



Village News



Mayor's Desk

FRANKLIN PARK, TREE CITY USA

I am pleased to announce that the Village of Franklin Park has been named a 2020 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. We received this honor as recognition of our efforts in urban forest management.

The Foundation acclaimed Franklin Park because we have met or exceeded their four requirements: establishment of a tree department, passing a tree care ordinance, budgeting at least \$2 per capita for community forestry and observing Arbor Day.

Planting and maintaining healthy trees, improves our air quality, provides protection from extreme heat, and helps to conserve energy resources. Trees also help to mitigate flooding. Equally, trees impact our personal health and well-being. Planting and caring for trees ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life.

In recognition of Arbor Day, the Village will be planting new trees on Schiller Boulevard in May. If you would like more information about how to become a volunteer with our sustainability and beautification efforts, please call (847) 671-8236.

The Arbor Day Foundation said that Franklin Park has 'stepped up to do its part'. I ask all residents and businesses to join us in this important effort.

Promising Covid News

Governor JB Prizker has announced that approximately 75% of residents over 65 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. While this is great news, it also means we cannot let our guard down. Now that vaccines are available for anyone over the age of 16, we need to increase the vaccination rate within all age groups.

The vaccines are safe and have proven to be effective. Increasing the vaccination numbers will help us to return to a life we consider normal. If you have been vaccinated, please encourage family and friends to do the same. We all want to stop wearing masks and end the COVID restrictions. But we are not there yet. Please continue to wear your masks, practice social distancing, and wash your hands regularly. Following these guidelines and getting vaccinated will slow the spread of the virus and make our families and our community healthier and safer.

METRA Improvements Delayed

As you know, the Village is in the final stages of applying to secure a Train Horn Quiet Zone with the Village of River Grove. Completion of the

Community Garden Space Available

The Village's Community Garden is open to residents interested in growing flowers, vegetables and herbs this year. The Community Garden is located between the Veteran's Memorial and Village Hall on Belmont Avenue. A sprinkler system is in place and regular watering will occur, so there is no need to water the raised bed boxes. Please note that if you reserve a space, you must commit to regularly maintaining the area including weeding your plants. Please call Andy Smolen at (847) 708-2963 if you are interested in learning more or to reserve a growing space.



Let's all Work to Keep Our Community Clean

We can all help to keep our community clean and looking great by maintaining our property. Spring is a good time to get out and clean-up your backyard. Remove debris and clutter that can provide unwanted animals with shelter including firewood, brush, and dense shrubbery. Firewood stacks should be elevated off the ground. Garbage bins should be closed and securely fastened to stop unwanted critters from using them as a hunting ground for food. It is also important to keep the area around your trash cans free of trash, food scraps and spills. Make sure to pick ripe fruits and vegetables in your garden right away to eliminate a food source for pests and insects.

Mow your lawn regularly and eliminate weeds in alleys and areas behind homes. Grass and weeds should not exceed six inches in height to prevent mosquitoes and rodents from hiding and breeding there.

Also, please remember to clean-up after your pet while on walks and in your own backyard. Dog waste is full of disease-causing bacteria and parasites that can be harmful to humans and is a food supply for rodents. Also, do not leave pet food or water bowls outside which can attract unwanted wildlife.

If you are disabled or elderly and need assistance complying, please call (847) 671-4800. Also, if you see properties that need to be maintained, please call the Village.

Doing Spring Cleaning on Your Property?

If you are cleaning out bulk items in your basement, garage or shed, remodeling or getting a roof repaired, you may want to consider renting a roll-out dumpster for your waste needs. The Village's waste hauler Republic Services rents roll-out dumpsters and is offering a 10% discount on the standard price to Franklin Park residents (all other standard fees apply). Simply mention promo code MPSRING21 for access to this offer when you call (844) 677-7378. The offer expires June 30, 2021. Also, please note that a permit is required to have a dumpster on your property. Please contact the Village's Building Department at (847) 671-8245 for more information.



Need Help Applying for Government Programs?

Leyden Family Services is able to assist residents over the phone including helping you to apply for government assistance programs. Over the phone appointments are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Call (847) 455-3929 to make an appointment.



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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847-678-2444

**Village Hall
will be closed
Monday,
May 31 in
observance of
Memorial Day**



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pedestrian safety improvements will allow the two Villages to qualify for the Quiet Zone. Since last fall METRA has been working to construct the required safety improvements which include upgrading crossing equipment technology at Scott Street, a new pedestrian crossing at the Rose Street grade crossing, installing new gates at the Calwagner pedestrian grade crossing and shifting the pedestrian grade crossing at the Metra depot.

Unfortunately, METRA has informed the Village that due to COVID-related setbacks, they will not be able to complete their work this summer as expected and have extended their estimated completion date to late October. The Village is proceeding with making street improvements including installing plastic delineators down the centerline of the roads at 25th and Ruby. Please watch our Village newsletter for updates on this important project.

