Promises
As we approached the November election a year ago, we distributed several publications to Frankfort residents that stated if the voters passed a 1% Non-Home-Rule Sales Tax, then we would use the funds to hire police for new crime prevention programs, to fund major infrastructure improvements and to fund other village operations. The referendum passed, so, how are we doing on those promises?

While the tax was passed in November, it did not go into effect until July 1. We received our first payment from the tax last month. Realizing that by state law, the hiring of police officers takes considerable time, we decided to direct the police chief to begin the hiring process immediately after the November election. Since then we have added five new police officer positions. Two have completed Police Academy training and are now in field training. Two are at the Academy now. One more is scheduled to start the Police Academy in January. The five new officers will be assigned to

In an earlier edition of the Frankfort Villager, I wrote an article outlining the proper procedures for recycling household materials. I have received several requests to cover this important topic again. While most residents are recycling with the best intentions, many times we are putting unacceptable items into the system. This has caused ever-increasing costs to the waste haulers so much so that several communities in the Chicago area have eliminated recycling as an option. There are steps that we can take to help make our recycling effective.

Our contracted waste hauler, Homewood Disposal advises “over-recycling adds garbage, food waste, and hazardous materials into the recycling stream. As trucks deliver their mixed recyclable loads to sorting facilities, these contaminated items, destroy “good” materials and grind the progress of sorting facilities to a halt.” It is important that we only place acceptable materials into our recycle bins to ensure appropriate disposal. These items include:

• Aluminum, tin and metal cans
• Plastic bottles and containers
• Glass bottles and jars
• Cardboard milk, juice, broth cartons
• File folders
• Junk mail
• Flattened cardboard boxes
• Newspapers.

Below are links to aid in proper recycling techniques:
www.mydisposal.com
www.mydisposal.com/quiz

As a reminder, electronics cannot be placed at the curb to be picked up and electronics recycling became mandatory in January of 2012. This is mainly due to hazardous materials that are used and encased in most electronic items. Unfortunately, our waste haulers are not legally able to

Continued on next page
Recycling Done Right, from Page 1

accept these items with our regular trash. Electronics that have been banned from disposal in the trash include:

- Televisions
- Monitors
- Printers
- Computers (Desktops, Laptops, Notebooks, Tablets)
- Electronic Keyboards
- Fax Machines
- Videocassette Recorders
- Portable Digital Music Players
- DVD Players
- DVD Recorders
- Video Game Consoles
- Small Scale Servers
- Scanners
- Electronic Mice
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- Cell Phones
- Computer Cable
- Portable Digital Assistants (PDAs)
- Zip Drives.

Thankfully, Will County has free electronics drop off sites located throughout the area. Specific

information about this program can be found at www.willcountygreen.com/greenguide/electronic.aspx.

Proper recycling is important as it helps items from ending up in landfills. The ultimate goal is to create well-informed residents that feel confident recycling at home. We hope everyone becomes a recycling know-it-all. If you would like to know about more about recycling, please visit www.mydisposal.com/resources.

Dial it Back...

Help us do our part to protect our waterways and environment by “dialing back” the amount of time your water softener regenerates and the frequency of those regenerations.

- Check the hardness setting of your water softener and set it to 25 grains or less
- Increase the time between regenerating cycles by one day at a time until the effective softening time is maximized
- Consider having older softeners evaluated by a professional to ensure it is operating efficiently

Optimizing the operation of your water softener is a simple and effective way you can reduce the amount of chloride entering the environment. If you have questions, contact the Utilities Department at (815) 469-2177.
It has become a sad joke of acceptance… The local news has been filled with FBI raids and indictments. We hear of sweetheart deals, conflicts of interest, and politicians pedaling the influence of their positions to enrich themselves or their businesses at our expense…and we shrug and say, “typical Illinois.”

Trust in government, media, and elected officials seems to be at an all-time low, and in my conversations with residents they are dismayed and disheartened at the corruption and blatant disregard for the law.

There was a Public Policy Poll a few years ago that said that Congress is only slightly more popular than head lice. The head lice demanded a recount!

All kidding aside, conscientious, hard-working people and their communities are unfortunately painted with that same brush.

I have always been impressed with the way that our village employees take care of our community. I think they have earned a reputation for going above and beyond, and I am proud of Frankfort being awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 30th year in a row by the Government Finance Officers Association.

