

THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Year in Review

2020 2021

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ZONING

A Message from Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



The previous two years proved to be full of opportunity despite the uncertainty and difficulties that the world faced. I am proud of Franklin Park's resilience in 2020 and 2021 as the Village found ways to navigate through the many challenges that tested communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic, economic development efforts were put on hold as the health and safety of our residents and businesses became the top priority for Village staff. Following State mandates and CDC public health guidelines and recommendations, Village Hall and businesses were able to provide a safer environment for operations to resume over time. Thank you to healthcare professionals, first responders, businesses, and neighbors—I am grateful for our community's ability to come together during this global health crisis.

As operations at Village Hall resumed, we were excited to welcome new businesses, facilitate new construction, and identify and secure funding for much needed infrastructure improvements. Innovative companies like Pivot Bio and Quality Custom Distribution opened their doors in our industrial corridor west of Mannheim Road. Pivot Bio is a supplier of a sustainable and safer fertilizer that allows for increased crop yields while aiding in the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and global energy use compared to synthetic fertilizers. Quality Custom Distribution provides distribution services to iconic retail customers like Starbucks. Franklin Park was also fortunate that established businesses were able to bring advancements to their existing operations. For example, Life Fitness, the worldwide leader in commercial fitness equipment, announced that they will be moving their global headquarters and research and development to Franklin Park. We are proud that businesses like these call Franklin Park home.

Village staff has also made strides in our efforts to attract new retail opportunities with continued infrastructure and engineering work at Grand Avenue and Mannheim Road. The Village is currently in the process of reconstructing several lots and improving the infrastructure at the Franklin Marketplace shopping center which will provide two shovel-

ready sites that meet the standards of modern commercial developments. This includes the creation of properly sized outlots with utilities and providing much improved storm water management features that will benefit the surrounding area as well. Also, the site at 10438 Crown Road behind the existing retail is being redeveloped to further entice future development.

With the help of County, State, and Federal grant programs, the Village was also able to upgrade infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing industrial corridor while also creating safer, more efficient travel options for residents and visitors. The Village secured an additional \$3.3 million in funding for the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This increase underscores the importance of the Franklin Avenue project which will eliminate traffic bottlenecks, previously ranked as the highest priority need by the IDOT Competitive Freight Program in 2018. Franklin Avenue west of Mannheim Road is a significant component of the region's network of roads and highways. It will tie directly into the tollway system and provide improved access to I-294 via the future I-490 alignment. Together with the Tollway's regional improvements, the Franklin Avenue reconstruction project will help to decrease congestion and travel times locally by getting trucks off local roads and onto the tollway system more efficiently.

Franklin Park's proposal to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Access to Transit program was also selected for assistance through the federally funded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. The \$890,196 proposal outlines a plan for much needed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements that will help make destinations within the Village more accessible without the need for a vehicle.

I am proud of Franklin Park's ability to move forward with a plan and vision that can provide a foundation for economic success during uncertain times. ■



The Illinois Tollway Drives New Development



The Village of Franklin Park is situated at the crossroads of two of the largest roadway projects in the history of the Illinois Tollway. Ongoing efforts for improved regional connectivity have proven to be a strong incentive for new businesses looking at Franklin Park as a potential location for their operations.

Two of the largest improvement projects in the history of the Illinois Tollway are currently underway will have a positive impact on congestion and connectivity issues within Franklin Park.

Lawrence Avenue and the Canadian National Railway in Schiller Park and improvements to local crossroad bridges including Balmoral Avenue.

Looking Ahead...

In conjunction with the Tollway's projects, two local arterial improvement projects along Franklin Avenue are advancing in the village. In 2022, work will begin to widen and reconstruct Franklin Avenue from Runge Street to Mannheim Road beginning in 2022. Beginning in 2023 resurfacing, widening and reconstruction of Franklin Avenue is planned from York Road to Runge Street. Both projects have benefited from multiagency collaboration, including matching funds from the Illinois Tollway.

In addition, the Tollway's construction of a new ramp connecting southbound I-294 to County Line Road creating new access to Lake Street (U.S. 20) and North Avenue (Illinois Route 64) is also scheduled to begin in 2022. When complete this new ramp will provide enhanced access to the southern limits of Franklin Park. (See Figure 3).

