

## Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 Best Decorated Home for the Holidays Contest!

2ND PLACE



**The Ventrella Family**  
3510 Dora Street

3RD PLACE



**The Garcia-Figueroa Family**  
2740 Elder Lane

WINNER



**The Sanabria-Figueroa Family**  
2416 Lincoln Street

### Transportation Available for People with Mobility and Cognitive Challenges



It's hard to get around in cold and snowy weather, especially with mobility challenges. Special Needs Chicago provides reliable, safe, prompt, and friendly wheelchair transportation for people with mobility and cognitive challenges. Their team has extensive experience and are passionate about giving the highest level of respectful service to clients.

To make an appointment, call (630) 668-9999. To learn more, go to [www.specialneedschicago.org](http://www.specialneedschicago.org).

## Save the Date – Franklin Park Fest 2026

Mark your calendar for our Village's annual summer tradition – Franklin Park Fest! The 2026 Fest will be held June 11 – 14. Watch future newsletters and our Village website and Facebook page for details and the lineup of musical entertainment.



## THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

# Village News

February 2026

### Mayor's Desk



**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 of Franklin Park Names New Police Chief

Please join me in welcoming Thomas Ferris as our new Chief of Police.

Chief Ferris has 22 years of service with the Franklin Park Police Department and brings a history of distinguished law enforcement experience to the role. He joined the department in 2004 and worked his way up the ranks serving as Detective and Sergeant and was promoted to Patrol Division Commander in 2020. Chief Ferris has pledged to make it his priority to provide our Police Officers with the training, resources, and support needed to keep our neighborhoods safe, helping to ensure that the Village of Franklin Park remains a great place to raise your family, retire, or work.

The Board and I believe Chief Ferris has the skills and experience needed to successfully lead our Police Department and we look forward to working with him.

### Saturday Dates for Passport Services at the Library

Are you planning a vacation out of the country this summer? Don't forget your passport! For your convenience, the Clerk's Office will provide passport service at the Franklin Park Library by appointment only from 10 AM to 3 PM on February 14, March 14, and April 18. On-site photo services will be available.

To schedule your appointment or if you have questions, call (847) 671-8242. There is more information available on Page 2.

*Barrett F. Pedersen*

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

Thomas Ferris was sworn in as Chief of Police at a recent Board Meeting in January and Carlos Lazcano was promoted to Police Department Commander. Commander Dan Morys is the Police Department's Commander of Patrol.







## PASSPORT SERVICES AT THE FRANKLIN PARK LIBRARY

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**FIRST TIME / MINOR (RENEWAL)  
APPLICANT'S CHECK LIST:**

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE PRESENT  
IF BOTH PARENTS ARE ON THE CERTIFICATE,  
BOTH PARENTS MUST BE PRESENT FOR MINOR APPLICANTS

- **COMPLETED DS 11 APPLICATION**  
DO NOT SIGN THE APPLICATION / USE BLACK INK
- **ORIGINAL CITIZENSHIP EVIDENCE**  
(Certified Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate)
- **VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION**  
(For Applicants 16+ / Minor Applicant's parents)
- **PHOTOS (2x2)**  
(Photo services available on site for \$15)
- **CHECK OR MONEY ORDER:**  
Payable to the US DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DO NOT INCLUDE PHOTO OR PROCESSING FEE
- **SEPARATE \$35 PROCESSING FEE**  
To the VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK (Check, Debit or Credit)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADDITIONAL FEES OR FORMS,  
PLEASE VISIT TRAVEL.STATE.GOV OR  
GIVE US A CALL (847) 671-8242

**APPOINTMENT REQUIRED  
(847) 671-8242**

Franklin Park Library  
10311 Grand Ave,  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
10 AM - 3 PM

02/14/2026  
03/14/2026  
04/18/2026

**Processing Times**  
Routine: 4-6 weeks\*  
Expedited: 2-3 weeks\* (+\$60)

Processing times only include the time  
your application is at a passport agency or  
center.

