

Village News



Mayor's Desk

Franklin Park is Home for the Holidays

It is hard to believe the holidays are here. Franklin Park is a community that embraces and celebrates all cultures and holiday traditions.

generosity to our community. Recently, Franklin Park resident Christina Norten, joined me in appreciating Digital Realty.

One of our favorite traditions is displaying and lighting our Village Christmas tree at Hammill Square. The community comes together at Winterfest to celebrate the season, share some hot chocolate and take family photos with Santa. Thank you to John Persino and Permidt Plumbing and Engineering for donating this year's beautiful Christmas tree!

She posted on our Village Facebook Page, "I drove past Digital Realty and want to commend them for the aesthetic appearance of their business. The lighting, landscaping and architecture are an asset to our community. The care and attention they put into developing their property shows respect for our neighborhood."

The Sparkle Challenge!

Release your inner elf! Stretch your creativity and maybe even start a little friendly competition with your neighbors. Show off Franklin Park's spirit and help us become one of the best decorated Villages!

Thank you, Christine for taking the time to compliment this asset to our community. Also, thank you to Digital Realty for making our town look good and thank you to all who show respect for our Village.

The Season of Giving!

The holidays are great fun and in Franklin Park we come together as a community to celebrate and enjoy each other's company. We also cherish this season to spend time with our family, friends and loved ones. This year, our Village Board designated 2019 as the Year of Giving. This holiday season I encourage all Franklin Park residents to share their joy, kindness and generosity with our neighbors, friends and community.

Committed Corporate Citizen

Digital Realty is a great business asset to our Village. Often, I have applauded their

There are so many ways our generosity can bring joy. Donate to Leyden Family

Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

Roberta Johnson
Village Clerk

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

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847-671-4800
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villagenews@vofp.com

Emergency 911

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

Village Hall Holiday Hours

December 23 -
Closes at 3 PM
Dec 24, & 25 -
Closed

December 31 -
Closes at 3 PM
January 1 -
Closed

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

At this time of year, many residents choose a natural tree to decorate for the holiday. Natural trees can dry out quickly so take special care to keep the water filled in the tree stand. If you choose a natural or artificial tree this holiday season, keep these helpful Christmas tree fire safety tips in mind:

- Keep it out of the way. Do not place your tree near doors or exits.
- Water, water, water. Natural trees should be cut at a 45 degree angle at the base and placed in water. Make sure to water it regularly so it doesn't dry out and increase the risk of a fire hazard.
- Decorate wisely. Use only non-flammable decorations.
- Keep heat away. Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents.



- Check 'em. If you have older lights that have been in storage for a year, examine the wiring and bulb sockets before use. Own a pre-lit tree? Take some time to examine the lights and the wiring before setting it up.
- Don't overload sockets. Connect a maximum of three strands of lights together at any given time and avoid using extension cords if possible.
- Turn 'em off. Try not to keep your lights on longer than necessary. Use a timer or turn them off before you go to sleep in the evening to lessen the fire hazard and save some money on your electricity bill.
- Enjoy it, then toss it. Try not to put your tree up too early or leave it up too long. Once you are done with your real tree, place on the parkway. The Village has scheduled tree and wreath pick up for January 7 and 14.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Discarded Christmas trees and wreaths will be picked up on Tuesday January 7 and 14. Put your tree on the front parkway by the curb and do not place them in the alley. Please be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel and other decorations. Public Works will chip and mulch trees for use in our landscaping efforts. Please note that pick up dates could be postponed due to weather.



Holiday Recycling Guide

<i>Nice (recyclable)</i>	<i>Naughty (not recyclable)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gift boxes Tissue paper Shoe boxes Christmas tree (non-artificial) Holiday cards/envelopes Gift bags (if paper) Wrapping paper (non-metallic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubble wrap (consider reusing) Foam peanuts (Some UPS stores will accept and re-use) Ribbon and bows (consider reusing) Anything on the tree Sticky gift labels Gift bags if coated, laminated, dyed Metallic wrapping paper (consider reusing) Soiled disposable tableware



◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

Services or their Food Pantry; you will find a donation box for non-perishable food at Village Hall. Brighten a child's holiday by bringing an unwrapped new toy to our Police Station. Our local churches and many area community groups offer ways that you can make the holidays a little brighter for those in need. You will be filled with the holiday spirit when you try to lift someone's spirits this season. Take a plate of homemade cookies to a friend or neighbor and feel the warmth that comes from giving.

Together let's make this Year of Giving the most generous ever!