We are heading into a very important time for Frankfort. Our community is surrounded in a triangle of development. A casino has been proposed on our border at Rt. 30 and Harlem Ave. and we have distribution warehouses popping up all around us with their resultant truck traffic. It is our residents who should control the direction of our development, and not regional forces that would like to dictate how we grow, for their benefit, not ours.

The Village Board and Administration continue refining and updating our Comprehensive Plan for the future development in Frankfort, and we have spent the better part of the year engaging our residents in the process. Some of the projects that have been identified, will possibly be “3P” Projects (Public/Private Partnership) involving land transactions, infrastructure expense, and development incentives.

The integrity and transparency of this process is very important, and there shouldn’t be even an appearance of impropriety.

Chicago’s new mayor has introduced some fairly strong ethics reform ideas. At our September 16th village board meeting, I asked that while we are revisiting and updating our existing policies, that we review our own ethics rules, last updated in 2006.

We have a lot of meetings… Some of these can be marathon sessions, but I would rather err on the side of transparency and maintain a free flow of ideas. A great deal of thought and discussion go into our decisions, trying to make sure our tax dollars are being used wisely and that we are creating good policy.

We don’t always agree, and that is part of the process, but any idea presented should be capable of withstanding critical examination.

I think it is vital that as we move forward with an ethics ordinance that we also engage our residents in the process of crafting this ordinance. We can hold ourselves to a higher standard as a community and lead by example.
Funding the Missing Link

By Jeff Cook, Assistant Village Administrator

Thirteen years ago I wrote about major intersection improvements completed on Route 30 at Pfeiffer Road. The year was 2006 and full improvement of Route 30 was but a pipe dream and recessionary fears remained the subject of debate, if not outright dismissal. Further north in the Lighthouse Pointe subdivision, extensions of Colorado Avenue and Pfeiffer Road opened up, promising one day to form alternate routes for both vehicular and non-motorized travel. In this issue of The Villager, Mayor Holland identifies the missing link of Pfeiffer Road as a major infrastructure project under consideration.

Construction of Pfeiffer Road between Lighthouse Pointe and Route 30 is expected to result in several community benefits. More than 700 existing homes would gain improved access to the Frankfort Library and Old Plank Road Trail via a multi-use path contemplated to parallel the roadway. The connection would also provide non-motorized connections to the many miles of trails and amenities provided by the Frankfort Square Park District.

Economic benefits stand to be gained by dividing the land owned by Silver Cross Hospital on the north side of Route 30. The roadway will create new opportunities for commercial development at the planned four-way signalized intersection of Pfeiffer Road and Route 30. Further, the divided land would become more manageable to find prospective purchasers and developers. Together with the recommendations of the Village’s updated Comprehensive Plan, the road project offers a path forward towards the future development of the Route 30 corridor.

I would be remiss to ignore opportunities created for local north-south vehicular travel. The existing road in the Lighthouse Pointe Subdivision is designed as a collector road. A collector road is built to carry more vehicles than side streets and minimizes the presence of residential driveways. Throughout Lighthouse Pointe, no residential driveways are constructed or planned to intersect Pfeiffer Road, which by design will carry more vehicles and provide convenient travel options for local residents.

Linking the north and south sections of Pfeiffer Road remains the subject of consideration at the time of this writing, but its eventual presence was cast long ago. Cooperation with Silver Cross Hospital, the land owner, and local legislative decisions will determine if and when we will fund the missing link.

Final Draft Available
Visit: www.yourfrankfort.com

After more than a year of community engagement and effort reworking the comprehensive plan, the final draft document is available at yourfrankfort.com or printed copies may be requested at Village Hall. Thank you to all participants throughout the process for helping shape this document and Frankfort’s future.
Okay so the tax referendum passed and the Mayor and Village Board as promised said “hire officers,” but why don’t we see them on the streets. What many don’t understand is that the process to hire an officer is not a quick one. The process starts with completing an application, then an orientation; this is followed by a written test, then an oral interview by the Police Commission. This process just gets you put on a list that is used to hire when we have open police officer positions. We are obligated by state law to use this process and to go in order of the list, so no matter who is on the list we start at #1 and go in order until the list is exhausted or expired. The only exception to this is for previously certified officers who are on the list, if any.

