



THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

January 2022

HELLO January



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

Looking Forward to a New Year in Franklin Park

As we welcome the New Year, Franklin Park remains committed to the health and safety of our residents, along with the well-being of all who work and visit our Village.

well as that of your family and your community. Please contact your health provider or visit one of our local pharmacies or walk-in clinics to get vaccinated today.

Though we have overcome many challenges due to the pandemic, there is still a need for continued caution with the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. Being vaccinated is still the most effective measure to prevent severe illness from COVID. Getting your booster shot can help you avoid getting COVID or becoming seriously ill from it. Wearing a mask indoors and in crowded outdoor settings, maintaining social distance, and staying home and getting a COVID test when you are experiencing symptoms will protect you from getting sick and will also help stop the spread. If you have not already done so, please get vaccinated and get a booster.

It was great to see so many families lining the streets for our holiday parade. Santa, riding atop his fire truck is always a big hit with the kids. Please enjoy our photos on page 4 and watch the video on our website at vofp.com. We are looking forward to a new year and hopefully re-establishing normal routines and traditions with friends and family in 2022.

The staff and I look forward to 2022 and continuing to deliver quality, cost-efficient services to our residents and businesses and completing more of our critical infrastructure and development projects, including new efforts tied to the federal transportation bill.

May you stay safe and healthy throughout the New Year!


Barrett F. Pedersen

Health experts also warn of a double whammy this season from COVID and the flu. The CDC reports that flu vaccinations are only at about 41% for adults, down significantly from last year. It's not too late to get a flu shot. Flu vaccines and booster shots will protect your health as



A Holly Jolly Christmas in Franklin Park

Families came out to welcome Santa, Mrs. Claus and their Elf during the Village's holiday parade in December. Thanks to the Franklin Park Fire Department, the man in the red hat rode in style on the top of the fire truck and waved to children throughout town. After the parade, Mayor Pedersen, our Village Clerk and Trustees lit the Village Christmas tree!





▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Clerk April Arellano greeted representatives from local company Ex-Cell Kaiser for making a big donation of toys to support Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar's collection efforts.



▲ Thank you to the Franklin Park Police Department for organizing a Toys for Tots campaign and to everyone in our community who provided a toy.

Help Is Available for Paying 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

Free Home Energy Assessments Available

The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program is working in partnership with local natural gas utilities to help ComEd customers save money on their energy bills. The program provides residents with a free home energy assessment which includes helpful solutions to conserve energy, save money and help the environment. These solutions are designed to deliver savings to customers and reduce our collective environmental impact.

You can schedule a visit from an advisor who will examine your heating system (furnace or boiler), cooling system (air conditioner), water heater, and appliances. After the assessment, you will be provided with a personalized recommendation identifying additional ways to save energy and lower your monthly bill. To learn more, go to <https://www.comed.com/WaysToSave>.

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 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. Real trees only! Please note that pick-up dates could be postponed due to weather.



Free Virtual Workshop to Help You Take Charge of Your Health

Sign up now for the six-week course to learn how to better manage your health. The free course is made available by Age Options. The workshop will meet once a week on Tuesdays from January 18 until February from 1 until 3:30 PM over Zoom. To register or for more information, contact Joy at (708) 383 – 0258. Age Options staff is available to provide you with the technical assistance needed if you are not familiar with Zoom. Call them at (800) 699-9043.

Bingocize Class Available

Age Options is sponsoring a Bingocize class starting January 26, 2022 at the Shiller Park Community Center located at 4501 25th Street. Franklin Park residents are invited to participate to have fun, learn fall prevention techniques and get some light exercise. The class is free and is held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 until 11 AM from January 26 through April 1. To register or learn more, call Mary Maltese at (847) 678-8765 or go to seniorservices@schillerparkil.us.

Please Use Village Drop box When Possible

Village Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 4:30 PM. Village staff is available to conduct business via email or over the phone during business hours. You can utilize the convenient drop box located in the parking lot of Village Hall anytime, even after hours. Please do not put cash in the drop box. If a document does not fit, call to make special arrangements. For more information, call (847) 671-4800. You can use the drop box for the following:

- Water Bill Payments
- Vehicle Sticker Payments
- Permit Applications and Fees
- Zoning Applications
- Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIAs)
- Handicapped Application Forms
- Business License Payments
- Snow Removal Payments

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Best Decorated Home for the Holiday Contest!

Thank you to everyone who decorated this year. There were many beautiful entries making selecting the winners a little difficult!



First Place
The Villariny Family on Elder Lane



Second Place
The Jagelski Family on Addison Street



Third Place
The Legaspi Family on Ernst Street