



▲ The beautiful mural painted by artist Natalia Virafuentes and her team is on display in the new plaza in downtown Franklin Park. The Village and the Park District will host free events there during the next few months including adult exercise classes, family-focused events, and the 3rd Annual Pink Out – Dance for a Cause event to raise money for the Susan G Komen Foundation. Stay tuned for more info! Watch for our video on the mural and new plaza coming later this month!



◀ The Village of Franklin Park has installed new signage in the downtown area that includes new location and directional signs, new parking signs, and new guidance signs with maps to help residents and visitors around downtown. Also, the Village is pleased to announce that parking in Metra parking lots is now free after 11 AM.

## LIBRARY CORNER

The Franklin Park Library is located at 10311 Grand Avenue. For more information go to [fppld.org](http://fppld.org) or call (847) 455-6016.

### CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP – AUGUST 16

Are you a crafty person or new to crafting? Then you should attend the Library's Craft Supply Swap on Saturday, August 16, from 9AM until noon! Search through the wide selection of various craft supplies on display and take whatever you like for free! Plastic bags will be available, or bring your own to take your stash home, too.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE – AUGUST 16

Looking for great deals on new or gently used books, CDs, and DVDs? Join the Friends of the Library for an expanded in-house book sale on Saturday, August 16 from 11AM until 2PM. You can also buy a reusable Friends tote bag full of materials for \$5!

### SUPA AWESOME DOG MAN BASH – AUGUST 16

Come celebrate all things Dog Man at the Library on Saturday, August 16 at 2PM! There will be games and activities, and a chance to win prizes! Open to ages 7-12 but space is limited. Registration is required.

# THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK Village News

August 2025



## Mayor's Desk

### Be Prepared, Extreme Weather Is Now The New Normal

As global temperatures continue to rise due to climate disruption, we are again seeing an increase in the frequency of weather extremes, including heatwaves and severe storms with heavy rainfall. So far this summer, Franklin Park has been lucky and has not experienced the flooding that many nearby towns have.

But it could be just a matter of time before a massive storm causes flooding in our Village. Our best defense is to be prepared. Now is the time to clean up our basements by picking up items from the floor including rugs and boxes and store them up higher. Also, remember to clean up backyards and other areas around our homes that could be damaged by heavy rainfall.

We can expect volatile weather to continue as human caused climate disruption warms the oceans, adding more strength to hurricanes and impacting weather across the country. Franklin Park has improved stormwater capacity and reduced floodplains, but heavy rainfall in a brief time could still overwhelm the system. Take this time to do what you can to be prepared.

### Our Caring Community Fights Hunger

For over 25 years, volunteers have staffed our annual Food Drive held each summer outside our local Jewel Osco. Due to the incredible generosity of our community, this year we collected more than 30 boxes of non-perishable food items, our largest collection to date. Donations will help to restock the Leyden Township Food Pantry which supports our local families and seniors in need. Thank you to everyone who took the time to volunteer and for your generous donations.

*Barrett F. Pedersen*

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



◀ Mayor Barrett Pedersen helped event chair Frank Grieashamer to collect donations from shoppers at our local Jewel Osco during the food drive to restock the Leyden Township Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated.



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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Franklin Park, IL 60131  
847-671-4800  
[www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com)  
[villagenews@vofp.com](mailto:villagenews@vofp.com)

Emergency 911

Police & Fire  
(Non-Emergency)  
847-678-2444

Village Hall will be closed on Monday, September 1. Garbage and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, September 2 and yard waste will be picked up on Wednesday September 3.





▲ Director of Police Mike Witz presented a special plaque to retiring K-9 Officer Voodoo and Officer Leone thanking Voodoo for her many years of service to our community. They were joined by K-9 Officer Villi and Officer Bucaro who wished Voodoo a happy retirement.



▲ Mayor Pedersen congratulated Joseph Egan and Scott Von Drasek, two new firefighters/paramedics who were sworn in at the Village's July board meeting.



Thank you to Mistica Foods for their donation of \$10,000 and to Jewel Osco for donating \$5000 to help the fire department to purchase equipment that provides a reliable supply of breathing air for emergency responders. This generous support from our local businesses will ensure our community is better prepared for emergencies.



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## Cook County Assessor's Office Accepting Appeals Now

The Cook County Assessor's Office recently sent a letter to Franklin Park homeowners explaining that they have reassessed residential properties in our area this year. That assessment indicated a rise in property values in Franklin Park. The impact of the higher assessed value will be reflected on your July 2026 property tax bill.

**Homeowners can file an appeal for their new assessed valuation.** By appealing you can help ensure the accuracy of the assessment.

**Attend the "Understanding Reassessment Notices Workshop" - August 20 at 6 PM at the Police Station.** Join representatives from the Cook County Assessor's Office to learn about the recent reassessments in Leyden Township. They will explain the assessment process, help you determine if an appeal should be filed, and help you learn how to file for an appeal. You will be able to participate in a Question-and-Answer session too.

**File an appeal yourself online as soon as possible** at [www.cookcountyassessor.com/online-appeals](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/online-appeals). The deadline for filing an appeal is September 2. You can obtain a list of comparable properties from the Leyden Township's Assessor's Office BUT they are only able to accept requests until August 22.

**Contact Leyden Township's Assessor's Office** and they can assist you in filing an appeal online by no later than Friday, August 22. Call (847) 451-5183 or (847) 451-5185 for assistance.

For more information, go to [leydentownship.com](http://leydentownship.com) and [cookcountyassessor.com](http://cookcountyassessor.com).



## New Date for Community Bike Ride - August 13



The O'Hare Area Bike Network Study will evaluate, plan, and identify opportunities to create a more connected bikeway network. Please respond to the survey to help guide the development of the network study by sharing your experiences and offering your perspectives, insights, needs, and aspirations for our community. Visit [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) to take the survey by August 15, 2025!

Also, the new date for the Community Bike Ride is August 13, from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. To register or learn more about the 6-mile-long ride, visit [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).