Once the list is established and we are authorized to hire an officer, we start with the highest ranked candidate and begin the background investigation. This can take several weeks to complete as it includes a neighborhood canvas, reference checks and obtaining basic background information on the candidate. Once this is done information is compiled and reviewed and the candidate is sent to a polygraph test.

This information is presented to our Police Commission who evaluates all the information and decides if the candidate meets the requirements to move forward in the process. If the candidate does not meet the requirements, the process ends. If they do meet them, the process continues with a conditional offer of employment, pending successful completion of medical and psychological testing. Medical tests are completed to make sure they are able to meet the physical requirements of a police officer. Candidates are also sent for a psychological test. This is done by a trained doctor who will evaluate several mental and emotional factors and evaluate the candidate for suitability. Once this is done they are Hired!

This process will take several weeks to months. Once completed they now have earned the reward of going to a 14-week Police Academy to learn about judgment, implicit bias, partiality, criminal and traffic laws, mental health and de-escalation techniques. They participate in defensive tactics and scenario based trainings dealing with domestics, mental health and traffic stops to name a few. After this 14-week training, they are finally back to Frankfort for - you guessed it - more training. The final phase of the officer’s initial training is Field Training. This consists of the officer riding with a certified Field Training Officer who continues to teach and evaluate the recruit. This process allows them to bring what they learned in the Police Academy and demonstrate these abilities on the streets. Once they successfully complete this on the job training phase, they are released to patrol on their own. They continue to be mentored and evaluated closely for a minimum of the next 12 months.

Hopefully, this sheds some light on the rigors of getting officers hired and trained and a better understanding that the process is much different than hiring for most other professions. We are currently in the training process with five new officers and look forward to when they finally achieve the ability to begin solo patrol.

Shop Small Business Saturday
Saturday, November 30

The Village of Frankfort celebrates our local small businesses and their contributions to our local economy and community. Residents are encouraged to support the Saturday after Thanksgiving as a day to shop small and shop local in Frankfort!
Preparing for Winter Weather
By Terry Kestel, Superintendent of Public Works

While you are reading this edition of the Villager, the leaves will be falling, which signals that soon the winter weather will be arriving. Being prepared for this weather is important for both Village staff and residents to assure a safe snow removal season.

In preparing for the winter weather, the Village snow removal equipment is installed on the trucks and salt spreading equipment is calibrated. Snow plow routes are adjusted to accommodate additional streets. The Village requires staff to attend annual snow removal safety training. Two new snow plow trucks were delivered in October to replace two older trucks. These are just a few of the continuing activities the Village uses to prepare for winter.

Checking the snow thrower, purchasing sidewalk salt, and making sure to have a good snow shovel are ways residents can prepare for the winter. Additional winter preparedness should include:

- Wearing appropriate layered clothing that provides ventilation and insulation, hats and gloves, and boots with slip-resistant soles.
- Clear snow early and often to reduce heavy packed snow.
- Be aware of your surroundings when using snow thrower to avoid injury or damage from thrown snow or debris.

- Use caution while driving near snow removal equipment. Allow enough space that the snow plow driver can see you should they need to back up to clear the snow.
- Avoid placing snow from the driveway into the street as this creates dangerous roadway conditions when it refreezes.

Whatever the winter weather brings this season, being prepared will help to have a safe winter.

Snowfall Parking Reminder

Per Village Ordinance, it is unlawful to park any vehicle or for any vehicle to remain parked upon any street in the Village between 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM after a 2” snowfall. This is to ensure that all village roadways can be safely cleared.

When shoveling or plowing your driveway, please refrain from pushing snow into the street. This causes snow buildup and makes it difficult for plows to effectively clear the streets.

Thanks for your cooperation.
As the seasons change and temperatures drop, it’s a good idea to make sure your home’s water system has been properly winterized. A few simple precautions can eliminate costly and untimely plumbing repairs.

Before we dive into this issue, let’s first discuss why cold weather is a problem for water-related systems. Water is unlike most other substances in that it expands when it freezes. When water freezes, the resulting expansion creates enormous amounts of pressure on the containing vessel. If this container is a pipe, it is likely to break, regardless of the material. Outdoor appurtenances that are most prone to freezing typically include outdoor hose bibbs and lawn sprinkler lines. Interior water pipes that commonly freeze are typically located in unheated areas such as basements, crawl spaces, garages, and attics. Interior pipes in heated areas that run against exterior walls with little to no insulation may also experience freezing.

