



Franklin Park Sparkles for the Holidays

Everyone is invited to participate in the Village’s annual Best Decorated Home for the Holidays Contest. To have your home considered, please send an email to villagenews@vofp.com that includes your family’s name, address, phone number and photos of your decorated home by December 17. As we receive entries, we will post the photos on our Village Facebook page. The winners will receive Board recognition and a prize. If you have questions, please call (847) 671-8236



Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

Public Works will remove discarded Christmas trees to chip, mulch and use in the Village’s landscaping efforts. Tree pick-up will take place on January 3 and 10. 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 and do not put it in a bag. Please note that pick-up dates could be postponed due to weather. Watch our Village Facebook page for updates.

Support Toys for Tots! Bring unwrapped toys through December 13 to the Police Station located at 9451 Belmont Ave. Thank you for spreading Christmas cheer to a child in need!

Mayor’s Desk

Franklin Park is Poised for Future Growth

Last month, I was pleased to join the groundbreaking for a 100,000-square-foot distribution facility at 3500 Wolf Road. The site was the former home of Precision Steel.

Franklin Park’s location at the Crossroads of America makes us an excellent choice for logistics, distribution, manufacturing, and assembly facilities. Convenient highway and rail access in and around O’Hare International Airport is a key criterion for a business when deciding where to build. Franklin Park’s central location is a major advantage in attracting new investments. The expansion and completion of I-490 will be an economic engine for additional development and growth for Franklin Park. The Tollway extension, scheduled for completion in 2023 will further connect us to airport facilities, decrease congestion, move truck traffic more efficiently, and increase and enhance airport access.

The Village planned for future growth by implementing a project to widen Franklin Avenue from two lanes to five lanes, from the new I-490 Tollway entrance and exit ramp to Mannheim Road providing better truck access to the Tollway. This \$30 million project, covered primarily through grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, and the Federal Highway Administration, includes new pavement, storm sewers, stormwater management, a multi-use path, and roadway lighting.

These types of infrastructure and industrial developments bring more revenue to the Village, helping to keep residential property taxes stable. It also provides revenue enhancement for our Village and affords us more funding for public safety, improved infrastructure, and an increased quality of life for all our residents. In addition, new industrial development will spur new retail and restaurant developments helping to revitalize our commercial corridors.

Franklin Park is poised for this growth because we have positioned our Village to attract new developments through our strategic planning and business friendly policies. We have replaced our aging industrial base with millions of square feet of new buildings already completed or in progress which will include millions of gallons of stormwater detention.

We look forward to additional investment from the federal infrastructure legislation that will further stimulate regional growth. Franklin Park is ready to welcome more industrial and commercial development.

Mayor’s Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



Recycling Tips for the Holiday Season

The holidays are the most wonderful (and wasteful) time of the year. Americans generate 25% more waste than average between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day — almost 1,000 pounds per household.

WHAT TO THROW AWAY	WHAT TO RECYCLE	WHAT TO DONATE/REUSE	WHAT TO COMPOST
Foil Wrapping Paper Cellophane Wrapping Disposable Decorations Soiled Paper Plates and Cups	Plastic Bottles (#1 and #2) Steel and Tin Cans Newspaper Glass Food and Beverage Containers (Brown, Clear or Green) Cardboard/Paperboard (Uncoated) Magazines <i>All must be empty, clean, dry and free of debris</i>	Gift Bags Ribbons and Bows Decorations Packing Materials Artificial Trees Clothing and Shoes Polystyrene Peanuts Bubble Wrap	Fruit and Vegetables Meat (no bones) Bread and Crackers Pasta Dairy Products (no liquids) Coffee Grounds Egg Shells



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





◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I encourage you to drive through our town and see the beautiful Christmas tree at the gazebo and see the festive decorations the Village has displayed around town. You can also drive through our neighborhoods and enjoy the creative light displays and holiday decorations created by our residents. For your convenience, the Village will be providing a map of the Best Decorated Home for the Holidays entries on our website on December 17.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Clerk, we wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe, holiday season. May you spend the holidays in joy and peace.

Barrett F. Pedersen



The Leyden Family Services' Food Pantry is collecting non-perishable boxed or canned food items or gift cards for Jewel Foods. Residents can place items in the drop-off box in Village Hall donated by the local firm Ex-Cell Kaiser. Representatives from Ex-Cell Kaiser and Leyden Family Services joined Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Clerk April Arellano in collecting food to aid families in need.

Healthcare Open Enrollment Through December 15

Now is the time to purchase, change, or renew your health care plans under the Affordable Care Act for coverage starting on January 1, 2022. Visit Healthcare.gov today to learn about the options available for you and your family.

Help Available for Paying Utility Bills

There are resources available for those who qualify to help pay for utilities including heat, electricity, and water bills. To learn more about the programs available, qualifications and the documents required to apply, go to vofp.com.

Leyden Family Services at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall on Wednesday, December 22 from 9 AM until Noon to answer questions or help you to apply for government programs like Medicare, Medicaid, LIHEAP and more. Staff can also help with understanding medical bills, prescription assistance, and more. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive. No appointment is necessary, and facemasks are required. Go to vofp.com to see the checklist before you visit.

Seniors, You Must Reapply for Free Garbage Removal Services

Franklin Park senior citizens and disabled and low-income residents must reapply annually to receive free garbage removal services. Qualified senior citizens and disabled low-income homeowners must reapply by December 31 each year to avoid receiving a bill for garbage removal service.

- Senior citizens aged 65 years or older who own a single residence or two-family property must provide a copy of their most recent Cook County Property Tax Bill which indicates they are receiving the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption to receive free garbage removal services. A copy of the bill can be mailed, emailed, or brought to Village Hall by December 30.
- Disabled and low-income property owners must provide proof of qualifications for the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) to be eligible to receive a reduced garbage collection fee of 50 percent. Qualified applicants can bring their paperwork to Village Hall or put in the Drop Box by December 30.

To guarantee you will receive free garbage removal for 2022, email your information to bcollins@voftp.com or mail to Village of Franklin Park, 9500 Belmont Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 6013. For more information, call (847) 671-8240.

Village Seeks Snow Removal Contractors

The Village is seeking snow removal companies to provide services for senior and disabled residents as part of its subsidized Senior Snow Removal Program from November 2021 through April 2022. The Village subsidizes the cost of snow removal allowing senior and disabled residents to only pay \$25 while the Village pays the snow removal contractors \$40 per residence. The service includes snow removal on driveways and public walkways. Snow removal contractors should call (847) 671-8240 to apply.



◀ Village officials cut the ribbon to welcome Imperio de la Elegancia to Franklin Park. The banquet hall and catering service is located at 9755 Grand Avenue.