



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

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**Village Hall  
will be  
closed on  
Monday,  
January 20**

## Franklin Park Celebrates the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The Village hosted its annual Tree Lighting event in Hammill Square last month and a good time was had by all. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves arrived in style thanks to our Fire Department. Choirs from District 84 sang songs of the season and helped Mayor Barrett Pedersen to light the beautiful Christmas tree donated by John Persino with Permid Plumbing and Engineering. A very special thank you goes to Ferrara for their generous donation of candy and to Mori Milk for providing chocolate milk.



### A Green and Sustainable New Year

Throughout our country and around the globe, there has been increased interest in addressing the effects of climate disruption. A stronger focus is being placed on ways that every citizen can assist in using sustainable energy practices. Today, more citizens are aware of their carbon footprint and the impact that has on the sustainability of our families, our community and our planet; and that is a good thing. But, we have to do more.

By making small changes, each of us can help reduce carbon emissions. These changes include a number of sustainable practices that will contribute to the overall health of our planet. Scientists have shown that when even one person makes a change to protect our climate, others in the community are inspired to do the same.

Since each one of us has a role to play and each one of us can make a positive impact for our climate, Franklin Park is declaring 2020 to be the **Year of Living Green and Sustainably**.

Each month this year we will be focusing on specific steps we can take as a community and as individuals to protect and sustain our climate and planet.

There are actions we can take now that are easy and economical to implement.

#### A Greener Commute

There are many ways to reduce emissions

that will also make you healthier and will also help save money.

- Walk to local stores, parks, libraries and schools
- Take public transit whenever possible
- Ride a bike
- Car-share
- Switch to a plug in electric or hybrid vehicle

#### Greener Options For Us All

**Eat Locally** - Food that is shipped from other countries has a larger carbon footprint. Eating products grown and processed locally is healthier for you and the planet.

**Reject Over Packaging** - We can waste less when we support products that use bio-degradable packaging and are minimizing the amount of packaging used.

**Recycle Wisely** – Take care to keep items like plastic shopping bags and film wrap out of your recycling bin. These items will clog or break sorting machines. Please return all plastic bags along with plastic wraps and films to Jewel or other grocery stores that will recycle them properly. Confused about what can or cannot be recycled? Go to our Recycle Guide at vofp.com.

**Home Energy Audit** - Utilities such as ComEd and Nicor encourage switching to energy efficient light bulbs, unplugging electronics when not in use, washing



### ◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

clothes in cold water and line drying when possible. These changes will all reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and save money.

We urge you to join us in the initiative and help to influence others to participate in a **GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE NEW YEAR.**

Have a Happy, Healthy, New Year!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

### 2020 Census Needs Everyone to Participate



As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, our country has counted its population every 10 years since 1790. It is critical that everyone participate in the Census count this year. The Census results will help determine how much federal funding will flow into states and communities each year.

When you respond to the Census, please know that your answers are kept anonymous. They are only used to produce statistics. The U. S. Census Board is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

Soon you will be contacted regarding participating in the 2020 Census. Please watch this newsletter for more information.



◀ My sons and I were proud to volunteer again this year at the annual Franklin Park Manila Lions Club Senior Holiday Lunch. It is always a great event and I cherish seeing so many friends.



◀ Art students from Hester Junior High painted the windows on Franklin Avenue to celebrate the holiday season.



### Christmas Trees Recycling Available

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. Note that pick-up dates could be postponed due to weather.

### Stand Down for Veterans Event - January 26

The American Legion Post 974 will host a stand down to support homeless veterans on Sunday, January 26 from 11 AM to 3 PM at their facility at 9757 West Pacific. A hot meal will be served and toiletries, clothing, food and blankets will be distributed to anyone in need. The Veterans Administration will be onsite to provide counseling and housing assistance. If you are interested in donating or volunteering to help make this event a success, please call 847-560-0459.



◀ Last year's event drew over 100 needy or homeless veterans who enjoyed a hot meal and good company at the American Legion Post's event.

### Leyden Family Services Available at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall to help residents apply for government assistance programs from 9 to 11:30 AM on the following Wednesdays: January 8 and 29, February 5 and 19 and March 4 and 18. They can also help you make sense of your medical bills, provide prescription assistance and assist you in applying for license plate discounts and free train and bus passes. Before visiting, see the document checklist at [voftp.com](http://voftp.com).

### Keep Trash Can Lids Closed

It may be trash to you, but to a wild animal, its dinner! Raccoons and other critters can't resist the scraps and leftovers most homeowners leave in their garbage bins. To prevent these pests from getting in and making a mess, make sure you secure the lid on your trash can tightly. Take the time to close the lid completely and never leave it open.



### Apply Now for Chamber's College Scholarships

The Chamber by O'Hare announced it is accepting applications for its annual scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Chamber's scholarship program offers three scholarship opportunities for the upcoming year open to all Franklin Park, Schiller Park, and River Grove residents. One \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student accepted at an accredited college, university, or community college. A second \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time current or incoming Triton College student pursuing a degree in an engineering technology/manufacturing-related academic area. Finally, in partnership with Digital Realty, the Chamber is offering a third \$1,500 scholarship for a full-time student pursuing a technology related program at an accredited college, university, or community college.

Advancing the educational aspirations of local students to become professionals, leaders and valued citizens supports the Chamber's goal to promote business growth between the three villages.

Applications for these scholarships may be obtained by contacting the Scholarship Chair, at [info@chamberbyohare.org](mailto:info@chamberbyohare.org) or [patzinga@triton.edu](mailto:patzinga@triton.edu). Please include a contact phone number with your email. The Chamber must receive completed applications and all required information by February 18, 2020. Please direct any inquiries to [info@chamberbyohare.org](mailto:info@chamberbyohare.org) or [patzinga@triton.edu](mailto:patzinga@triton.edu).