So what can be done to prevent frozen water pipes? Around the outside of your home, make sure all hoses are disconnected from exterior hose bibbs. If your hose bibbs are not “frost-free,” make sure they have been properly shut off and drained. Lawn sprinkler systems should also be properly disconnected from the water supply and drained. Inside your home, consider installing heat-tape or insulation around water pipes that are located in unheated and uninsulated areas that have a greater chance of freezing as discussed above. These materials can be purchased at most home building supply retailers. Additionally, it is recommended to maintain a minimum indoor temperature of 55°F throughout the winter months to ensure your water pipes are not subjected to freezing temperatures. It is also a good idea to become familiar with the location and operation of the interior water shut-off valve for your home’s plumbing in the event the water needs to be turned off during an emergency. If you experience a broken water pipe and are unable to shut off the water inside your home, please contact the Utilities Department at (815) 469-2177 to have your water service turned off.

The onset of winter and freezing temperatures presents its own set of challenges for our community. However, with a little forethought and prevention, frozen water pipes in your home does not need to be one of them.

Submit Your Winter Beautification Award Nominations!

Have you noticed a property that is extraordinarily pleasing to view? It is likely the owners have spent considerable time, effort and expense to make their property so beautiful. We applaud them and we want to recognize them. Please complete this form and we will see that the owner receives appropriate recognition.

Name of Nominee (Optional): ____________________________________________

Address of Nominee: ___________________________________________________

Description of Project/Reason for Nomination: _________________________________

Submitted By: ___________________________ Date Submitted: ________________________

Please return completed form to the Village Administration Building, 432 W. Nebraska Street, Frankfort, IL 60423 or email to Sue Lynchey at slynchey@vofil.com by December 17.
The Village of Frankfort Invites You to Celebrate

**Lighting of the Green Ceremony**

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 PM – Breidert Green – Downtown Frankfort

Please Join Us for an Evening of Family Fun!

Performances by the
Hickory Creek Middle School Choir & Black Willow Brass Quintet

Refreshments will be served by
 Volunteers of the Lincoln-Way East Interact Club

Santa Claus Comes to Town

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Breidert Green – Downtown Frankfort
Saturday, December 14
Noon – 2 PM

Carolining on the Green
*Presented by*
Frankfort Girl Scouts
Service Unit 718

Performance by the Black Willow Brass Quintet

Hot Cocoa • Cookies • Toasty Bonfire

*Presented by the Village of Frankfort*
Winter on the Green in Historic Downtown Frankfort

January 12: Ice Fest
Experience the magic when an ice sculpture unfolds before your eyes during a demonstration by professional ice sculptors (12:30 PM). Ride the free heated trolley through downtown Frankfort and view ice sculptures on display. Trolley available until 2:00 PM! Bring your camera for great photo ops! What a “cool” way to spend your Sunday afternoon!

January 19: Winter Carnival
Why wait until summer to enjoy an outdoor carnival? Come enjoy an afternoon with your family, friends and Frosty the Snowman! Enjoy DJ music, kid-friendly carnival games, crafts and much more.

January 26: Winter Sports
Come play on the Green – it’s Winter Sports! Test your skills at ice bowling. Take the snow sled run, if you dare. Play “Short Hockey”. Then warm up by a blazing fire with hot chocolate. Good family fun for everyone!

February 9: Valentine’s Weekend
Bring your Valentine sweetheart to taste a variety of chocolate fondue delicacies prepared by the Rotary Club of Tinley Park-Frankfort! Heartland Blood Center will have a mobile unit available beginning at 10:30 AM for donations. Visit members of Frankfort Boy Scout Troop 270 while they demonstrate a winter campout and sample their hot cobbler made in Dutch ovens!

February 16: Chili Cook-Off
Battle of the Bowl! CHILI WANTED: best aroma, bite, color, consistency, originality, flavor and heat! Contestant registration forms available at www.frankfortchamber.com (under the calendar of events) or at the Village Hall (432 W. Nebraska). Fiery competition and sizzling free samples! Prizes awarded – Get Cookin’!

