



## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Despite the pandemic, Franklin Park celebrated the season with the help of jolly ole St. Nick! Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elf were the highlight of a festive parade that traveled through the Village on December 5 and ended with Mayor Pedersen lighting our beautiful Christmas tree. Thank you to everyone, including Congressman Mike Quigley, who came out to cheer the parade and to help spread joy and Christmas cheer throughout the town!



### Mayor's Desk



### Happy New Year!

Many of us are glad to say farewell to 2020. It has been a year of challenges, unexpected trials and times that have tested our patience and endurance.

Yet, I could not be more grateful for how our community has come together and thrived throughout it all. Despite social distancing and on-going mask wearing, we have proven again and again that we are a caring, concerned Village that has adapted well.

Our last Community Blood Drive of the year had a record-breaking turnout; neighbors volunteering to give the gift of life to those in need. We have seen much generosity in donations to local food pantries and with other charitable giving. Throughout the pandemic we have seen neighbors assist our seniors and others with errands, grocery shopping and other good deeds. This is the true definition of 'community'.

The Franklin Park Christmas spirit was in full display during the holiday season as more homes than ever were beautifully decorated this year bringing light and the joy of the Holiday Season. Santa helped us spread Christmas magic throughout our neighborhoods during our Holiday Parade. The festivities continued as we lit our beautiful Christmas tree in Hammill Square. Thank you to A & E Luxury Premier Apartments for donating this year's tree.

### Hope Lights Our Path

Looking forward to this year, we eagerly await the COVID-19 vaccine being readily available. There is more information about the vaccine on Page 3 and we will continue to update you on our Village website at vofp.com.

However, it is still extremely important to wear a mask anytime you are indoors with

someone and sharing air. You can still be a carrier of the virus even if you have the antibodies. Also, continue to practice social distancing, and wash your hands regularly. If you have tested positive, contact anyone who has been exposed to you so that they can consult with their primary physician to determine if they need to be tested or quarantined.

COVID-19 can be spread to others 48 hours before an infected individual develops symptoms or tests positive and 40% of infected persons experience no symptoms. Also, anyone who tests positive or is experiencing symptoms should contact people they have been in close contact with, during that window.

As more are vaccinated, we will see the spread slow and life will begin to return to normal. But we are not yet near the end of the fight against this killer virus. We really want our businesses and restaurants to have a full and vigorous recovery and regular mask wearing will help us get there. As our economy rebounds, we will see more opportunity, new investments in our Village and new jobs.

So, we are moving "hopefully" into 2021. The Village will continue to offer our essential services, plan for a full reopening, and support our local businesses.

I know this New Year will bring many new opportunities and successes for all in our Village.

Please have a Happy, Healthy and Hopeful New Year!

Barrett F. Pedersen



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

Roberta Johnson  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
Irene Avitia  
Gil Hagerstrom  
John Johnson  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

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**Village  
Hall will be  
closed on  
Monday,  
January 18**





▲ Santa joined Village Trustees John Johnson, Andy Ybarra, Bill Ruhl, Irene Avitia, Karen Special, Gil Hagerstrom, Deputy Clerk April Arellano and Mayor Barrett Pedersen to light the Village's beautiful Christmas tree. The tree was donated by A & E Luxury Premier Apartments.

### 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. 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



### Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Public Works will remove discarded Christmas trees to chip and mulch them and for use in our landscaping efforts. Tree pick-up will take place on January 11. 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. Please note that pick-up dates could be postponed due to weather. Watch our Village Facebook page for updates.

### Vaccine Information and Scam Alerts

A safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of the U.S. strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. Easy access to COVID-19 vaccines is equally important. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), health care providers, and other partners to make sure people can easily get a COVID-19 vaccine and that cost is not a barrier.

Coronavirus vaccines will soon be available to the public. When they become available, they will be free. Here is what you need to know now:

- **The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.** The CDC has developed a new smartphone-based app to provide an after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.
- **COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.** A second shot 3 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease.
- Because the current supply of COVID-19 vaccine is limited, **the CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccine be offered to healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities first.**
- **There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.** Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.
- **After a COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.** The side effects may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.
- **Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.** Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot which may be reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company.
- The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). **Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.**
- **COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic.** It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

Please beware of scams that include phone calls from individuals who falsely claim they can help you avoid long lines by paying for a vaccine dose now. According to the Better Business Bureau, the scammers are trying to steal people's money and personal information. Do not buy any kind of COVID-19 vaccine or treatment from the internet or an online pharmacy. Scammers use official-looking URLs — or website addresses — in their scams. Only a URL that ends in .gov is from the United States government. Be skeptical of anyone who calls or texts you, send you a message via social media or comes to your door. Ignore their offers to provide immediate action. If you want a vaccine early, contact your doctor, primary health care provider or local health department about your options.

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

Thank you to the Village's Beautification Committee, chaired by Village Trustee Karen Special for their work to select the winners. Also thanks to everyone who participated in making our town so festive this year!



Winner  
The Borowska - Copil Family on Westbrook Drive



Second Place - The Villariny Family on Elder Lane



Third Place - The Bejarano Family on Sunset Lane