The Tollway improvements delivered through both the new I-490 and Central Tri-State projects are anticipated to be complete in the Franklin Park area in 2025 and are expected to enhance economic development and travel performance in the region, solidifying the village as a central point of access to and through the region.

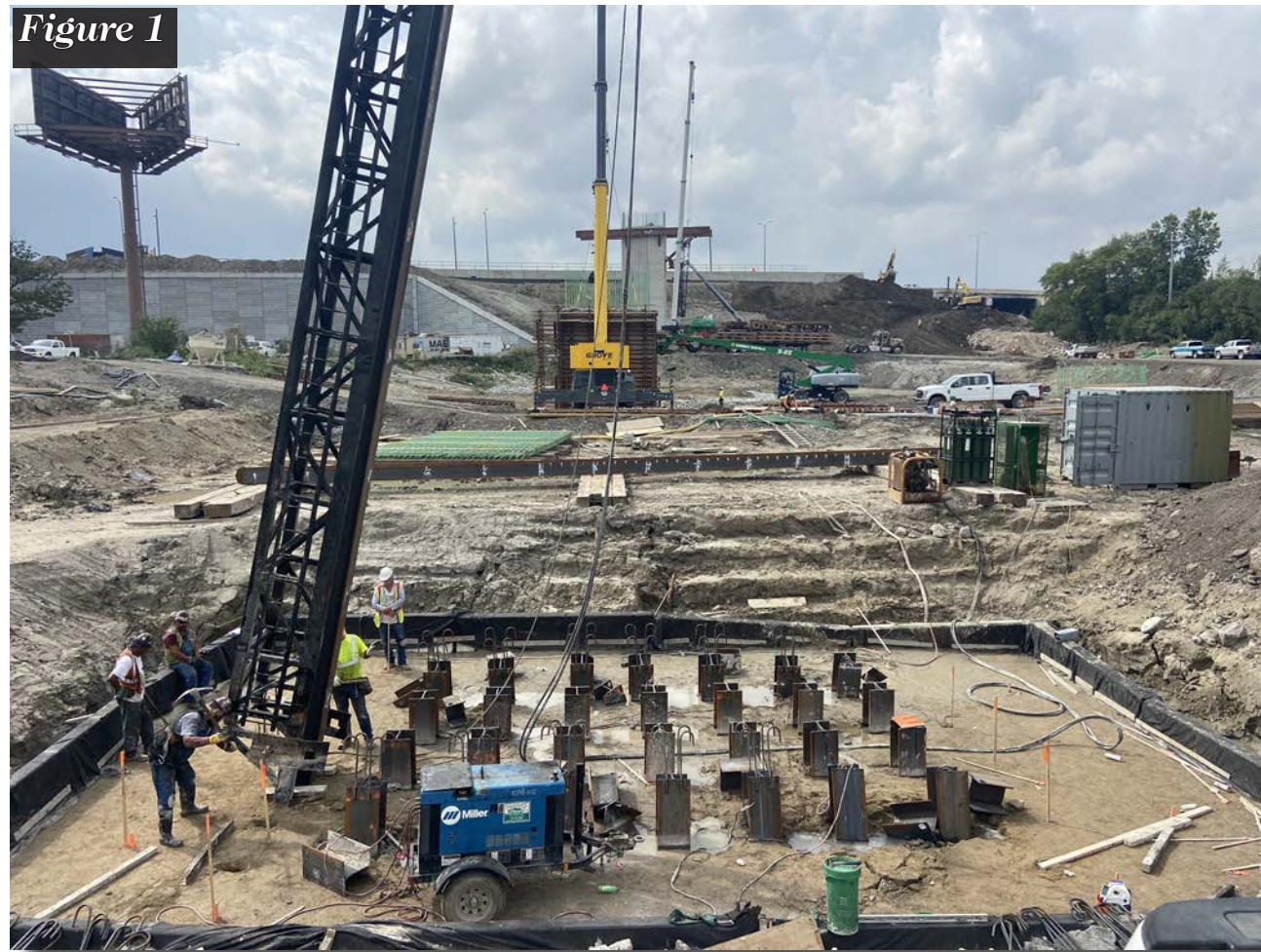
Franklin Park's strong partnership with the Illinois Tollway allows for the concerns of our community to be addressed as large scale, regional projects are completed. The Village looks forward to the completion of these and future projects and hopes to continue to be a part of the Tollway's efforts in improving regional connectivity. ■