Sponsored by the Village of Frankfort & Thanks to our Special Sponsors:

Frankfort Boy Scouts Troop 270
Frankfort Chamber of Commerce
Tinley Park-Frankfort Rotary Club

Frankfort Lions Club
Frankfort Park District

Breidert Green in the Historic District of Frankfort
SUNDAYS, NOON UNTIL 2:00 PM
January 12 thru February 16, 2020
Share hot cocoa & cookies with your friends & family at these FREE events!

For more information visit www.villageoffrankfort.com
Welcome the Holidays with Upcoming Chamber Events

By Marianne Melcher, Executive Director, Frankfort Chamber of Commerce

The holidays are rapidly approaching and your Frankfort Chamber of Commerce and local businesses are preparing wonderful events for all to enjoy!

Sign up today on the Chamber website www.frankfortchamber.com for the 15th annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 7, and Sunday December 8, to enjoy the opportunity to visit many downtown shops and collect a delicious cookie at each participating location! These tickets sell out quickly, so don’t delay!

No registration is required to attend our Christkindl celebration held the same weekend. This holiday tradition has something for everyone in the family. Whether you choose to take your picture with St. Nick as he strolls our quaint streets, enjoy live holiday music on the Green, decorate a holiday cookie, or be part of our Lantern Parade leading to a cozy fire at Breidert Green for holiday story-telling, you won’t want to miss this fun family weekend in downtown Frankfort!

The 24th annual Midnight Madness shopping event will return on Friday, December 13. Gather some friends and family and visit area businesses for late-night shopping full of special deals, raffles, refreshments and more! Visit our website for a preview of participating businesses. Thank you for supporting our local shops!

Our Chamber staff and Board of Directors wish you all the very best this holiday season!

Please be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

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Cookie Walk Weekend

**Saturday, December 7**
**or Sunday, December 8**
**Noon to 3 PM**

*Must purchase tickets!*

Each ticket allows you to come Saturday or Sunday and collect a festive, individually wrapped holiday cookie at up to 25 downtown Frankfort Merchants.

Register today at www.frankfortchamber.com or call (815) 469-3356.

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Christkindl Weekend

**Saturday, December 7**
**& Sunday, December 8**
**Noon to 3 PM**

Visit historic downtown Frankfort for **FREE** Christkindl activities for the entire family!

Visit www.frankfortchamber.com or call (815) 469-3356 or information on these events!

*Presented by the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce and the Frankfort Historic Business Alliance*
Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Update
By Dr. R. Scott Tingley, Lincoln-Way High School District 210

For the second straight year, all three Lincoln-Way high schools academically ranked among the top 10% in the state, all three earning the summative rating of “Exemplary,” the highest ranking the Illinois State Board of Education offers. The designations provide a public benchmark for each school’s progress toward the goal of preparing all students for success in college and career.

The financial health of Lincoln-Way District 210 continues to improve as shown through the results of the District’s fiscal year 2019 annual financial statement audit. The District ended the fiscal year with just $1.75 million in outstanding short-term loans. This is in comparison to $20 million outstanding in 2016. Since 2016, the District has realized a $17 million increase in the general fund. These achievements have led to an improved financial profile status with the Illinois School Board of Education, from “Financial Watch” to “Financial Early Warning,” and the District anticipates an upgrade to “Financial Review” in spring 2020.

Additionally, Lincoln-Way 210’s expenditures per pupil are $12,311, the lowest out of all collar county high school districts, and the 20th most economic cost per student amongst all Illinois high school districts. CPA David Meyer applauded Lincoln-Way for its financial statements: “You’re doing a great job with the money you have available to educate your students.”

Thank you to the entire Lincoln-Way community for their continued support in helping our students grow and succeed. We look forward to continuing this positive momentum throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

Your Opinion Counts!

Let us know your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions on ways to improve our village. Let us know about acts of people who deserve special recognition. The Village will review submissions for appropriate response and action.

