on all eligible medicines, and free standard shipping at walgreens.com or call the local Walgreens at 847-455-6876.

Support Local Restaurants Offering Delivery or Pick-up

Due to the Governor's recent Executive Order about the Coronavirus, area restaurants and bars have been closed for dine-in service. Uber Eats is waiving delivery fees on orders from independent restaurants and Grubhub is suspending commissions. Go to vofp.com to access the list of restaurants that are providing delivery and pick-up options in our area.

Adjudication Court Date Changes

Adjudication Court and all cases are continued to April 16 for the Police Department and until May 21 for the Building Department. No additional costs or fines will be imposed due to this delay.

Economic Assistance

The Illinois Department of Employment Security is allowing workers who are unemployed due to COVID-19 to apply for unemployment online at www2.illinois.gov/ides. You can also call 1-800-244-5631.

Sheriffs in Cook County have suspended enforcing evictions for at least 30 days. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued a moratorium on evictions of single-family homes with federally insured mortgages for the next 60 days. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are also offering mortgage assistance.

The SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans to businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters. Go to www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance. For more info on SBA #COVID19 resources, visit www.sba.gov/coronavirus.

Utility and Phone Company Assistance

ComEd is voluntarily suspending service disconnections for customers who cannot pay, and waiving new late payment charges, through at least May 1, 2020. They are also offering flexible payment arrangements and energy financial assistance. Visit ComEd.com or call 800-334-7661.

NICOR Gas voluntarily has suspended service disconnections for non-payment, effective immediately for both residential and commercial customers through May 1. You can learn more by calling 888-642-6748 or go to nicorgas.com.

Comcast / Xfinity is offering no disconnects or late fees if customers contact the company to tell them they can't pay their bills during this period. The company is offering flexible payment options and can help find other solutions. Xfinity is offering free WiFi hotspots.

Verizon will waive late fees for 60 days up to May 16, 2020 and will not terminate service to a customer who's been impacted by the events involving the Coronavirus. Contact customer service at verizonwireless.com.

AT&T is suspending the termination of wireless, home phone or broadband service when customers can't pay their bills because of coronavirus disruptions and is waiving related late fees. AT&T is also providing free access to its public WiFi hot spots. Go to <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>. Also, they are offering internet access for qualifying limited income households at \$10 a month.