

www.frankforttownship.com



Jim Moustis **Frankfort Township Supervisor**

Dear Frankfort Township Resident,

The past year has proven to be a challenging time for everyone, but as the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues there is a feeling of hope that we will return to "normal" living in the not too distant future. Throughout the pandemic we have worked closely with the Will County Health Department to make sure that all best practices for COVID -19 mitigation were adopted. All residents over the age of 16 are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at this time. We know that the surest path back to normal is through

vaccination and adherence to health guidelines and you can find the latest information on guidelines and vaccine distribution on the Will County Health Department website.

I hope everyone takes the opportunity to get vaccinated when they become eligible. I'm happy to report that I have received my vaccination and it was quick and painless.

Although many of our "social" activities have been curtailed during the pandemic, much of our other work has continued and even accelerated. For instance, our Frankfort Township food pantry has experienced increased traffic in the past year, serving 291 households in February alone. And our highway commission maintained over 60 miles of township roads over the last year.

We hope that many senior-specific activities will be resuming soon, including in-person bingo, exercise classes, outings, communal meals, and movies. In addition, we hope to offer more assistance for seniors like help with income tax preparation, Medicare and Medicaid help, nutrition programs and driver's license refresher classes.

For those of you that don't drive, you can always take the Frankfort Township Pace bus. Frankfort Township funds this bus service without any subsidy from Pace, we merely lease the busses from them. You can read more about our bus service later in the newsletter.

Many Seniors have rightfully felt lonely and isolated during the past year. It has truly been a difficult time for everyone. But as vaccinations increase, warmer weather returns and Frankfort Township begins our many social programs, I truly hope you'll take full advantage of this opportunity to reconnect with old triends and make new ones.

Please check in on our website for up to date information on when we are resuming specific activities. You'll be glad you did!

Best Wishes, Jim Moustis, Frankfort Township Supervisor

YOUR TOWNSHIP **GOVERNMENT**

Many people are unaware that they reside in Frankfort Township. But Frankfort Township covers 36 square miles and encompasses part or all of the villages of Frankfort, Mokena, Orland Park, and Tinley Park. All or part of the following zip codes are within Frankfort Township: 60423, 60448, 60477, and 60467.

Your Frankfort Township Government provides a wide variety of important services for residents. While many residents are familiar with services like our senior housing and mosquito abatement, we offer a wide variety of services to our residents including operating PACE transportation services, voter registration, road maintenance and more.

Your Frankfort Township offers:

- Senior Housing
- Senior Activities
- Handicap **Placards**
- Mosquito **Abatement**
- Voter Registration
- Early Voting
- General **Assistance**
- Nurse's Closet
- Frankfort **Township** Cemetery
- Food Pantry
- PACE dial a ride

And more...

You can visit our website at www.frankforttownship.com to learn more about these services.

OFFICE ADDRESS:

11000 W. Lincoln Highway Frankfort, IL 60423

PHONE: 815-469-4907 FAX: 815-469-4911

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday-Friday 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

SUPERVISOR James Moustis

TRUSTEES

Nick George Gayla Smith **David Smith** Laura Miroballi

ASSESSOR Joseph Kral

HIGHWAY **COMMISSIONER Bill Carlson**

CLERK Nella Piccolin

COLLECTOR Jessica Kot **CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!**

Frankfort Township facebook.com/ FrankfortTownshipIllinois

Frankfort Township Charities

facebook.com/ **frankforttownshipcharities**

CLERK'S Corner



2020 was a year like no other. My hope is that soon we will beat this virus and life will begin to return to normal. Like you I am looking forward to being able to visit with friends, and family. I am positive that better days are coming.

Periodically, it's good to remind ourselves, as well as all of Frankfort Township residents, that elected officials work for you. That's right, I work for you. My goal is to provide you with excellent service.

My duties as Township Clerk include the following:

- Serve as executive secretary to the township board.
- Custodian of the municipal seal.
- Maintain custody of all minutes and archival records and
- When necessary, advertise ordinances, resolutions, and the municipal budget.
- Attest to the signatures of municipal officers and officials.
- Maintain receipt of service for legal documents.
- Administer and record oaths of office.
- Local election authority in our municipality working closely with the County Clerk.
- All other duties that may be imposed by state statutes and regulations or municipal ordinances or regulations.