Dear Village Board, ___________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address & Phone (optional) ____________________________________________________________________________

Drop the completed form off at the Village Administration Building or mail to: Village Board, Village of Frankfort, 432 West Nebraska Street, Frankfort, IL 60423 or visit www.villageoffrankfort.com and click on “Contact Us.”
Frankfort School District 157-C
Sharpens Focus on Social Emotional Curriculum
By Dr. Maura J. Zinni, Superintendent of Schools, Frankfort School District 157-C

Frankfort School District 157-C is committed to preparing children fully for high school and beyond, with a strong focus on social emotional curriculum and academics.

Members of the District’s Social Emotional Learning Committee are continually evaluating the District’s curriculum to ensure it equips students with the tools they need to be successful in and out of the classroom.

The District is part of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), which provides standards on social emotional learning (SEL) to schools throughout Illinois and the nation.

CASEL’s core competencies for SEL include self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness.

Research shows that children who receive a robust social emotional curriculum experience greater academic achievement and have fewer problems with conduct inside and outside of school.

For preschoolers, Project BEGIN teaches about topics like self-awareness, social awareness, and self-management. For kindergartners through fifth-graders, Second Step offers age-appropriate lessons on subjects like empathy, focusing attention, listening, bullying prevention, positive self-talk and being assertive. For sixth- through eighth-graders, Mawi Learning focuses on subjects like solving problems, setting goals, mindset, finding one’s voice, taking time for oneself and becoming a leader.

“We are very proud of the District’s comprehensive Social Emotional Learning Program we provide beginning in pre-K all the way through eighth grade,” said Dr. Maura Zinni, superintendent of District 157-C. “We know that academic success and social emotional learning go hand-in-hand. We are fortunate to have dedicated and compassionate staff who teach social and emotional skill lessons to our students and reinforce these skills through positive interactions both during school and as a part of our robust extra-curricular opportunities.”

Social emotional learning materials at Frankfort School District 157-C are age-appropriate, tailored to each grade level.
Single Focus This Year:  
To Increase Student Growth and Achievement 

By Barb Rains, PHR, Superintendent of Summit Hill District 161

Over the last several years, we have worked systematically to align our curriculum, instructional practices, and professional development to support student mastery of our learning standards. Our efforts have been coupled with a multitude of support: lower class sizes, instructional coaches, increased time for math, and additional math teachers, to name a few.

To further support our efforts, professional learning communities (PLCs) are being piloted at our junior high this year. PLCs are daily teacher collaboration time that is built into the school day to analyze student data and learning strategies as a team or department.

The District also has introduced Freckle Education into the learning environment. Freckle is an online platform that provides students with math or reading support at their own level.

Finally, student goal setting is a priority. Teachers in all grade levels meet with students to help determine a student’s target area and skills and concepts to work on.

There also is a continued emphasis on student growth in the area of social and emotional learning to ensure a safe learning environment. We are providing professional development through Youth Mental Health First Aid classes and Crisis Prevention Institute training for our staff members.

To strengthen safety in our schools, we were fortunate to work with the Will County Sheriff’s Office on the implementation of an active-shooter drill. Despite the unfortunate topic, all staff felt this training helped them feel more prepared should we ever experience a crisis in one of our schools. Efforts to strengthen our current District reunification plans are also in process.

Information related to these efforts is available on the official District 161 app under the Supt. Advisory icon. Please search Summit Hill District 161 in the App Store of Google Play for a free download.

This fall, an innovative and technology-based after school club is offered at Frankfort Square School: Computer Coding Club. Coding Club is an opportunity for students to learn about computer science and computer coding through fun and interactive web-based games and activities on code.org. Pictured is Guste Sabonis who is participating in Coding Club activities.

Public Parking Options - Downtown Frankfort

For your convenience, free parking is provided in municipal owned parking lots located throughout the downtown district.

All parking lots are marked for public use, have lights, and are within walking distance of all businesses in downtown Frankfort.

Thank You for Visiting Downtown Frankfort!
Planning for the Future
By Gina Hassett, Executive Director, Frankfort Park District

Long range planning continues to be a priority for the Frankfort Park District. The Frankfort Park District is working on updating the District’s Comprehensive Master Plan. This year the District completed a facility assessment of the District’s assets. This assessment will be utilized as part of the long range planning that will be a guide for the allocation of funds for maintenance and for future capital projects. During the comprehensive plan, the District will be seeking community input. The input is critical in guiding the Board and staff in the planning process.