The new I-490 Tollway providing connections to the Illinois Route 390 Tollway and the Tri-State Tollway will provide improved access with new exit and entry points and will ultimately lead to the connection to Franklin Avenue providing increased access to local businesses. Simultaneously, the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project will reconstruct and widen the north-south interstate to "right size" the corridor to accommodate demand and reduce congestion overflow onto Franklin Park's roadways.

As part of the new I-490 Tollway, the I-490/I-294 Interchange Project is estimated at approximately \$360 million and will include widening roadway bridges on and reconstructing a portion of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) and building a new partial interchange connecting I-294 and I-490. The project will deliver two new ramp bridges connecting I-490 to I-294. In addition, to accommodate the new ramps, in coordination with the Central Tri-State Tollway Project, I-294 will be widened and reconstructed, including reconstruction of bridges at the Union Pacific Railroad, Grand Avenue and North Avenue.

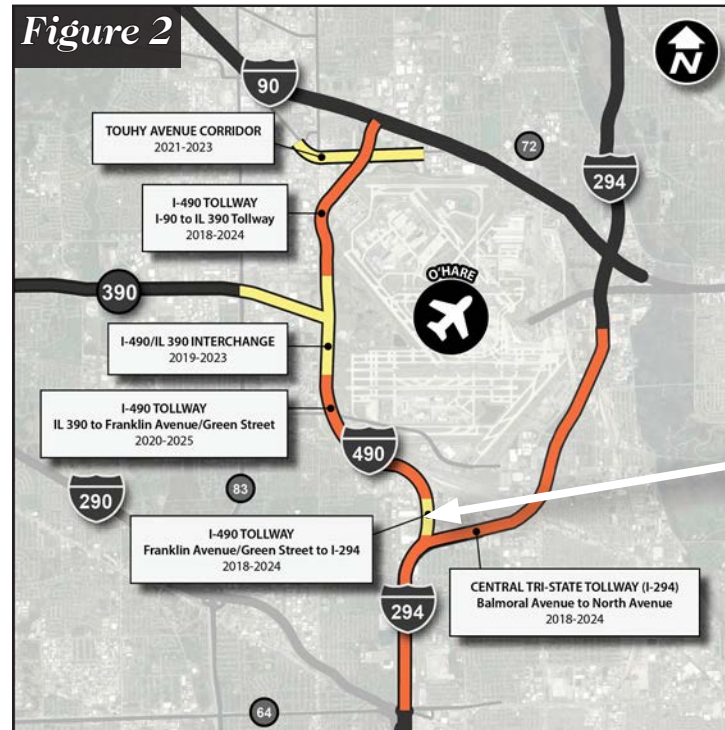
Work on the Central Tri-State Project includes roadway reconstruction, including between the O'Hare Oasis and Wolf Road to provide five lanes in each direction and between St. Charles Road and Wolf Road to provide six southbound lanes and five northbound lanes, as well as includes rehabilitation of the Bensenville Bridge. Completed work in the north section of the project includes roadway reconstruction between Balmoral Avenue and the O'Hare Oasis providing five lanes in both directions, reconstruction of the bridges carrying I-294 over Irving Park Road,

Figure 1



Construction of the I-490/I-294 Interchange is ongoing just west of Powell Street and King Street in Franklin Park. (Photo Courtesy of the Illinois Tollway)

Figure 2



Map of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Plan that includes I-490 (Courtesy of the Illinois Tollway)



Figure 3

Map of the I-490/I-294 Interchange Project (via the Illinois Tollway)



Infrastructure Improvements through Grant Funding

The Village continues its efforts to implement infrastructure improvements that meet modern standards with the assistance of Cook County, State, and Federal grant programs. Grants allow the Village to complete projects that provide adequate roadways, sidewalks, bike routes, lighting, and storm water mitigation. These improvements help to alleviate issues such as traffic congestion and flooding while providing enhanced safety measures, amenities that improve residents' quality of life, and establishing corridors that are more suitable for redevelopment and investment.

