



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
Frankfort Township Officials	1
Learning about Assessments	2
Volunteer Paints Winter Scenes	2
Lunch With Santa	3
Early Voting Begins March 3	3
Merry Christmas, Seniors!	4

At the beginning of 2014, there's plenty to celebrate in Frankfort Township.

During the past year, more people discovered the Dial-A-Ride transportation service. During the summer, the township's food pantry forged a partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and fresh bread, vegetables and meat are now available. And new disease-resistant trees were planted in the township's parkways to replace the ash trees that had been attacked by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Just before Easter, the township also hosted the second annual Family and Pet Spring Fling at the Animal Control Facility in Mokena. Hundreds of people at-

tended, and many of them brought their family pets to parade through the crowd. Beyond the informative exhibits and great raffles, it was the perfect time to meet Animal Control Officer Karen Zobjeck. She's always available to help township residents on situations with pets.

At the end of the year, about 100 children and their parents attended the second annual Lunch with Santa at the township, and it was a great kick-off to the holidays.

These are the things that turn a township into a hometown. They make a community a better place to live. As the new year progresses, remember that Frankfort Township is here for you.

Frankfort Township Officials

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

FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR JOE KRAL REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY



Frankfort Township Assessor Joe Kral has a mission: He wants everyone to understand the property assessment process and how it affects individual tax bills.

So he spends a lot of time explaining the nuts and bolts of the system to the public. In 2013, Kral had more than 500 one-on-one meetings with residents who wanted to learn more about the assessment process, explaining the complicated process to them and answering all of their questions.

“When people say that their taxes are too high, I want to make sure they know how the process

works,” Kral said.

In November, he spoke to public policy students at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He discussed the relationship between assessments, property taxes and the funding of local government. Now he is creating an on-line system to provide a quick comparison of the assessments of similar properties in Frankfort Township. He plans to finish the project this year.

“I want residents to be able to go to a web portal, type in an address, push a button then see a map that will show all the homes in a neighborhood. It will show your assessment, your neighbor’s assessment and the real estate sales figures that were used to determine that value. Then residents will know the numbers that are being used are legitimate,” he said.

VOLUNTEER PAINTS SERENE SCENES

The Township Building was especially pretty during the holidays this year, thanks to Susanne Corkery, a local artist who lives in Frankfort.

She volunteered to decorate the windows of the community room with a series of elegant winter landscapes, using white paint to create an imaginary world that seems to melt into the real woods just outside the township building.

“I thought it would be pretty to bring the forest closer to the people who are in the building,” she said.

Corkery teaches kindergarten, first- and second-grade art classes at Grand Prairie Elementary School in Frankfort. She also has a decorative painting business.

“I just love art and am so happy to be able to share it with the kids at school and everyone else,” Corkery said.



LOOK — IT'S THE JOLLY OLD ELF!

Santa Claus didn't just come to town this Christmas — he came all the way to the Frankfort Township Building. And he brought Mrs. Claus too.

St. Nick was the guest of honor on Dec. 14 when the township hosted the second annual Lunch with Santa in the Community Room.

Dozens of children and their parents gathered on the snowy Saturday to play games, make Christmas tree ornaments and have a delicious hot dog lunch. Frankfort Township Supervisor Jim Moustis, Assessor Joe Kral and Trustees Dave Smith and Greg Griffin were there too.

When Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived just after lunch, they spent time with each child, listening carefully to their Christmas wishes. Then they posed for photographs, and every family took one home at the end of the afternoon.



VOTE EARLY AT THE FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Nobody likes to wait.

And when it comes to voting, there is no reason to wait. Residents of Frankfort and Green Garden Townships can cast their primary ballots early this year at the Frankfort Township Building, 11000 W. Lincoln Highway, Frankfort.

Early voting begins March 3 and continues through March 15. The Frankfort Township Building's polls will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on week days during that time period. There will *not* be

an opportunity to vote on Saturdays.

It's a very easy process. Voters do not have to provide a reason why they prefer to vote early, for example. Just present a valid government-issued photo identification card and you'll soon be marking a ballot.

To identify your voting district, check the back of your voter's registration card or visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com. For information about voting at the township building, call 815-469-4907.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SENIORS!



Frankfort Township’s seniors like to have a good time, of course.

And they had a *great* time this year on Dec. 18 at their annual Christmas party at C D & ME. Everyone was there, including Santa Claus.

After a delicious dinner from Gatto’s, things really got going when the Vito Zatto Show began.

The Las Vegas-style entertainer is a terrific singer, and he got the crowd to sing along with him on “Sweet Caroline.” Vito teased everyone, telling one man that he looked just like the movie star Vin Diesel. And to top it all off, he persuaded township transportation manager George Tolsky and Trustee Dave Smith to play air guitar and lip sync to an AC/DC song!