



November 2013

TRAILS

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

Jim Moustis, Frankfort Township Supervisor



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Frankfort Township supports CASA of Will County.

The group helps the most vulnerable members of our community: abused and neglected children. Last year, CASA worked with four youngsters from Frankfort Township.

CASA stands for court-appointed special advocates, meaning volunteers who closely follow the children's cases in the Will County court system. They work with par-

ents, foster families and school officials to make sure that these kids live in a home that is safe and secure. They actually are fact gatherers who track information about the children's lives and give it to the judges presiding over the cases.

The Frankfort Township Board recently gave \$2,500 to CASA to help the recruit and train 15 new volunteers.

But Frankfort Township supports CASA in other ways that are just as

important. Township residents such as Winnie Nyhus, a retired grade school teacher, volunteers for the group.

Last year, CASA worked with more than 250 children — but that's just half of the kids who need help. CASA needs more volunteers; perhaps you could become one of them?

If you would like to learn more about CASA of Will County, call (815) 730-7072 or go to casaof-willcounty.org.

Frankfort Township Officials

Supervisor:
James 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 1st Monday

Planning Commission meets:
7 p.m. on the 1st Monday

YOU'RE INVITED TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY!

It's time to trim the tree, light the lights and spend time with friends, old and new.

And the best way to do that is at a Christmas party.

Frankfort Township is having **two** of them, and we're inviting you to join us. *Won't you come? It won't be fun without you!*

The second annual Lunch with Santa will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Frankfort Township Building's community room. Admission is \$5 and includes a hot dog lunch, entertainment, surprises and, of course, a chance to visit with Santa himself. *Call 815-469-4907 for reservations and more information.*

The Frankfort Township Seniors will have their yearly party at 5 pm on Dec. 18 at CD&ME, 23320 LaGrange Road. The cost is \$20, and it includes entertainment by Vito Zatto. Dinner will be catered by Gatto's, and there's a new menu for the evening.

There will be a gift exchange. If you'd like

to participate, bring a \$10 item and you can take one home with you.

For reservations, call Jodi Gallagher-Dilling at (815) 806-2766.



REMEMBER YOUR FURRY FRIENDS



Karen Zobjeck offers these tips for pet owners:

Don't Give Too Many Treats

Although it's tempting to share your turkey dinner with your pets, don't overdo it, Zobjeck says. Mashed potatoes and gravy, for example, can be loaded with salt, and that's not good for dogs and cats. And some spices can be harmful to our four-legged friends.

The holidays are almost here, and there's so much to do — shopping, baking, visiting.

But no matter how busy you are, don't forget about your pets.

Frankfort Township Animal Control Officer

If You're Cold, Your Pet Might Be Too

Keep an eye on the weather, Zobjeck says. If you let your dog or cat outside, think about the conditions. Snow, ice and rain can be just as harmful to animals as it is to us.

Batten Down The Hatches

At this time of year, some wild animals are looking for a place to hole up during the winter

months. And they might be eyeing your shed, garage or attic as the perfect critter condo, Zobjeck says. Make sure everything is secured so you don't have an unpleasant surprise in the spring.

Coyotes Are Lurking

You might not see them, but coyotes have been spotted in Frankfort Township. Don't let them get your pets — supervise your dog or cat while they are outside.

BY THE WAY, DON'T FORGET ...

If You Need Help With Your Energy Bills

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program — better known as LIHEAP — might be able to help you.

Representatives from the program visit the township from 1-3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

If you are eligible, LIHEAP will provide a one-time payment to cover energy bills. An overdue bill or a shut-off

notice is not required for participation in the program.

That We're Going To Drury Lane

The Frankfort Township seniors are going to Oakbrook to see "Hello Dolly" at 10 a.m. on Dec. 4. Tickets are \$65 and include transportation by a coach bus and lunch. To check the availability of tickets, call Jodi Gallagher-Dilling at (815) 806-2766.

That We Are So Proud Of The Alexander Family

Among the many fine young people living in Frankfort Township are Nathan and Julia Alexander, 10 and 7. To celebrate their recent birthdays, they had a party and asked the guests to bring an item to donate to the Food Pantry instead of a gift.

After the party, the Alexander family brought the donations to

the township. Thank you so much!



That The Township Offices Will Be Closed

On Nov. 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Happy Turkey Day!

DIAL-A-RIDE CAN TAKE YOU THERE

Once upon a time, the township's transportation service was a big secret.

Not any more.

Many more residents

have learned about the economical way to travel throughout the township.

These days, the drivers are making an average of 250 trips a week, said George Tolsky, transportation manager. They typically log 70 rides on Thursdays alone, he said.

Some people might think Dial-A-Ride's vans

are reserved for seniors. That's simply **not** true. All kinds of different people reserve rides in the township's comfortable vans, which are also wheelchair accessible. Some people use Dial-A-Ride to get to work, and others use it to get to school.

In fact, parents of children with special needs have recently dis-

covered the great services offered by the township's fleet. Just one family used the service last year. Now five families do, Tolsky said.

But why are there more riders?

"It's our service and great on-time performance," Tolsky said.

Call (815) 806-2765 to book your trip with



BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE FILLS PANTRY



Clockwise, L to R: A family works together to drop off donations; Unloading the truck; A group of Scouts bringing boxes into the building; Volunteer Lynn Ganz of Frankfort sorts cereal.

Frankfort Township's Boy Scouts have done it again.

They've filled the food pantry with tons of non-perishable food.

Last November, the Scouts collected about 20,000 pounds of food for the Frankfort Township Food Pantry and Together We Cope, a sister food pantry in Tinley Park.

But this year, they did even more. The Scouts gathered 25,000 pounds of food to be split between the two organizations.

They collected so much food that it took nearly a week to unload it, check it and store it on the shelves in Frankfort Township.

The Scouts began hauling the boxes into

the township's pantry on Nov. 10, said Jodi Gallagher-Dilling, a member of the township's staff. Dozens of volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the week to make sure that everything was put in its proper place. Some of those volunteers — like Pauline Deuran, Patsy Lane and Lynn Ganz — were there day after day.

To make sure only the

freshest food is offered by the pantry, the volunteers sorted each and every item by the date stamped on the container.

When it all was over, the volunteers had the satisfaction of knowing that fewer people would go hungry in Frankfort Township.

Thank you, Scouts and volunteers!