As Township Clerk, I am committed to act in an ethical, responsible, and hardworking manner to serve the people of this wonderful township.

I have been elected to serve all Frankfort Township residents. As your employee, I strive to be as accessible as possible. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or suggestions on how I can better serve you and your family at any time.

Thank you once again! It is my privilege to serve you.

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR STRIVES FOR TRANSPARENCY

Education key to understanding property taxes

Frankfort Township Assessor Joseph Kral knows that property taxes can be confusing for residents. He is also happy to sit down and talk with them about the process of assessing property value and how the appeals process works. In fact, Kral's office won an award from the state because of his work instituting a soft appeals process.

The soft appeals process provides an opportunity for property owners to sit down and discuss their property value with the Assessor in a one-to-one setting before the formal appeals process begins. Residents can ask questions and prepare to file a formal appeal if they believe a change to their property value is warranted. Kral says that new property owners can bring in their closing papers if the purchase price for their property is different than the assessed value and he can drop the value accordingly.

"My goal is to ensure fair and equitable assessments," said Kral. "I'm available to answer any questions that



Joseph Kral

our residents have about their property and hope that people take a look

at our website which has lots of useful information on it including the ability to look up your property, file for appeals and learn more about how we assess local properties."

The Assessor's office is responsible for the overall direction and management of the Township's property appraisal program. As Assessor, Kral oversees the identification of properties and maintains a detailed inventory. The Assessor is charged with determining the market values and calculating assessed valuation for all Township properties in accordance with the State Tax Commission's regulations methods and procedures.

For more information visit www.FrankfortAssessor.com or call 815-464-3180.

VHAT'S NEW AT White



Thank you to all of our volunteers that have made our drive through food distribution events successful. Families receive boxes of dairy, produce, and meat at our pop-up pantries

POP-UP PANTRIES, GIFTS FOR SENIORS

Happy Spring Frankfort Township! The year 2021 is shaping up to be an exciting one for Frankfort Township Charities. This year, Frankfort Charities will continue to partner with the Township and other agencies on events benefiting those suffering financial hardship within our community.

New in 2021 are the Frankfort Township's pop-up pantry events. These events are designed to spread the word about available assistance programs but more importantly, they get food into the hands and onto the tables of local families experiencing financial hardship. In addition to providing funding to the Frankfort Township Food Pantry, Frankfort Township Charities works closely with other food organizations such as Share Fest, Hands of Hope, and Illinois Partners in Hope to ensure all families in Frankfort Township have enough to eat.

Also beginning in 2021, Frankfort Township Charities introduced its Simple Gestures Initiative. In it, Frankfort Township Charities will reach out in different segments of our community experiencing hardship and do something special for them. A simple gesture to let them know people are thinking of them and that they are not alone. The initiative kicked off with a blanket drive benefitting local senior citizens.

"Too many of our elderly neighbors are enduring these uncertain times feeling isolated in their own homes, with little or no outside contact," said Frankfort Charities Board President Lucy Eaton. "Countless are completely housebound and living alone. For some of these neighbors, the only human interaction they've had has been a Meals on Wheels volunteer bringing them food."

Thanks to the generosity of the community, Frankfort Township Charities' Simple Gestures Blanket Drive collected over 100 blankets and handmade cards

for local seniors. Partnering with Meals on Wheels, each routed senior received a special, surprise gift of a snuggle blanket, treat bag and handmade Valentine's Day card with their weekly meal delivery. Because of the generosity, residents of a local senior housing complex also received surprise gifts. A simple gesture that made Valentine's Day a bit more special for some of our neighbors. Frankfort Township and Frankfort Township Charities will continue to shine a light on our local seniors, as they are the fastest growing demographic needing outside assistance.

"The primary mission of Frankfort Township Charities is to assist impoverished Frankfort Township residents, for us that also means not letting those closest to us feel alone and in these uncertain times many feel more alone than ever," said Eaton.

