



# TRAILS

Connecting Communities: Frankfort, Frankfort Township, Frankfort Square, Mokena, Orland Park and Tinley Park

## Jim Moustis, Frankfort Township Supervisor



### IN THIS EDITION

Supervisor's Message	1
Township Officials	1
Thank You, Jim Hardy	2
Girls Scouts' Donation	2
Recycle With Will County Green	3
A Volunteer Celebration	3
Clearing The Roads	4

This has not been an easy winter. In this kind of weather, it's important to remember that if it's too cold outside for you, it's too cold for your pets too. Although many people know that hot weather can be hazardous to a dog or cat's health, some don't realize that winter can be dangerous too. Exposure to frigid weather can make animals ill and potentially kill them, particularly during periods of freezing rain or extreme fluctuations of temperature.

So here's a few tips to keep your companion animals safe during the chilly season.

### Keep Them Indoors

Do not leave your pets outside for long periods of time. Like humans, they can

suffer from hypothermia or frostbite. If you must use a dog house, make sure it is in a sheltered area. Add blankets or loose straw to the interior to help them stay warm.

### Avoid Frozen Lakes and Ponds

Dogs don't understand the concept of ice. And if they fall in, it can be difficult for them to get out. So keep your dog on a leash when walking outside.

### Antifreeze Can Kill

Just a few laps of the chemical can be deadly for pets. If you have a spill, clean it quickly.

### Don't Leave Them in the Car

A cold vehicle can act like a refrigerator, holding in the cold until it's dangerous. A pet easily can freeze to death in a car.

### Frankfort Township Officials

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|--|--|---|
| <b>Supervisor:</b><br>Jim Moustis  | <b>Assessor:</b><br>Joe Kral                 | <b>Township Board:</b><br>7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays     |
| <b>Trustees:</b><br>Bruce Ebert<br>Nick George<br>Greg Griffin<br>Dave Smith | <b>Highway Commissioner:</b><br>Bill Carlson | <b>Board Workshop:</b><br>Follows the meeting on the 2nd Monday |
|  | <b>Clerk:</b><br>Nella Piccolin              | <b>Planning Commission:</b><br>7 p.m. on the 1st Monday         |
|  | <b>Collector:</b><br>Patrick Markham         |   |

**VOLUNTEERS: A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY**

Frankfort Township has many wonderful volunteers, people who devote their time every week to helping others. Their work is priceless.

“If we didn’t have them, I don’t know what would happen,” says Jeannine Hetfleisch, a township staffer.

Although the volunteers are a modest bunch — they are the kind of people who work selflessly and without the need of any recognition — it’s time to shine a little light on them, one at a time.

For Jim Hardy, a retired printer who lives in Frankfort Square, volunteering is a lifestyle.

“All my life, I’ve volunteered for everything under the sun,” he says. He spends much of his time at the township working in the food pantry.

“The thing I like the most is when we get new clients,” Hardy says. Although they might be a little uncomfortable with the new experience, he tries to make them feel more at home.

“I tell them, everybody has hard times now and then. This is a way of taking care of your family,” Hardy says. His kindness and gentle manner truly makes everything better at Frankfort Township.

Thank you, Jim Hardy, for all you do.



**GIRL SCOUTS DONATE IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEER LINDA ERNAT**

In early January, Frankfort Township suffered a shocking and devastating loss.

Linda L. Ernat, 48, of Mokena, one of the township’s volunteers, unexpectedly passed away. It saddened everyone.

Although she is now gone, Linda’s contributions to the township continue. Some of her family and friends chose to memorialize her life by making contributions to the township’s food pantry.

Although there have been quite a few donations, one of the first came from the Girl Scouts of Saint Mary Catholic School in Mokena. The school has six troops, explained Jamie Kucala of Mokena, whose daughters are students at the school.

“Linda was a huge part of the community,” Kucala said.

The girls collected enough food to pack a pallet. And they also donated gift cards from local stores to the pantry.

“It was very kind and thoughtful,” said Jodi Gallagher-Dilling, activity director. “Linda must have impacted and touched a lot of lives for so many people to reach out in remembrance.”



**RECYCLE – IT’S GOOD TO BE GREEN**

Broken stands of holiday lights, that hair dryer that’s gone kaput, the gloopy cooking oil in the bottom of the deep fryer: What do you with those things?

You’d love to get rid of them, but you can’t toss them in the trash. The garbage man won’t take them.

We have a solution.

The Will County Land Use Department and the village of Mokena will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on May 3 at Mokena Hickory Creek Metra Parking Lot, 9430 Hickory Creek Drive, in Mokena. Unwanted electronics will also be accepted at the *free* event that’s being held just for **Will County residents**.

Here’s a partial list of the items that will be accepted that day:

- ◆ Household chemicals
- ◆ Used oil and old gasoline
- ◆ Telephones and answering machines
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Fertilizers
- ◆ Personal computers
- ◆ Laptops
- ◆ Hand-held video games

For more information about the event and the items that will — or won’t — be accepted that day, call **815-727-8834**.

**CELEBRATING THE FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

Frankfort Township’s volunteers really enjoy their work.

They chat, joke and laugh as they get things done.

“They have fun here,” said Jodi Gallagher-Dilling, a member of the township’s staff. “That’s the way it should be.”

But a couple of times a year, they gather simply to enjoy each other’s company. A few weeks ago, a group of more than 50 volunteers joined the township staff and Supervisor Jim Moustis for lunch at the Aurelio’s Pizza in Frankfort. It was a time to show some appreciation for the people who make it happen here.

As they enjoyed dessert, Frankfort Township Assessor Joe Kral called a few games of bingo. The winners had their choice of many great prizes.



## KEEPING THE ROADS CLEAR IN FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP



***Clockwise from left: A truck drops off 22 tons of snow-fighting road salt at the Frankfort Township Highway Department; Highway Commissioner Bill Carlson inspects the delivery; Carlson doesn't just run the office — he plows the roads too; Carlson behind the wheel of a plow on La Porte Road.***

There have been days this winter when it's seemed like the snow would never end.

There's been one storm after the other. And the icy stuff is mounded in piles all over town.

But in Frankfort Township, the roads have remained clear, thanks to Highway Commissioner Bill Carlson and his staff. They are responsible for the maintenance of more than 67 miles of road throughout the area. And people have noticed their hard work.

Township residents have been very complimentary. They say the roads are clear in the township while surrounding areas remain snowy.

"We've taken lots of calls on the job we have been doing this year," Carlson said. "People seem particularly happy this year. We've had more calls than normal."

The worst day so far this year was Jan. 5, a Sunday. The township got about 10 inches of snow, Carlson said. The entire fleet of eight snow movers were on the road that day. Carlson used a back hoe and a pay loader to clear the township's cul-de-sacs that day. A 12-foot snow pusher had been installed on the pay loader, and it swept the snow into piles. Then the back hoe scooped it all up.

"That went very well," Carlson said.