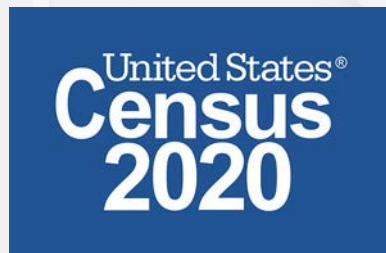
May your holiday be filled with love, peace, happiness and joy!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

Support Toys for Tots

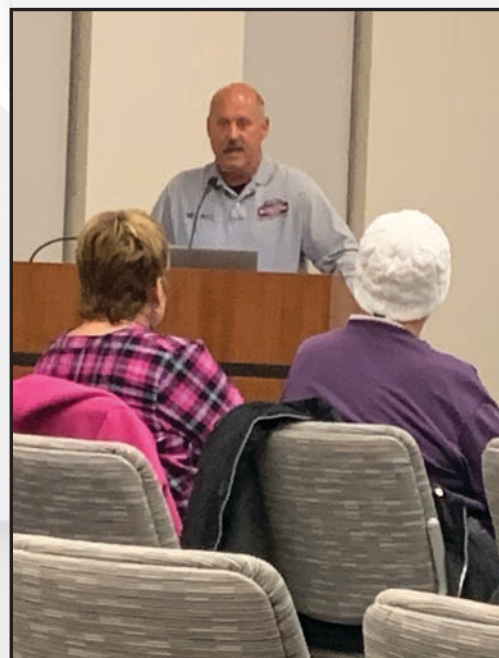


Franklin Park's Police Department is collecting unwrapped toys for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. Please drop-off toys in the lobby of the Police Station at 9451 Belmont Avenue through December 12. Thank you for helping to make a child's Christmas a little brighter!



Census Jobs Available

Every decade the US Census Bureau undertakes a count of all residents. The Bureau is gearing up for that effort now and are hiring for a variety of good paying, jobs with flexible hours and paid training. Complete information can be found at 2020census.gov/jobs or by calling the Mayor's Office at 847-671-8236.



◀ **Mayor Barrett Pedersen welcomed residents who attended the November 14 Community Watch meeting to learn about scams pertaining to the IRS, gift cards and home security programs. Director of Police Mike Witz warned residents that if the offer sounds too good to be true, then beware because it probably is!**

Manufacturing Day Connects Students with Local Industrial Businesses

The Village of Franklin Park partnered with Leyden High School District 212 and local businesses on October 4 to commemorate Manufacturing Day. The national event addresses common misconceptions about manufacturing and industrial operations by providing businesses an opportunity to open their doors to the public. This year, Digital Realty and Sloan Valve welcomed Leyden High School students and hosted tours of their manufacturing floors and offices. Students were able to ask questions about day-to-day operations, technical training requirements, and advancement opportunities.

The event aims to attract future manufacturing workers to fill the industry's shortage of skilled labor, improve the public image of manufacturing and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the manufacturing industry. The Manufacturing Day event builds on a larger Village initiative to address workforce challenges in the industry by connecting manufacturers, training agencies, and prospective workers.



◀ **Students from Leyden High School District 212 toured the Franklin Park facilities of Digital Realty (top) and Sloan Valve (bottom) as part of Manufacturing Day.**

Volunteers Needed! Participate in Triton's Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties, located at Triton Community College, will again provide free tax assistance to seniors. RSVP is looking for individuals interested in volunteering to participate in the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program that provides free tax return preparation assistance to low to moderate income taxpayers who are 60 and older, individuals with disabilities and non-English speakers.

Volunteers can serve as greeters, reviewers or tax preparers. No previous experience is required. The IRS provides free tax law training, e-file training and all the materials needed to prepare basic individual income tax returns. The hours are flexible but volunteers are asked to serve an average of three to four hours per week from February through April 14, 2020.

Volunteer sites are located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools and other locations. Tax returns are done by appointment only from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM during the week and 8:30 to 11:30 AM on Saturday.

Potential volunteers can attend an orientation on Dec. 14 at 8:30 AM to learn more. Free training sessions, held from 8:30 AM to 3 PM on Saturday January 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2020, in Room R-221 of Triton's Robert M. Collins Center. For more information or to register for the training session, call 708-456-0300, Ext. 3835 or 3603.



Municipal Aggregation Program to Restart in January

The Village recently announced that it will restart its Municipal Aggregation program that will now feature 100% renewable energy, unlike what ComEd supplies. The program's rate will be identical to ComEd's rate; it will not be higher or lower. The program will begin in January and have a two-year term. Residents can opt out of the program at no charge, if they do not wish to participate.

Please note that no one from ComEd, Eligo, or the Village will call or visit your home to ask you to enroll. If you are contacted and told that you must enroll, you may file a complaint with the Illinois Commerce Commission. For more information on this program, go to vofp.com to read the Frequently Asked Questions document.