A future spotlight will do something special for hometown active military and veteran heroes. The tremendous sacrifices made and currently being made by military families cannot be said enough and Frankfort Township Charities wants to acknowledge local folks who have given so selflessly.

"Frankfort Township Charities is such a valuable organization doing good in our community," said Township Trustee Nick George. "I hope everyone considers volunteering or donating to them."

If you are interested in volunteering for an event or participating on the Frankfort Township Charities Board, please contact Lucy Eaton, President via email at FTCharities@gmail.com or call (815)469-4907.

If you or someone you know is experiencing food hardship please contact Frankfort Township at (815)469-4907.



A big thanks to the Lincoln-Way East Key Club for collecting socks for people in need. In collaboration with the Lions Club and Kiwanis, 330 pairs of socks were collected.

FOOD PANTRY SEES MORE CLIENTS,

INCREASED DONATIONS

Volunteers and business community step up during pandemic

People from all walks of life find community and nourishment at the Frankfort Township Food Pantry. This has been especially true over the last year as many individuals and families have struggled with unemployment and illness. Throughout the pandemic, the Frankfort Township Food Pantry has served residents.

"The local community has really stepped up to support our residents who are food insecure," said Frankfort Township Trustee David Smith. "This year has been very challenging for many people but we also saw our local scout troops bring in near record food donations and our business community has been very generous, raising close to \$70,000."

Because of the need for physical distancing during the pandemic, food pantry workers have shopped for clients who then pick up groceries curb side. In February, the pantry served 755 individuals in 291 households. The pantry also shares excess food with other food pantries in the area.

"We're very fortunate here," said Food Pantry Director Jeannine Hetfleisch. "We have around 55 volunteers and great relationships with the Northern Illinois Food Bank and other groups in the area."

Hetfleish said that the Lions Club recently held a coat drive for the food pantry and is currently collecting socks. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, the pantry received turkeys and hams.

Individuals and families that live in Frankfort Township can come to the food pantry to shop for limited items like milk, bread, and eggs once per week. Once per month, shoppers are able to shop an expanded list of items.

Hetfleish said that it has been an adjustment operating in the pandemic but that they didn't close because the need is there.

"We've been doing grocery delivery for seniors and we've been disinfecting shopping carts and making sure clients have masks but there are people who need food. We never closed our operation."

"Volunteers are vital to food pantry operations," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "They are a lifeline to the community, and we couldn't operate without them."

If you're interested in volunteering or donating to the Frankfort Township food pantry, you can visit the township website or call 815-469-4907.





GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Frankfort Township offers general assistance to qualified residents of Frankfort Township.

Our case worker can also offer residents help in accessing other community assistance like Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, commonly know as SNAP, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP.

For more information about these and other community assistance programs please contact Lucy Eaton at 815-469-4907 ext. 2768.

Senior Housing

As individuals age, housing can become a challenge for seniors. Homeowners are often unable to keep up on maintenance for a house that may be larger than what they need. Frankfort Township helps fill the need for affordable housing for our seniors. The township operates Landings Pointe and Autumn Valley Senior Housing. These beautiful, modern apartment buildings are available to seniors who are age 60 and older and are Frankfort Township residents or who have at least one child residing in the Township. Seniors must be able to live on their own.

"I'm very proud that our Township offers this option for seniors to age in their own homes right here in our community," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "Housing like this is critical to our social fabric."

LANDINGS POINTE

Landings Pointe Senior Housing has two bedroom units for a maximum total residency of three people. Each unit includes appliances and a designated parking space in the underground parking garage. The space is for a small to medium car. All units include appliances and residents are responsible for all utilities. Children of applicants must be at least 50 years old to qualify for residency.

AUTUMN VALLEY



Autumn Valley Senior Housing has single bedroom units with a maximum residency of two. The units all include appliances and are all electric and residents are responsible for all utilities. Children of applicants must be at least 50 years old to qualify for residency.



