



TRAILS

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

Jim Moustis, Frankfort Township Supervisor



It's finally fall.

One of the nicest things about living in Northern Illinois is the changing of the seasons. As summer slips away and autumn returns, native trees and shrubs end the growing season and burst into a brilliant display of color.

The ginkgoes are bright yellow, the hickories and birches a burnished gold. As the weather cools, the leaves drift from the trees, pooling at your feet.

Fall is the perfect time to walk or bike, either in your neighborhood or along the area's many paths and trails.

Although a portion of the eastern branch of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Hickory Creek Bikeway in

the Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve is currently closed for repairs, there are other great places to enjoy the season.

The Frankfort Square Park District's Kingston Park, 7736 Kingston Drive, Frankfort, features a walking path and bike trail inside its ten acres.

Woodlawn Park, 7443 Woodlawn Drive, Frankfort, has beautiful trees, a pond and its own trail for hiking and biking.

Don't forget Mokena's Main Park, 10925 LaPorte Road, Mokena, a large haven with a wooded walking trail.

And there's always your own backyard, the place that's often the best of all in fall.

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Frankfort Township Officials

Supervisor:
Jim Moustis

Trustees:
Bruce Ebert
Nick George
Greg Griffin
Dave Smith

Assessor:
Joe Kral
Highway Commissioner:
Bill Carlson
Clerk:
Nella Piccolin
Collector:
Patrick Markham

Township Board meets:
7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays
Board Workshop meets:
Follows the meeting on the 2nd Monday
Planning Commission meets:
7 p.m. on the 1st Monday

VOLUNTEERS: A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

Rio Garza is the muscle of the Frankfort Township Food Pantry.

If there's heavy lifting to be done, he's there to do it, said Jodi Gallagher-Dilling, the Pantry's Director.

"He's our power house," she said.

Garza, 51, who lives in Frankfort, is just one of the many volunteers who unselfishly give their time to the Township. Without them and their contributions, the Township's Food Pantry, programs and other activities simply wouldn't be the same.

A few years ago, Garza needed a helping hand himself, and he turned to the Township. That's where he met Gallagher-Dilling and the other staff members.

"Jodi made me feel comfortable to the point where I wanted to come help," he said.

Like many of the other volunteers, Garza enjoys the atmosphere in the Township Building because it's a welcoming place.

"I've made friends here," he said. "They're always there for me, from the little things to making a funny joke."

Because he's tall and strong, Garza often handles food deliveries, loading and unloading trucks.



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR LUNCH WITH SANTA

Santa will be here sooner than you think.

Before he stops by your house, he's visiting Frankfort Township for his annual lunch date with kids from the community.

It's a holiday celebration you don't want to miss, and **reservations are being taken now** for children who are 12 years old and younger.

The party for youngsters and their families will be held this year from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 13. But the festivities will be at a new location this Christmas: the Township's Event Centre, 20701 Landings Pointe (Colorado & Pfeiffer Rd.), Frankfort. Reservations are being accepted until Wednesday, December 3. To reserve your tickets, call (815) 469-4907.

Tickets for the event are \$5 each, and an 11:30

a.m. lunch is included. There will be Fun House Hot Dogs, Carousel Chips and the choice of a Tight Rope Lemonade or water. No party is complete without sweets, and there will be Vanishing Act Cookies and Ringmaster Brownies. Ticket proceeds will benefit the Frankfort Township Food Pantry.

Santa's Winter Carnival is the theme of the party, and there will be games, prizes and special treats. Santa Claus has promised to arrive at 1 p.m.

The Jolly Old Elf is looking forward to posing for photographs with your little ones, so make sure that you remember to bring your camera and take plenty of pictures.



BOOMER CORNER



Frankfort Township will honor veterans and their families from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, with a musical performance by Dave Molinari at the Frankfort Township Building, 11000 W. Lincoln Hwy., Frankfort. Everyone is invited, the event is free and light refreshments will be served. Molinari, a Mokena resident, popular local musician and history buff, will tell stories about World War I

and World War II while singing songs that tribute to our veterans and their families. You'll hear longtime favorites such as "Roll Out the Barrel" and "I'll Be Seeing You."

"It's a patriotic event in honor of our armed forces," Molinari said. There also will be a Five Rifle Color Guard from the American Legion Post 615 of Tinley Park, he said. Molinari's show has become a local tradition, a way to explore history while being entertained. "If you sing a song from a period, you are

BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE

In November, area Boy Scouts will be joined by Girl Scouts as they collect nonperishable food to be donated to local organizations including the Frankfort Township Food Pantry.

The Scouts will begin distributing food collection bags within their neighborhoods on Saturday, November 8, said Jodi Gallagher-Dilling, director of the Township's Food Pantry.

"It's our biggest food drive of the year," she said.

Watch for a bag to appear at your front door. If you fill it with nonperishable food, the Scouts will return and pick it up. After all the food is sorted, it will be given to area pantries.



FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP CARES ABOUT YOUR CAT



Frankfort Township Animal Control Officer Karen Zobjeck wants your cat to have a long and happy life.

