Winterfest at Hammill Square

Presented by The Village of Franklin Park

Annual TREE LIGHTING

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3RD 6 TO 8 PM



Join the Village Board for a fun-filled holiday tradition! Cheer as the Franklin Park Fire Department brings Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves to the party! Sing along to holiday music performed by District 84 students and watch as we light the Village's Christmas Tree!

- **Tell Santa what you want for Christmas and remember to bring a camera to take a photo!**
- **Make ornaments with the Park District and enjoy refreshments served by our Village Trustees.**
- **Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Leyden Community Food Pantry.**
- **The Village will be collecting old and non-working lights and electrical cords to be recycled.**



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!



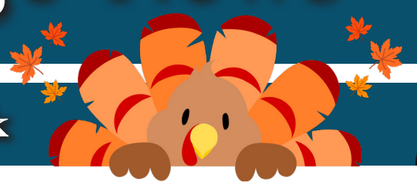
THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

November 2026



Mayor's Desk





Illinois Tollway Interchange Gives Franklin Park Direct Access to the Tri-State 294

Last month, we celebrated the opening of the new I-490 Tollway/Tri-State 294 Tollway Interchange at Franklin Avenue west of Wolf Road. This milestone project is part of the Illinois Tollway's $4.3 billion Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. The investments made by this transformational project will improve safety and traffic flow and create long-term economic opportunities for the entire region.

Two new ramps are now open that allow drivers to:

- **Exit northbound I-294 to reach Franklin Avenue via the new I-490 Tollway.**
- **Enter southbound I-294 from Franklin Avenue via the new I-490 Tollway.**

These two new ramps are creating access for Franklin Park and Bensenville and travel between the Tri-State Tollway and Franklin Avenue, improving access to local businesses and area destinations and reducing congestion in the area south of O'Hare International Airport.

Cook County will continue the improvements at Franklin Avenue and Green Street to enhance safety, reduce congestion and provide better access for residents and businesses.

I want to commend the Illinois Tollway for their continued commitment to utilizing sustainable practices. By reducing, recycling, and reusing construction debris, they have saved countless tons of material from going into landfills. Their adherence to native landscaping and abundant tree planting reduces greenhouse gases and helps improve air quality for the region.

Franklin Park has been selected to participate in an EV Readiness Program sponsored by ComEd and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The program helps communities to meet the continued growth of electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging infrastructure.

This program provides the Village with technical assistance to prepare us for increased Electric Vehicle adoption and reduced or elimination of gas costs. The program was initiated in 2022 and is growing as more residents are adopting electric vehicles. Currently, more than 184,169 EVs are registered in Illinois. The support and guidance provided by this effort will assist us to identify opportunities to prepare Franklin Park to expand safe access to and supportive infrastructure for the continued growth of electric vehicles.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Tree Lighting on December 3. If you are able, please bring a nonperishable food item to support local families in need this holiday season.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

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
villagenews@vofp.com

Emergency 911

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





▲ Officials from the Illinois Tollway, Cook County, Leyden Township, Franklin Park and surrounding communities celebrate the opening of two new ramps for the new I-490/I-294 Interchange.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen congratulated Dan Velazquez who was sworn in as Sergeant for the Franklin Park Police Department.

Veterans Day Event – November 11



The Village of Franklin Park and the American Legion Post 974 will host their annual Veterans Day observance on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 AM at the Village's Veterans Memorial, 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. Check our FB page and website to see if extreme weather requires moving the event to the Police Station.

Village Hall will be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day and will close at 3 PM on Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving.

Service Change

Beginning November 2, 2026, yard waste will be removed on Mondays.



▲ In October, new Firefighter / Paramedics Edgar Villafuerte, Jaime Flores, Joshua Tarnowski, and Tommy Christofferson were sworn in to begin service with our Fire Department.



Library Hosts Jingle Bell Jamboree

Kick off the holidays with a visit to the Franklin Park Library on Tuesday, December 1, from 6 until 9 PM. Take a photo with Santa and the Grinch, arriving straight from the North Pole! There will also be crafts and coffee and cocoa to enjoy. Leyden High School's choir will perform, and we'll light the tree! Come and celebrate with us.



Food and Toy Collections – Help Make the Holidays Bright for Our Neighbors

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and to count our blessings. Not everyone may be as fortunate and some may need a helping hand this holiday season. If you are able, please consider supporting to these worthy causes:

Franklin Park Police Department's Holiday Toy Drive

Please bring your unwrapped items to the Police Station, located at 9451 Belmont Avenue, by no later than December 16 so they can be distributed to families in our community.

Most Needed Items Include:
Toys for ages 0-12
Board games and puzzles
Books and art supplies
Dolls, cars, and action figures

Donation Tips:
Do not wrap toys
New toys only, in their original packaging
No toy weapons or violent imagery

Contribute to the Leyden Community Food Pantry

Our Leyden Community Food Pantry collects non-perishable, unexpired, boxed or canned food items and gift cards for local grocery stores. A drop-off box will be available in Village Hall until December 28. To make a monetary food pantry donation please make your check payable to "Leyden Community Food Pantry" and mail or bring it to:

Leyden Township
Attn: Food Pantry
2501 N Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131





We had a great turnout for our annual Senior Health & Resource Fair last month. Thank you to Senate President Don Harmon for co-sponsoring the event and to the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club for providing free hearing and retinal screenings. Residents were able to renew their drivers' licenses, visit with healthcare vendors, and register to vote. Thank you to our good friends at Osco Drugs for once again providing flu and covid vaccines.

Best Decorated Home Contest

Help us light up Franklin Park and make it sparkle!

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, please call Sandra at (847) 671-8236.