District staff is at work year round, planning to provide quality recreational programs. There are programs for all ages, pre-school through older adult. If you have an interest and you don’t find a program, reach out to the park district. Staff welcomes programming ideas and will work to meet the needs of the community. The District offers a variety of programs and special events. Take a look at the brochure or website for upcoming opportunities. During the winter, there is the popular Daddy Daughter Dance, the Senior Valentine Luncheon and holiday activities.

As the weather turns from fall to winter, Park District staff will be working to set up the outdoor ice rinks at Main Park. The rinks are dependent on weather; updates are available on the District’s website. If Mother Nature brings the snow, the sled hill at Commissioners Park will be ready. There are lights at the sled hill that are available for evening sledding.

The Park District Commissioner and staff goals are to provide quality recreational programming. Make time for you and take time to join the fun!

Friends sledding at Commissioners Park

Meeting Residents Needs in Planning for the Future
By Jim Randall, Executive Director, Frankfort Square Park District

Frankfort Square Park District (FSPD) residents recently completed a wellness and capital improvement survey, and results will be posted for resident review in the new year.

Wellness responses will lead towards the development of programming and facilities located to benefit residents, per their direction.

Capital improvements that have support will be developed and again presented to residents in further detail in a 2020 community-wide survey that will help formulate a 5-year master plan.

We hope all residents take the opportunity to contribute the thoughts and needs of their household members.

2019 proved to be a busy summer of improvements, provided through the successful passage of the 2018 no-tax increase referendum, and the FSPD completed the following Year 2 projects:
- 6 lighted pickle ball courts
- Champions Park concession stand and meeting space renovation
- Pond enhancements and erosion control at Indian Boundary

South Park
- Ongoing park path renovation
- New shelters and scoreboards for football and baseball at Union Creek Park
- New playgrounds at Woodlawn Park, and soon-to-be completed at Kingston Park

Next spring, new beginner tees will be available at Square Links Golf Course, enabling youth and adults that are new to the game of golf, a greater chance of success as they begin enjoying this lifetime sport.

For information, visit www.fspd.org or call 815-469-3524
Winter Safety Tips

By Robert Wilson, Frankfort Fire Protection District

During the winter months, heating, lighting, cooking, and holiday activities increase dramatically and so does the risk of residential fires. Nationally, 40% of all residential fires occur from November through February.

Furnaces are beginning to run and space heaters are coming out of storage. Fireplaces and wood burning stoves are being gathered around. All of these methods of heating are contributing factors to increased residential fire rates. Have your furnace and fireplace cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. Inspect flues and chimneys for obstructions, holes or cracks. Give space heaters the space they need, a minimum of 3 feet from any combustible. Ensure space heaters have an automatic shut-off.

Families and guests tend to gather in the kitchen, but it can be the most hazardous room in the house if you don’t practice safe cooking behavior. Careless use of cooking equipment, usually a range or stovetop, is the leading cause of home fires and home-fire injuries in the United States. ALWAYS have someone watching the stove!

Holiday decorating goes a long way to help brighten up our winter days and long nights. Unfortunately, decorations become a significant hazard if not used carefully. An estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year across the U.S. By following a few simple safety tips on electric lights, candles and Christmas trees, you can avoid creating a tragedy. Please do not obstruct your homes address with decorations, please ensure that it is visible at all times.

As the snow begins to fall and accumulate, you can assist the Fire Department by clearing snow from fire hydrants and your driveways and sidewalks. Snow around hydrants can impede their use in the event of a fire. A clear driveway and sidewalk can help ambulance crews in the event they respond to your house for an emergency.

If there is a fire in your home keep all doors and windows closed to prevent the spread of fire. First, exit the home immediately, second call 9-1-1, and third, to contain the fire in the area, keep doors and windows closed. Many will open a door or window in an effort to help with smoke removal, but this will increase the fire size and spread the fire throughout the structure.

A Safety Minute

Usher in the New Year with a safety check and replacement of all batteries in carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors.

