

## THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Due to the bitter cold, the Village's annual Tree Lighting and Winterfest was held indoors only and was a fun evening for children of all ages. A special thank you to our local candy manufacturer Ferrero for donating the candy that Santa's elves gave to children at the event.



## THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

### Mayor's Desk

#### Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

We started the winter season with a few snowfalls and cold snaps, and we should be prepared for more as we move into the new year. Take precautions to keep yourself safe during extreme cold. Limit the time you, your family members, including your pets spend outdoors. Wear several layers of lightweight clothing, keep your head and ears covered and cover your mouth to protect your lungs. And if you are traveling, bring extra clothing to keep warm in case your car breaks down.

When temperatures drop, remember to open cabinet doors to warm up the pipes. You can prevent freezing by keeping a small trickle of water running through the pipes on frigid days. There is a helpful graphic on page 3 to learn more.

Also, don't forget that winter "No Parking" restrictions are in effect on designated Snow Route streets after a 2-inch snow fall, until snow clearing operations are complete. Detailed information is available on page 3.

#### Thank You for Your Service

On behalf of the Village Board and the residents of the Village of Franklin Park, I congratulate Director of Police Mike Witz on his over 42 years of service to our community. Mike began his service in the Franklin Park Police Department in 1983 and rose through the ranks becoming Chief of Police in 2010 and has served as Director of Police since 2016. During his tenure Mike was dedicated to serving our residents and business community and diligently worked to improve the Franklin Park Police Department. Enjoy your retirement – you have earned it!

#### Happy New Year Franklin Park

Wishing you and your family a peaceful 2026 and year filled with happiness and good health!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

The Franklin Park Manila Lions Club's hosted their annual holiday event to thank our first responders for their commitment to keeping our community safe and protected. Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award, Lieutenant Jeff Mattas, and Police Officer of the Year award, Officer Michael Leone, and K9 Voodoo.



January 2026



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

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

9500 Belmont Ave.  
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  
January 19,  
2026. Trash  
and recycling  
will be  
removed as  
scheduled.

## Passport Services Available at the Library on Select Dates

The Clerk's Office will provide passport service at the Franklin Park Library **by appointment only** from 10 AM to 3 PM on the following Saturday's: January 24, February 14, March 14, and April 18. On-site photo services will be available. To schedule your appointment or if you have a question, call (847) 671-8242.



## The Village Will Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Public Works will remove discarded Christmas trees to chip, mulch and use in the Village's landscaping efforts. Tree pick-up will take place in the weeks of January 8 and 22. Put your trees on the front parkway by the curb and do not place them in the alley. Remember to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations and do not put them in a bag. Dates could be postponed due to the weather, check the website for updates at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).

## Donations Needed to Support Veteran Event

The Franklin Park American Legion 974 is hosting the annual Stand Down to help homeless veterans and those in need on Sunday, January 25 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Post located at 9757 Pacific Avenue. The event will provide hot meals, clothing, toiletries, blankets, and haircuts. Veteran Service Officers and representatives from other agencies will also be present to provide information about VA benefits, housing, transportation, Honor Flight Chicago, and more.

If you would like to make a monetary donation or donate gently used or new clothing items (especially hats, gloves, scarves, coats) and blankets, please bring the items to the Legion after 4 PM until January 25. Also needed are toiletry items including new, unused, and unopened shampoo, soap, lotions, facial tissue packets, antiseptic and baby wipes, bath gels, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, and feminine products.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event or if you would like more information, call (847) 560-0459.



► Mayor Barrett Pedersen participated in a ceremony hosted by the Illinois Tollway to mark progress on the North Avenue at I-294 Interchange Project. This important project will deliver a new exit ramp from the southbound Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to County Line Road, improving access to North Avenue and Lake Street. These improvements are designed to reduce congestion and enhance traffic flow throughout the area, benefiting surrounding communities, including Franklin Park.



► The Village and project partners hosted the first of three Stakeholder meetings regarding the Connect Franklin Park underpass project. The Village received \$9.8 million from several grant sources for the engineering and design phases for a pedestrian underpass east of 25th Avenue and a vehicle underpass in the area east of the police station. This grant does not cover construction of the two underpasses. Please watch the Village's Facebook page and website for future meeting dates.

## Winter Parking Restrictions and More

Be advised that the winter No Parking restrictions are in effect on designated Snow Route streets after a 2" snow fall, until snow clearing operations are complete.

- No parking anywhere specifically designated by signs as a Snow Route.
- No parking between 9am and 9pm on the odd numbered sides of all other streets.
- No parking between 9pm and 9am on the even numbered sides of all other streets.

Please check posted signs for clarification. If you have questions regarding parking restrictions, call (847) 671-8200. Also, blocking driveways, fire hydrants, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. is prohibited.

**Please clear snow from the top and around your trash and recycling bins** to allow the trash hauler to reach them and ensure your trash is removed.

Help firefighters save time in an emergency by clearing snow away from hydrants in front of your home. A three-foot clear-away zone is recommended.



Thank you for your cooperation!

## HANDY TIPS TO AVOID FROZEN PIPES THIS WINTER



### BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN

Check sprinkler or irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.

Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's freezing points.

Know how to shut off your water.

Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation.

### WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING

If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.

Thaw pipes with warm air, with a hair dryer or space heater. Do not leave space heaters unattended and do not use kerosene heaters or open flames.

Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.

Be careful turning water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks.



► Village officials welcomed Las Brazas, a new restaurant located at 9800 Grand Ave in Franklin Park. Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Clerk April Arellano joined the owners in cutting the ribbon. Their menu includes grilled chicken and traditional favorites like tacos and enchiladas, all crafted using fresh ingredients. Give them a try!