

Winterfest at Hammill Square

Presented by The Village of Franklin Park

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

Hammill Square Gazebo
at Belmont & Edgington

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4TH
6 TO 8 PM**



Enjoy holiday music performed by District 84 students and refreshments served by our Village Trustees!



Make ornaments at the Park District's Children's Craft table.



Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Leyden Community 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 festively decorated **CPKC Holiday Train** will make a stop in Franklin Park at the Ruby St. crossing on November 23 at 5:30 PM and will include a musical performance! Please bring a heart-healthy food donation for our Leyden Community Food Pantry!



THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

November 2025



Mayor's Desk

Last month, we officially cut the ribbon on our newest green space area. The new plaza serves as a gateway to our downtown and a place to gather, socialize, and enjoy Village-sponsored events including concerts and exercise programs that will be held with the Park District. We added new trees, flowers, picnic tables, streetscaping, stamped concrete, lighting, and a fountain.

The plaza was dedicated to our dear friend Joe 'Tiny' Lauro who worked for the Village for 42 years. His entire career was in service to this community. Tiny exemplified what it means to be a caring, compassionate neighbor. People were his priority, and he knew everyone in town and always treated everyone with kindness and respect. He was happiest when he was able to help others.

While we have lost our friend, the park, including the fountain, will be an ongoing testament to his dedication and his spirit.

This Holiday Season We Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and to count our blessings. I am always grateful for having the opportunity to serve my community as Mayor in a town that I love. I am lucky to work with a Village Board that shares a devotion to our family-friendly neighborhoods and respect for our residents. We appreciate our dedicated and professional staff who make living and working in our Village a wonderful experience.

We hope you have many blessings to count this holiday season.

See you at the Tree Lighting!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ The Board cut the ribbon to celebrate the Village's newest green space. The Plaza will also support local businesses by attracting new customers to downtown restaurants and retail shops. Downtown parking is available and free. The nearby Metra parking lot is free after 11 AM.



▲ The plaza is dedicated to the Village's Commissioner of Public Works Joe "Tiny" Lauro. Tiny was a generous and caring person who served his community for 42 years.

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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Emergency 911

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



Veterans Day Event – November 11

The Village of Franklin Park and the American Legion Post 974 will host their annual Veterans Day observance on Tuesday, November 11 at 11 AM at the Village's Veterans Memorial, located west of Village Hall. Please plan to join us as we honor all veterans who have served our country in times of war and peace. We will also pay tribute to Franklin Park veterans by adding new names to the Village's Veterans Monument.

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner – November 25

The Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 3 PM at the Park District's Centre at North Park. There is no fee required to attend, and the event is open to all Franklin Park seniors and people in need. Registration is required (first come, first served). To reserve your space, call (224) 848- 0936.



Tree Commission Seeks New Board Member

The Village of Franklin Park's Tree Preservation Commission is seeking a dedicated resident for a rewarding volunteer (non-paid) role on its Tree Board. Members meet once per month, represent the Tree Commission at Village events, help host tables at Village events, and support local tree-related projects and community outreach. Interested residents are encouraged to attend a meeting, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 PM. Candidates are carefully reviewed for alignment with the Board's mission. To learn more, email us at TreeCommission@vofp.com.



◀ Mayor Barrett Pedersen recently participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction of Franklin Avenue from Runge Road to the DuPage County border. The project is an example of Cook County's investment in infrastructure enhancement, providing improved access to the industrial corridor and support to improved regional access once the Tollway I-490 project is complete. This project will enhance efficiency for freight transportation, will promote operations for businesses, and facilitate traffic along the corridor.

Santa Visits the Library – December 3

All the Franklin Park Library kids have been good this year so Santa will be visiting! Everyone is invited to participate on Wednesday, December 3 from 4:30 until 6:30 PM at the Library. Families can take photos with Santa but note that photos are on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't forget to tell Santa what you want for Christmas this year!



Leyden Family Services Is At Your Service

A representative from Leyden Family Services is available at Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month to help residents who have questions or need help applying for government programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and LIHEAP. They can also help with understanding your medical bills, provide prescription assistance, and more. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive. No appointment is necessary. The remaining dates for 2025 are November 19, and December 17 from 9 AM until noon.



▲ Mayor Pedersen, Trustee John Johnson, and Clerk April Arellano welcomed AMMEGA to their new facility in Franklin Park! The company manufactures conveyor belts and relocated from Skokie. They have 84 employees, some of which have been with the company for more than 40 years!

Help us light up Franklin Park and make it sparkle!

BEST DECORATED HOME CONTEST

To enter your home in the Home For the Holidays contest, email your family's name, address, phone number, and photos of your decorated home by December 18 to salarcon@vofp.com. Photos will be posted on our Facebook page and the winner will receive Board recognition and a prize! If you have questions or want to enter over the phone, call Sandra at (847) 671-8236.



▲ Students from Leyden High School helped our Public Works staff to get the rain gardens cleaned up for the winter as part of Make a Difference Day which seeks to bring community members together for a common purpose.

SORRY

WE ARE CLOSED

Village Hall is closed on Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans Day and will close at 3 pm on Wednesday, November 26 and will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.