Here are her tips for keeping your feline friends safe and sound:

- To prolong your cat's life, keep it indoors, despite its love of exploring the neighborhood.
- Make sure your cat has been microchipped in case it darts outside. Animals are easier to identify if

they have been chipped. Additionally, make sure to register your name, phone number and address with the service working with the maker of the chip.

- If your cat or other pets wander away from home, they can be found. Call Animal Control and let us know: (815) 469-4907 extension 3712. We might already have found your pet and would like to return it to you.
- Please remember that Frankfort Township has an ordinance that doesn't allow cats to run at large.

WILL COUNTY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CONCERNS CAN HELP YOU

The Will County Center for Community Concerns makes the area a better place to live.

It provides assistance and opportunities for people with low or moderate incomes, and the agency is ready to help in many different ways. Here is a quick look at some of their different services:

Paying Your Bill For Heating Your Home

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, often called LIHEAP, is a project that helps people pay their energy bills.

The amount of the payment is determined by income and household size. An overdue bill or notice of shut-off is not required to participate in this program. To qualify, residents are not required to own their home or even to be the person who pays the actual bill.

Additionally, the source of fuel is not required to be natural gas or electricity to receive assistance.

The LIHEAP program also includes an Emergency Furnace Component to repair or replace broken heating systems for income-eligible residents who own their home.

Employment Support

The Employment Support Program assists eligible residents with items such as daycare expenses, transportation costs and work supplies that will assist them in the search for work and to keep a job.

Prescription Drug Assistance

The Will County Center for Community Concerns can help with some purchases of prescription drugs. There is a \$75 maximum amount of assistance for each household during a program year.

Help With The Water Bill

In this program, a resident must have a notice of disconnection to apply for assistance. The occupant must either have the water account registered in their name or the lease must specify that the occupant is responsible for the payment. There are other requirements to participate in this program, including documentation to demonstrate a hardship and show why the bill was not paid.

Rental Assistance

To apply for this program, a Will County resident must provide proof of being at least 30 days delinquent on the rent payment or provide a lease showing the need for the first month's rent. Depending on the circumstances, the resident might be asked to show documentation explaining the circumstances of the hardship.

Family And Community Development

Staffers who are certified as Family and Community Development Specialists can provide intensive case management to promote self-sufficiency in families. The case manager and the family members work together to formulate goals and determine the steps needed to achieve them.

For More Information And To Apply

This is just a short list of all the programs offered by the Will County Center For Community Concerns. The organization recently moved from its old location in downtown and is now at 2455 Glenwood Ave., Joliet. The telephone number has remained the same: (815) 722-0722. The hours to apply for services are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: CHANGING SEASONS



The leaves have been coming down for the past few weeks.

And workers from the Frankfort Township Highway Department have been cleaning them up, Highway Commissioner Bill Carlson said. At first, only one leaf vacuuming truck was needed. By October 27, two of them had hit the streets.

“We will pick up the leaves on an as-needed basis until the first significant snowfall.” Carlson defined “significant snowfall” as one requiring a snow plow. The popular leaf removal service is provided free of charge to Frankfort Township residents.

The 2014 branch pick up service has ended, however, Carlson said. It begins every year on the first Monday in May and ends on the last Monday in September.

Carlson asked Township residents to rake their leaves to the edge of the street in neighborhoods with curbs and gutters. Residents who have ditches should rake their leaves to the street side of the ditch line.

“We pick up leaves every day, if needed,” Carlson said. But the Highway Department does not pick up leaves on every street on each day of operation, he noted.

Now that winter isn’t far away, Carlson urged residents to take care of a few weather-related household chores when needed.

When it snows, be sure to shovel the stuff away from the mail box so the carrier can deliver the mail.

“It’s important to keep those boxes accessible,” Carlson said.

And when removing snow from a driveway,



shovel it so that it’s piled on the right-hand side of the drive if you are facing the street.

“It won’t get thrown back in your driveway by the snow plow if the direction is left to right,” Carlson explained.

If it snows on the day that your garbage and recyclables are collected, make sure to put your bags and containers in a spot away from the street. You wouldn’t want a passing snow plow to accidentally scatter everything around the neighborhood.

After the plows go through, residents shouldn’t move any snow that’s been deposited in the driveways back into the street, Carlson said.

“If it freezes and damages someone’s car, technically, you might be liable if there is an accident,” he added.

THE EVENT CENTRE IS READY FOR YOU



Frankfort Township’s Event Centre is open, and we can’t wait for you to see it.

The elegant and distinctive two-level facility is located at 20701 Landings Pointe, Frankfort.

With its comfortable rooms and stunning outdoor areas, the Event Centre is the perfect place for your next get-together. It’s great for all kinds of parties — a birthday or anniversary celebration, perhaps a baby or wedding shower.

And it’s the best spot for your next business meeting or gathering. The Event Centre is easy to find; it’s just off La Grange Road and north of U.S. 30.

The banquet rooms are simply beautiful, and they’re the perfect size too. Great for intimate parties of 25, yet big enough to accommodate as many as 250 people.

The outdoor views can’t be topped. There’s stately landscaping, and the Centre overlooks a beautiful wetland area and stand of trees.

Cocktails, appetizers, individually plated meals: The Event Centre can handle it all.

For more information, call (779) 324-5498.

You’ll be so happy you chose the Event Centre.