Keep the Wreath Red

As the holiday season begins, you will notice a large holiday wreath on the front of each of our five fire stations. Each of the wreaths will be decorated with large red bulbs that will be constantly illuminated during the holiday season. Should a fire occur during the holiday season that is determined to have been directly caused by a holiday decoration, a white bulb will replace a red bulb. This will happen every time there is a holiday decoration-caused fire.
A Chattering of Starlings
By Pierre Gregoire, Library Director

There are collective nouns for almost every group of animals. People sharing a mission also name their groups: associations, neighborhoods, etc. The library hosts many of these groups in our community: chamber of commerce gatherings, homeowners associations, book clubs, crafters, artists and learners of every sort. Fifty-one groups utilized the library in September and October of this year as their collective space.

As the title above suggests, not all associations are always quiet and gentle. The point is, of course, the public exchange and sharing of a safe space. That is the beauty of engaging in a group – we recognize our shared qualities and our own and each other's uniqueness.

We started the fall with sharing our love of browsing used books at the Friends of the Library book sale. These bi-annual bargain bonanzas bring a lot of much needed extra funding for those materials, kits and programs that would be just beyond the budget otherwise. In November, we initiate a season of thankfulness. We are thankful for a new generation of children being introduced every year to the world through reading, playing and learning together. Thank your friends with handmade gifts in our Maker classes. December brings in a giving time when we can provide free tutoring for finals. Psst – did you know you can give to the library too?

We are with you. Come and learn with us!

Frankfort Township Food Pantry

Frankfort Township’s food pantry assists people in the Township who are experiencing difficult times.

Food donations are always welcome and may be dropped off at the Frankfort Township Office 11000 W. Lincoln Highway.

For more information, please contact Jeannine Hetfleisch at (815) 806-2761.
The new officers have already freed up enough time for Officer Riff to become a School Resource Officer at Frankfort School District 157-C. He is assigned to be at one of the schools anytime that students are present. Officer Monreal has been assigned to our first Directed Patrol Unit. He works under Sergeant Bender’s direction to address specific crime trends. He may work days, nights or weekends to accomplish the tasks. As our new recruits become qualified, we will add more Directed Patrol Units. We are well underway to accomplishing our task of increasing the police force for new crime prevention programs.

Our stated second goal for the new tax money was to use it for infrastructure. Our road resurfacing budget is over $2 million this year. Next year we expect it to be more. Just five years ago, the road resurfacing budget was only $500 thousand. We expect new road and bike trail grant opportunities to become available in the coming year. We will aggressively seek those grants for road improvements and new bike trails throughout the village. We are considering one whole new road that would connect Pfeiffer from Colorado to Route 30. We have also replaced some worn equipment that directly impacts our residents. We have 15 large snow plow trucks and they typically last 15 years. Last year before the Sales Tax Referendum was passed, we decided to forgo the purchase of a new large snow plow truck for the first time in over 10 years. During last year’s snow events, we had significant maintenance problems with our older equipment. This year we are purchasing two new large snow plow trucks to benefit our residents.

We also stated that we would fund other village operations with the Sales Tax revenue. In this area, we have been cautious about spending your money. We are considering another employee in the planning department and in code enforcement. In 2016, the village had 88 full time employees. As of our most recent audit, we had 84 employees. While our headcount will increase with the new police officers, we will be very selective with other hires.

Your village board is well aware that while 53% of the voters approved the Non-Home-Rule Sales Tax, 47% did not. We want all Frankfort residents to know that we will be good stewards of your money. We also want Frankfort residents to know that we are using the estimated $2.8 million in annual additional revenue the way we said we would.

Interested in Law Enforcement?

Frankfort Police are always looking for police cadets. Applicants must maintain good grades, be of good character and be age 15 to 21. We are also looking for Community Service Officers. To qualify you must be 18 years old, of good character and interested in law enforcement. Applications available at Frankfort Police Department.
Thank You...

Mayor Jim Holland and the Frankfort Village Board would like to thank the people who have made Frankfort’s special events in 2019 so successful. We extend our appreciation to the volunteers, civic groups, sponsors, Frankfort residents and all the visitors who attended Frankfort’s special events in 2019!
Fishing Derby

Concerts on the Green

Bluegrass Festival

Amateur Rib Cook-Off

National Night Out Against Crime

Fall Fest

Senior Breakfast

OPRT 5K

Trunk or Treat

Lighting of the Green

We look forward to your continued support of all our events in 2020! Check our website for details on events or sign up to receive free email event updates at www.villageoffrankfort.com.
TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
FRANKFORT, IL 60423

Wishing our residents a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!