



Village News



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

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**Village Hall
will be closed
on February 21
Trash will be
removed as
scheduled**

Mayor's Desk



The Future is Bright for Downtown Franklin Park

A vibrant downtown is a key element of Franklin Park's Comprehensive Plan. The Village's Downtown Beautification Committee, which includes local stakeholders, has been helping us to forge a vision that will create a vibrant mixed-use downtown district.

A&E Luxury Homes new 110-unit market rate rental building at 9600 Franklin Avenue will be the cornerstone of a renewed downtown Franklin Park. Construction for the six-story development has been progressing and will include street level retail space, designated on-site parking, and a private rooftop deck for residents.

Residents of the new development will enjoy access to two Metra stations and will become a built-in market for Franklin Avenue merchants.

A Walkable Downtown District

Facilitating a walkable downtown district is key to bringing in new businesses and attracting more customers. The Village is prioritizing improved pedestrian safety by utilizing green infrastructure in the area. We are constructing landscaped bump-outs along Pacific Avenue and Franklin Avenue. These enhancements will allow for more visibility of pedestrians at street crossings, more defined parking areas, improved separation between pedestrians and

vehicles, and additional opportunities for landscaping enhancements.

The Village is examining ways to increase parking capacity to help facilitate the possible introduction of new retail and restaurant opportunities in downtown Franklin Park.

I look forward to continuing to update you on the progress of the downtown district.

Safer Together

On behalf of the Trustees, the Clerk, and staff, I want to thank our residents and businesses for doing their part in keeping our community safe.

Our commitment to being a Neighborhood Watch community has served as a deterrent to local crime. Communities are safer when we know our neighbors and are vigilant about reporting illegal or suspicious activity to our Police Department. Cooperating with local law enforcement and real-time reporting of illegal activities results in perpetrators being apprehended.

We will be holding the next Community Watch meeting on March 1 at 6 PM in the Community Room of the Police Station. The meeting will include a discussion on ways residents can help to deter crime including remembering

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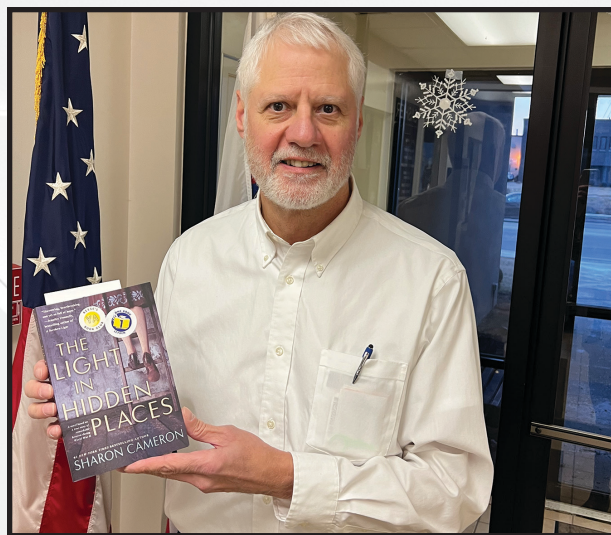
One Book One Leyden Expands to the Community

For the past few years, Leyden High Schools have been managing a program called One Book One Leyden. The program aims to have every faculty and staff member and student read the same book. The hope is to form a connection through literacy by everyone having the same book to discuss. Leyden High School has expanded the program to the community hoping that everyone in Franklin Park will read the same book and form a connection not just with literacy but also with their neighbors by reading and discussing the book with each other.

The book selected for this year is *The Light in Hidden Places* by Sharon Cameron. The book is based on the extraordinary true story of Stefania Podgórska, a Polish teenager who chose bravery and humanity by hiding thirteen Jews in her attic during World War II. The book has had strong reviews and has been selected for numerous book club entries.