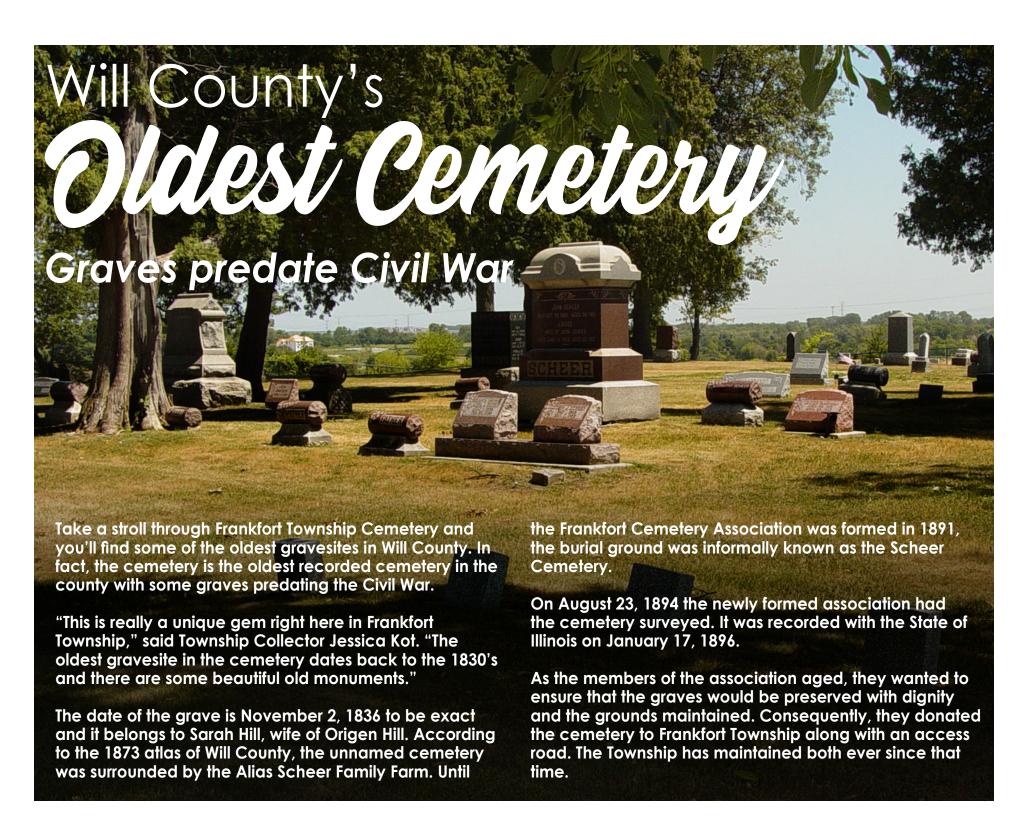
You may have seen the PACE bus around the area before. Maybe you've taken it to a medical appointment or to work. But did you know that your Frankfort Township government pays for the cost of operating this important service? Frankfort Township also partners with the Will Ride program and pays fifty percent of the cost for all rides.

"Transportation assistance is vital for our seniors and special needs residents," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "People need to get to work, medical appointments, school,

or court. We're dedicated to providing that service and I'm thankful that we are able to help our residents get where they need to go."

While PACE provides low-cost busses, the Township operates them and covers all other expenses, including drivers. Will Ride provides services outside of Frankfort Township.

You can schedule a ride by calling 815-405-4343 Monday through Friday between 8am and 3:30 pm. There are no same day bus rides so call in advance.



MOSQUITO CONTROL

A MATTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Frankfort Township provides mosquito abatement to unincorporated areas of the township throughout the summer months. Not only are mosquitoes a pesky nuisance, they are also well documented carriers of some types of disease.

"Mosquito abatement is something that we sometimes take for granted," said Township Trustee Gayla Smith. "We take public health seriously in Frankfort Township and this service really is a valuable public health tool."

Residents can find out when their area is scheduled to be sprayed by calling our hotline at 1-800-942-2555. Frankfort Township contracts Clarke mosquito control services for abatement in our communities. More information can be found on their website at www.clarke.com.





HANDICAP PLACARDS

Frankfort Township provides applications for temporary and permanent handicap placards. Persons with temporary disabilities will be issued a placard which will be good for the length of time certified by a physician up to a maximum of three months.



