

Village News



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:
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Gil Hagerstrom
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Andy Ybarra

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Emergency 911

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847-678-2444

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025
Trash and recycling will be removed as scheduled.

Mayor's Desk

Keeping Our Community Safe, Strong and Protected

I was proud to attend two events recently that highlighted individuals who have chosen a life of service for our community and our nation.

At the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club's annual holiday event we thanked our first responders for their commitment to keeping Franklin Park safe and protected and recognized two individuals for their service to our community.

Franklin Park Firefighter / Paramedic Dennis Mossuto was named the 2024 Firefighter of the Year. He was chosen based on his dedication to self-improvement, which motivates others to do the same. His proactive approach to everything he does makes him an important asset to the department.

This year's Officer of the Year is Officer Nicholas Pellikan. He has served our community for seven years. Officer Pellikan is a tireless volunteer, a mentor to younger officers, a role model for all our officers, and a professional in his field.

I congratulate this year's award recipients and thank all our brave first

responders for putting themselves in harm's way in service to our community.

Seeking To Serve Our Nation

Every year, our Service Academies receive applications from high school students to attend colleges that prepare officers for all branches of the US Military.

As an Air Force veteran, I was honored to attend the ceremony with Congresswoman Delia Ramirez and to honor local candidates to the four US Military Academies, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Marines. A member of Congress recommends outstanding students for appointments. Candidates are evaluated on academic excellence, leadership potential, physical ability, and commitment to serving the nation.

Our future depends on the leadership of our youth. I wish the nominees success and safety on their paths.

New Year, New Opportunities

Turning the calendar page on 2024 gives us a chance to look forward

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire truck, and we loved seeing the Hamburglar give away McDonald's coupons!



Thank you to Mrs. Dahl and the students from District 84 for performing our favorite holiday carols and for helping Mayor Pedersen light our beautiful Christmas tree donated by Two J's Industries.



The Park District made ornaments with families for the tree in the gazebo and the Library gave ornaments to kids bring home and our Trustees served hot chocolate.



A special thank you to our local candy manufacturer Ferrero for donating the sweet treats handed out by Santa's elves!





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to the new year and ways we can work together. Please consider volunteering to the Franklin Park American Legion Post 974's annual Stand Down to help homeless veterans and those in need on Sunday, January 26. You can find the details on page 3.

On behalf of the Village Clerk and Trustees, I wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy, and Meaningful New Year!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



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 during the weeks of January 13 and 27. Put your trees on the front parkway by the curb and do not place them in the alley. Remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations and do not put them in a bag. Dates could be postponed due to the weather.

Passport Service Available at the Library

The Clerk's Office will provide passport service at the Franklin Park Library by appointment only from 10 AM to 3 PM on the following Saturday's: January 25, February 22, and March 22. On-site photo services will be available. To schedule your appointment or if you have a question, call the Clerk's Office at (847) 671-8242.



▶ The Franklin Park Police Department collected toys for area kids who needed a Merry Christmas this year. Thank you to our friends at Ex-Cell Kaiser and all our residents who contributed.



▶ Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club award recipients Firefighter/ Paramedic Dennis Mossuto and Officer Nicholas Pellikan and thanked all first responders for their service to our community.



▶ Our new K9 Officer Villi raised his right paw to be sworn in by Village Clerk April Arellano at the December 16 Board meeting. Officer Emanuele Bucaro accompanied him.

▶ Mayor Pedersen, a proud veteran, spoke at a ceremony to recognize area nominees to military service academies with Congresswoman Delia Rameriz. We wish them success and safety on their path!

Wyndham Garden Hotel Development is Nearing Completion

Construction of the highly anticipated Wyndham Garden Hotel, located at 2900 Mannheim Road, is on track for completion by summer 2025.

The Wyndham Garden Hotel reflects an energetic, positive development of the Grand & Mannheim retail area. The development will attract both business travelers and tourists from O'Hare Airport.

This project is part of the Village's ongoing effort to improve our choice of stores and provide a choice of hotels for tourists. The development will serve as an economic engine that provides jobs and services for residents. In addition, improved commercial areas attract new investments and create a strong and stable community.

The premier 100-room, 4-star hotel will feature an impressive array of amenities including a state-of-the-art fitness center, stylish lounge, breakfast and bar areas, modern business services, adjustable meeting spaces, and environmentally friendly enhancements such as permeable pavers, landscaped parking lot islands, and advanced stormwater management features.

Overhead Traffic Signal Planned in Response to Accidents

The Village insisted that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) install a temporary overhead traffic signal at the intersection of Edgington Street and Belmont Avenue. Belmont Avenue is a state route, and the overhead light must be approved by the State. The action is in response to several serious crashes that have occurred at the intersection. Village staff have submitted preliminary plans to IDOT for review and hope to have the temporary traffic signal in place by summer 2025.

One of the leading causes of all accidents is distracted driving. Drivers should not be texting at any time. Please do not text and drive, you may save the life of a child.

We Need Your Help on the Grand Avenue Corridor Plan Goals & Recommendations!

The Village has partnered with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to create a plan to transform Grand Avenue into a safe, accessible, and thriving corridor.

We need your input to help prioritize the plan's goals and recommendations. Each recommendation plays a role in achieving the plan's vision, but your feedback will guide the Village in deciding where to focus resources first. The survey takes 5-7 minutes to complete. Please go to vofp.com to share your thoughts today!



▶ Construction on the Wyndham Garden Hotel, a premier 100-room, 4-star hotel located at 2900 Mannheim Road is nearing completion.

Donations and Volunteers Needed to Support Veteran Event - January 26

The Franklin Park American Legion 974 is hosting the annual Stand Down to help homeless veterans and those in need on Sunday, January 26 from 11 AM until 3 PM at the Post located at 9757 Pacific Avenue. The event will provide hot meals, clothing, toiletries, blankets, and haircuts for those in need. Veteran Service Officers and representatives from other agencies will also be present to provide information about VA benefits, housing, transportation, Honor Flight Chicago, and more.

If you would like to make a monetary donation or donate gently used or new clothing items (especially hats, gloves, scarves, coats) and blankets, please bring the items to the Legion after 4 PM until January 25. Volunteers are also needed before, during, and after the event to sort out donations, serve food, etc. If you would like more information or to volunteer, call (847) 560-0459.