**Fees:**  
ADULTS: \$130 PASSPORT BOOK  
\$30 PASSPORT CARD

MINORS: \$100 PASSPORT BOOK  
\$15 PASSPORT CARD

### Free Tax Preparation Services Available for Seniors

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is providing free tax assistance to individuals aged 60 and older from low- to moderate-income households (households earning less than \$69,000 per year).

Services will be offered at the following locations:

- Triton College (River Grove)
- Elmwood Park Public Library
- Melrose Park Public Library
- Proviso Township Office (Hillside)
- Seniors Assistance Center (Norridge)
- Leyden Township Westdale Park (Melrose Park)
- Schiller Park Community Center
- La Grange Park Public Library

Appointments are required and can be made by calling (708) 456-0300, ext. 3895, Monday through Friday, 9 AM until 3 PM.

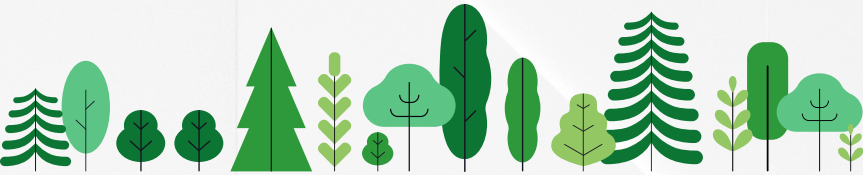
### Leyden Family Services Can Assist Residents at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month to help residents who have questions or need help applying for government programs including Medicare, Medicaid, and LIHEAP. Staff can also help with understanding medical bills, 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.

Scheduled dates for the rest of 2026 are from 9 AM until Noon on:

February 18  
March 18  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17  
July 15  
August 19  
Sept 16  
October 21  
November 18  
December 16



### ComEd Conducting Tree Trimming in Franklin Park

ComEd has informed the Village that over the next few months, they will trim trees, branches, and vines that interfere or have the potential to interfere with power lines to help avoid power outages. In some cases, tree removal may be required.

All work will be performed by ComEd's trained, qualified arborists. ComEd's maintenance program ensures electrical reliability, as vegetation that comes in contact with ComEd equipment is the leading cause of outages.

To see a map of where tree trimming is planned in our community and to learn more about ComEd's Tree Trimming Program, visit the Village's website at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com). If you have questions or concerns, visit [ComEd.com/Trees](http://ComEd.com/Trees) or call 800- DISON-1 (800-334-7661).

The Early Voting Period for March 17, 2026, Gubernatorial Primary Election will take place daily at Village Hall from Monday March 2, through Monday March 16.

**First Week – Monday, March 2 through Sunday, March 8**  
Monday - Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM

**Second Week – Monday, March 9 through Monday, March 16**  
Monday - Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM  
Monday: (3/16) 9 AM to 5 PM (Last Day of Early Voting)

**Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day; you must cast your ballot at your designated Polling Place on Election Day. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at (847) 671-8242. Voters are asked to enter the Early Voting area from the parking lot at Village Hall.**

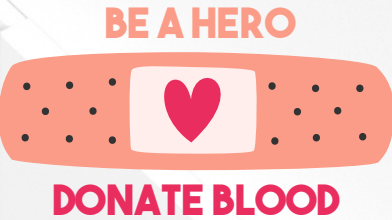


### Voter Registration Event at Angel's Closet – February 13

Residents can enjoy refreshments and do some shopping before registering to vote at Angel's Closet on Friday, February 13, from noon to 2 PM. Angel's Closet is a resale boutique that provides a selection of budget-friendly clothing and items for the home and is located at 9706 Franklin Avenue.



◀ **Congratulations to Suburban Welding & Steel**, a third-generation, family-owned and operated company based in Franklin Park, celebrating their 75th anniversary! Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Clerk April Arellano, and Trustee John Johnson toured their fabrication company located at 9820 Franklin Avenue and thanked them for making their home in our town.



### Library Will Host Blood Drive – February 21

Help those in need this winter by giving blood at the Franklin Park Library with Versiti Blood Centers on Saturday, February 21 from 10 AM until 2 PM. Please donate if you are able.