From branch and leaf pickup to mulch drop off and road maintenance, the Frankfort Township Highway Department has continued working for the community throughout the pandemic. The Highway Department provides street, sidewalk, bridge, and curb repairs, ditch maintenance, as well as snow removal and road salting during the winter. And with more than 60 miles of centerline road under the Department's jurisdiction, there is never a shortage of work.

"My goal is to utilize the resources of the township to best serve our constituents," said Township Highway Commissioner Bill Carlson. "I work alongside our street maintenance crews so I can see firsthand our needs and how well we are fulfilling them."

Carlson is proud that the highway commission continues to operate a balanced budget and has not raised the tax levy or rate.

Beginning May 3, the Highway Commission will begin their branch pickup program. Branch pickup is strictly for tree and bush trimmings. Branches must be out by the road by 7:00 am on Monday. They should be placed on the ground at the roadside with the cut ends facing the street. Thorny debris should be in a separate pile.

Residents interested in wood chip delivery can contact the road district for more information. The service is provided at no cost to residents.

The Highway Commission also handles home improvement permits. Residents can contact the office to obtain a permit or find out if they need one.

Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. You can reach the Highway Commission by phone at 708-479-9673 or by email at ftrd@comcast.net.

Job Fair

The Workforce Services Division of Will County held a drive through job fair this spring. Thank you to everyone who participated. We look forward to hosting another job fair this fall.



GO GREEN Recycle Your Old Electronics



Ever wonder what to do with old computer cords, monitors, televisions and other electronics? Do Mother Earth a favor and bring them to the Frankfort Township building every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 5-7 pm for our electronics recycling events.

We are happy to partner with Will County Green to offer this service free of charge for our residents. When you arrive, staff will remove the electronics from your car. You are limited to recycling two televisions per vehicle and don't forget your ID. Individuals dropping off electronics will need to prove their Will County residence to participate in the recycling program.



Get registered in Frankfort Township

Are you new to Frankfort Township?

Are you ready to exercise your constitutional right to vote? Anyone who wishes to vote in Will County must be registered and can do so by filling out an application at the Township office.



GOOD NUTRITION KEY TO

Balanced diet helps seniors stay independent

Proper nutrition is vital to the health and wellbeing of all people and for seniors it can be the difference between moving into an assisted living facility and staying in their own home. That's why Frankfort Township works with Will County Senior Services and the Community Nutrition Network to provide tasty, nutritional meals for residents who may struggle with food insecurity.

"We are dedicated to ensuring that none of our residents slip through the cracks," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "Meals on wheels and the community café provide healthy food for residents who may need a little extra support."

While congregate meals have been suspended during the pandemic, the Township hopes to restart them soon. In the mean time, close to thirty clients are currently receiving meals on wheels, delivered to their homes. The home delivery also provides the opportunity to conduct a wellness check.

"Someone goes to a resident's home and interacts with that individual five days a week," said Kathy Brady, who manages the Frankfort Township operation for Community Nutrition Network. "If someone doesn't answer the door, we have a procedure in place to check to see if they are alright."

If you or a loved one needs food assistance, you can contact Will County Senior Services as 815-723-9713.



Nurse's Closet

NEED CRUTCHES, A WHEELCHAIR, OR A SHOWER CHAIR?

Nurse's Closet loans medical equipment to residents for free



A medical accident or surgery can be difficult to cope with on its own. But if you or a loved one also needs a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or a walker, the financial burden can be difficult to handle. And what to do with those medical devices if you no longer need them?

"I'm very proud of the Nurse's Closet which has been quietly helping residents save money for more than twenty years," said Township Clerk Nella Piccolin. "This free service is supported entirely through donations and your donations will be greatly appreciated by the next family in need."

The Nurse's Closet is a free library type of service that loans medical equipment to residents for 90 days. Items are available for adults and children and if the item is needed for longer than 90, an extension can be given. So don't buy that commode or crutches, call the Nurse's Closet to see if they have what you need. You can reach them at 815-469-4907.