The Village Board has endorsed the project and hopes that residents will read the book, pass it along, and talk about it with others. Also, use your social media outlets to spread the word by posting a photo of the book. Leyden High School has donated a few copies to Village Hall, the Fire Department, the Park District, and other places in the community that people frequently visit. If you would like to borrow a copy of the book, check with any of these local agencies to reserve a copy.

Cameron will be visiting West Leyden High School to discuss her book with the community on February 24 at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen is excited to participate in One Book One Leyden project and hopes residents will read the book, pass it on and discuss it with their neighbors.



▲ Members of the Franklin Park Fire Department are reading the One Book One Leyden project's selection *The Light in Hidden Places* and have copies to loan out at Fire Station 2.



◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

to always lock the doors and windows in your home and garage, maintaining a well-lit and well-maintained property and using security cameras if possible. Also, lock your car and do not leave anything on the seats that can be viewed from the street.

Although we have heard of some upticks in crime recently throughout the Chicagoland region, Director of Police Mike Witz and his dedicated officers have worked tirelessly to keep our streets safe and our neighborhoods secure.

Thank you to all in our Village who have made us safer.

Barrett F. Pedersen

Community Watch Meeting – March 1

Everyone is invited to attend the next Community Watch Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 1 at 6 PM in the Community Room of the Police Station. Join us for this informative session which will highlight crime prevention techniques and simple steps to take to keep your family and property safe. Director of Police Mike Witz will take questions from the audience.



▲ Construction on Phase II of the Crossings development is continuing with the construction of a new 110 luxury unit market rate rental building at 9600 Franklin Avenue.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

The federal government has made in-home COVID-19 tests available to every household in the country. Every household is eligible to order four free, at-home tests which will arrive in 7-12 days via the post office. If you live in a multi-unit building, include your apartment or unit number in your address. The tests are completely free, and you do not need to provide insurance information, your social security number, or any other sensitive data. Order now so you have the tests when you need them. Place your order at www.covidtests.gov.

Also, ACA compliant health plans are required to reimburse you for eight at-home tests per month for each person. To learn more, go to covidtests.gov.

Free Face Masks

Local pharmacies and grocery stores have partnered with the federal government to distribute free N95 masks which are designed to achieve a close facial fit and facilitate efficient filtration of airborne particles. Please call ahead of visiting any of the following locations to ensure they have masks in supply.

- Albertsons stores including Osco and Jewel-Osco
- Costco
- CVS
- Kroger stores including Mariano's
- Meijer, Inc.
- Walgreens
- Walmart and Sam's Club



In-Home Vaccinations Offered

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is offering in-home vaccinations for the residents of Suburban Cook County who are unable to leave home due to medical impairment, age, or disability. Residents can register online or by phone. Sign in at vaccine.cookcountyil.gov and click 'In-Home Vaccination'. You can also schedule via the hotline at (833) 308-1988 Monday through Friday, from 7am until 6 pm and on Saturday from 7 am until 4 pm.

Blood is Urgently Needed – Donate on March 4

The American Red Cross is reporting a dire shortage of blood due to the pandemic and is hoping that healthy individuals will roll up their sleeves to help. Please donate blood if you are able at the Village's next Blood Drive on Friday, March 4 from 3 until 7:30 PM in the Community Room at the Police Station.

Property Tax Exemptions Will Renew Automatically

In response to COVID-19, the Cook County Assessor's Office will continue the automatic renewal of the following exemptions:

- Senior Freeze Exemption
- Veterans with Disabilities Exemption
- Persons with Disabilities Exemption
- Homeowner Exemption
- Senior Exemption

If you received these exemptions last year, then you do not need to reapply. For first-time applicants, the 2021 tax year exemption filing period will begin in early March 2022. For more information go to cookcountyassessor.com/exemptions.



▲ Officer Antonio Diaz was joined by his family after being sworn in at a Village Board Meeting.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated Firefighter Matthew Bakke upon joining the Franklin Park Fire Department.



▲ Village Clerk April Arellano swore in new firefighter Vincent Sandoval at a recent Board meeting.