

# Village News



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

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## Mayor's Desk



### Train Horns Will Be Fewer and Further Between Property Tax Update

The Village is pleased to report that the Quiet Zone designation will continue to go into effect over the next several weeks. This designation will spare residents from train horn blasts required ahead of each pedestrian crossing.

With this Quiet Zone designation, train engineers will no longer be legally required to sound their horns. However, if the train engineer perceives a threat on or near the tracks, such as seeing a car, pedestrian, or an animal on the tracks, they can still blow the horn. Also, an engineer can sound their horn when passing another train, if a train is stopped on the tracks, or if a passenger train is picking up passengers. In addition, an engineer may sound their horn in the railyard located west of Mannheim Road.

When our Quiet Zone designation was granted, the railroads were notified to remove the automatic triggering of the computerized mandatory sounding of the horn. Please note that this may take several months to have this system reprogrammed.

The Quiet Zone designation is the result of years of hard work and determination by the Village Board and staff. Our regional, state, and federal partners collaborated with us to obtain this benefit for our community. This effort demonstrates the achievements that result from working together for the common good.

I would like to offer special thanks to Mayor David Guerin of River Grove for being a steadfast partner and gracious neighbor throughout this process.

The second installment of Cook County's Property Tax bills reflects the recent reassessment of home values performed by the Assessor's Office in our area and is resulting in dramatic increases in residential tax bills. The reassessment raised property values considerably, and the property tax bills are higher accordingly. This is impacting homeowners in River Grove, Schiller Park, Northlake, Franklin Park, and other communities throughout Leyden Township and other parts of Cook County.

As Mayor, I am sensitive to and concerned about the increased burden being placed on our homeowners, many of whom are families who are already experiencing an over-stretched budget or are seniors dependent on a fixed income. The Village of Franklin Park has been holding the line on property taxes for more than a decade. The increase in taxes results from the Assessor increasing the official value of your home. If you believe that your home's official value is too high, you may appeal the assessed value of your home with the Assessor.

I contacted the Assessor's Office for a reasonable and thorough explanation of these significant increases, some of which are 30% or even higher than previous bills. I have also requested that Assessor Fritz Kaegi attend a Village Board meeting to discuss this matter.

Please check your property tax bill carefully to make sure you are receiving all the exemptions for which you qualify

# Winterfest at Hammill Square

presented by  
**The Village of Franklin Park**

## Annual Tree Lighting

**Thursday, November 30th  
6 to 8 PM**

**Hammill Square Gazebo  
at Belmont & Edgington**

- ★  Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 elementary school students.
- ★  Help decorate our Village Tree! Bring an ornament from home or make one at the Park District's Children's Craft table.
- ★  Enjoy refreshments served by our Village Trustees. Celebrate the season with your neighbors.
- ★  Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Food Pantry. The Village will be collecting old and non-working lights and electrical cords to be recycled. New socks will be collected by District 84 PTA.

*Bring your camera to take a photo of your children with Santa and Mrs. Claus!  
(The Village will not be providing photos)*





◀ **Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.** including your Homeowners Exemption and Senior Exemption (if you are age 65 or older). There are also exemptions available for returning veterans, low-income senior citizens (Senior Freeze) and persons with disabilities. To learn if you qualify for these exemptions, visit the Cook County Assessor's office website at <https://www.cookcountyassessor.com/exemptions>.

We will keep you updated on feedback and information we receive.

### Giving Thanks

I wish everyone in Franklin Park a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving with many blessings to count. But as we know, there are some who do not have as many blessings to share. I ask all in our caring, compassionate community to honor this holiday season by making it a season of sharing. Please see page 2 to learn more about opportunities to give in our community.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

### A Season of Giving

There are many ways to give back to our community. Whether through your churches or other established charities or just sharing some pumpkin pie with a neighbor, this is the time to reach out.



Please consider donating non-perishable items to Leyden Family Services' Food Pantry. The Franklin Park Police Department is collecting unwrapped toys for their annual Toys for Tots campaign at the Police Station until December 18.

The Franklin Park Public Library is accepting donations for the American Legion's Post Stand Down 2024. You may drop off new toiletries and unused winter clothing including jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets at the Library's Circulation Desk at 10311 Grand Avenue. Please see our website for a complete list of items accepted.



**Village Hall is closed on Friday, November 10 for Veterans Day and will close at 3 pm on Wednesday, November 22 and will be closed on November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.**

### Compete to Be the Best Decorated Home for the Holidays

Help us spread Christmas cheer throughout Franklin Park! To have your home considered, please send an email to [villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com) that includes your family's name, address, phone number, and photos of your decorated home by December 18. We will post your photos on our Village Facebook page. The winner will receive Board recognition and a prize. If you have questions or would like to enter the contest via the phone, call (847) 671-8236.



### Important Notice Regarding Garbage Collection Rates

The monthly garbage collection fee will increase for owners of a single-family or two-family residence effective October 1, 2023. Homeowners currently pay a monthly garbage collection fee of \$25.45, and the new monthly rate will be \$26.60, an increase of \$1.15 per month. The collection service days will remain unchanged and will continue to include removing unlimited garbage and recycling on Mondays and yard waste removal on Tuesdays.

The Village will continue to subsidize the garbage collection rate for qualified senior citizens, age 65 and older to allow them to receive FREE monthly garbage collection services. Qualified disabled and low-income residents will continue to be eligible to receive a reduced garbage collection fee of 50 percent. Seniors and disabled residents must demonstrate their eligibility every year by January 15. Eligibility information is available at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).

In addition, the Village will continue to pay the cost to provide FREE unlimited, year-round access to the electronic recycling bin located at 9364 Franklin Avenue (north of Franklin & Martens intersection) which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 3 PM. Residents also receive free seasonal branch pick up in Franklin Park.

The new garbage collection fee is included in your November billing statement for water and sewer service.

### BE A HERO



### DONATE BLOOD

### Blood Drive – December 1

The final Community Blood Drive of the year will be held on Friday, December 1 from 3 to 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Police Station. Please donate if you are able!



### Senior Thanksgiving Dinner – November 21

The Franklin Park Manila Lions Club and Mayor Barrett Pedersen invite our senior citizens to attend a special Thanksgiving dinner on Tuesday, November 21 from 2 to 5 PM at the Park District's Centre at North Park. There is no fee required to attend and the event is open to all seniors and people in need. To reserve your spot, please call (224) 848-0936 by November 14.



The Village was happy to recently welcome Mom's Pet Grooming Shop located at 3113 Calwagner Street.



### Friends of the Library Book Sale – December 2

Looking for great deals on new or gently used books, CDs, and DVDs? Join the Friends of the Library on Saturday, December 2 from 11 AM until 2 PM for a special, expanded book sale. You can also buy a reusable Friends tote bag full of materials for \$5!