Barrett F. Pedersen

Memorial Day Observance – May 31

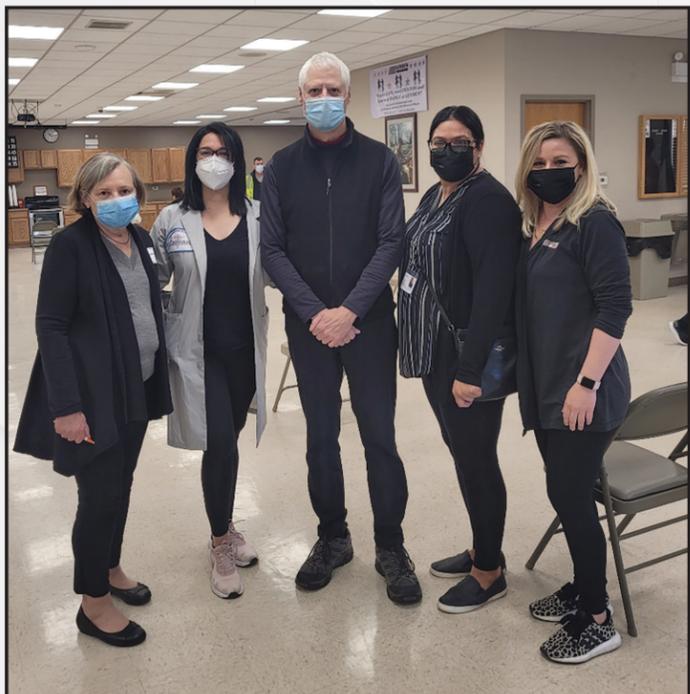


Everyone is invited to attend our annual Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 31 at 11 AM at the Village's Veteran's Monument. The event, sponsored by the Village of Franklin Park and the American Legion Post 974 will pay tribute to our deceased Franklin Park veterans from all branches of service and will feature an honor guard, a ceremonial presentation of the memorial wreath, and a 21 Gun Salute. For information, contact the Mayor's Office at (847) 671-8236.

Please take a few moments to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Fly your American flag at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day and if possible, visit a cemetery to place flags or flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Pay Citations Online

Beginning May 1 Franklin Park Police officers will begin issuing citations using the Quicket Solutions software. This software offers a convenient online payment system that allows you to pay citations via our website. The online payment portal is safe and easy to use for ticket payments, to obtain permits and download traffic reports. You can access the payment portal through the Village website at vofp.com or at payquicket.com. Simply click onto the state and then the police department using the drop-down menu to proceed.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen attended a vaccination clinic to thank Leyden Township and Leyden Family Services for hosting and to encourage everyone to get the vaccine. All Illinois residents aged 16 and older are now eligible to receive the vaccine. Register at vaccine.cookcountyl.gov.

2021 Vehicle Stickers Announced

Renewal applications for the Village's 2021 vehicle sticker will be mailed in late May. Residents are encouraged to renew their stickers via mail, online at vofp.com or by using the Village Hall parking lot drop box. You can also renew at Village Hall on Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. If possible, please do not wait until the last minute to renew because this could cause a processing back-up and a long wait to receive your sticker.

Every vehicle registered to a Franklin Park resident needs a vehicle sticker including cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc. Passenger car stickers cost \$30. Seniors receive one free vehicle sticker per household. Owners of electric vehicles receive a free vehicle sticker and hybrid vehicles pay a reduced rate of \$15.

If you purchased a new vehicle or just moved to Franklin Park, we will need a copy of the plate registration showing your Franklin Park address and payment for the type of vehicle. If you have questions, please call (847) 671-4800.

FEMA is Accepting Applications for Covid-related Funeral Assistance

FEMA will reimburse families up to \$9,000 to help with COVID-19 funeral costs. The funds are being provided through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. To be eligible, families seeking assistance must meet the following:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

The COVID-19 Funeral Assistance call center will operate from 8 AM to 8 PM CT, Monday through Friday. To apply, call (844) 684-6333 or TTY: 800-462-7585.

Beware of scams. FEMA will not contact you prior to you registering for assistance. Some funeral homes can guide you through the application process. Eligible families will receive a check by mail, or direct deposit, depending on which option you choose.

Chamber Scholarship Winners Announced

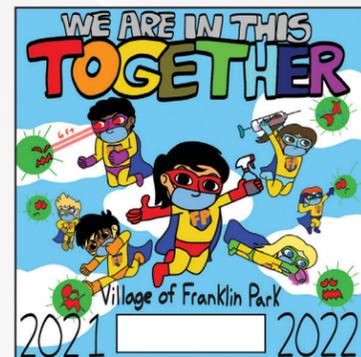
The Chamber by O'Hare (Franklin Park / Schiller Park / River Grove / Leyden Township) has awarded three \$1,500 scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Digital Realty and Chamber by O'Hare Technology Scholarship: East Leyden senior and River Grove resident Roaa Marei plans to attend Columbia University to become a civil engineer focusing on transportation systems engineering.

Sloan Valve and Chamber by O'Hare Scholarship: East Leyden senior and River Grove resident Cindy Mecco tentatively plans to attend the University of Michigan to study economics and prelaw.

Michael Rickert Memorial Chamber by O'Hare Scholarship: East Leyden senior and Franklin Park resident Hannah Stocks is undecided on a school but plans to study neuroscience to pursue a career as a physician's assistant.

Roaa, Cindy, and Hannah were chosen based on outstanding academic, extracurricular, and leadership accomplishments. Advancing the educational opportunities of our local students to become professionals, leaders, and valued citizens of our communities supports the goals of the Chamber. We wish them all great success in their academic pursuits!



This year's vehicle sticker was designed by Luis Pantaleon, an art student at East Leyden High School. His design graphically displays our community's efforts to come together to stop the spread of Covid-19.