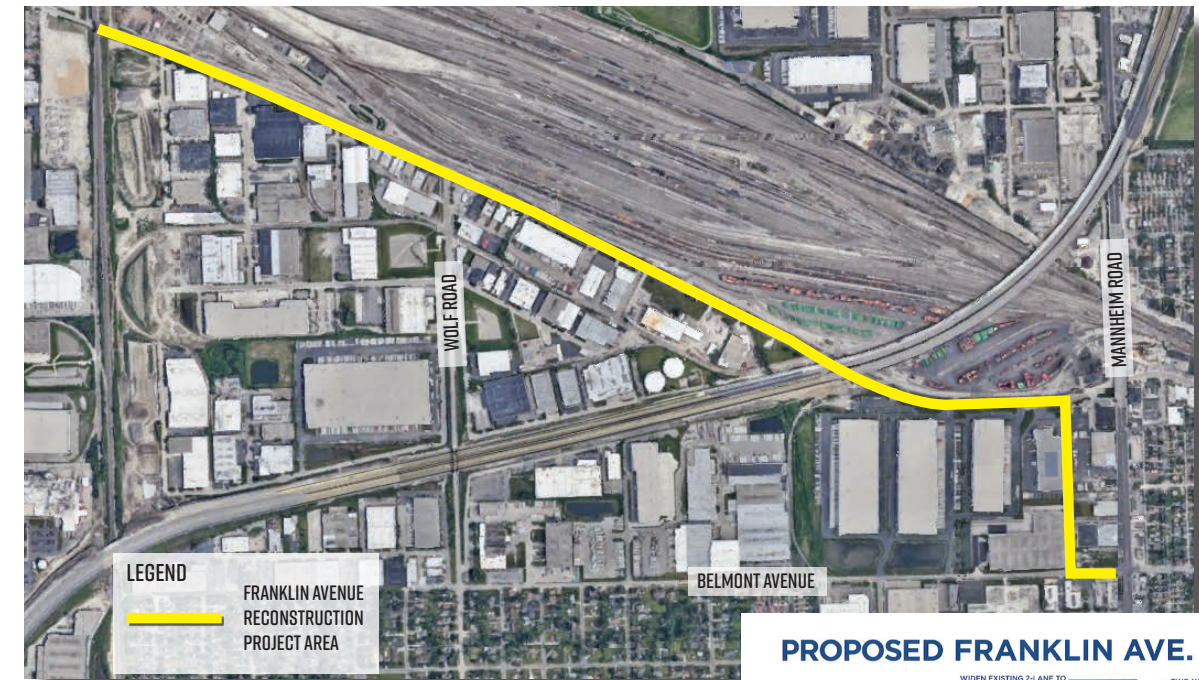
FRANKLIN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING PROJECT

In 2021, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) increased its funding for the ongoing Franklin Avenue Reconstruction and Widening Project with an additional \$3.3 million in assistance. The importance of the Franklin Avenue project is evident in previous grant funding, having been ranked as the highest priority proposal for bottleneck reduction by the IDOT Competitive Freight Program in 2018. While the entire scope of work is located within the municipal boundaries of Franklin Park, the project has regional and international importance. Over the last 8 years, the Village's industrial corridor west of Mannheim Road has seen the construction of over 4.2 million square feet of modern, "Class A" industrial buildings and the creation of over 3,000 jobs because of its prime location and access to the tollway, O'Hare cargo terminal, and rail. The Illinois Tollway's announcement of the introduction of I-490 as part of its Elgin-O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) project has only increased businesses' interest in the Village's western industrial corridor. As a result, Franklin Avenue west of Mannheim Road has seen increased daily truck traffic from manufacturing, distribution, and logistics operations delivering goods to O'Hare and the Canadian Pacific Bensenville Intermodal Terminal, an international railyard.

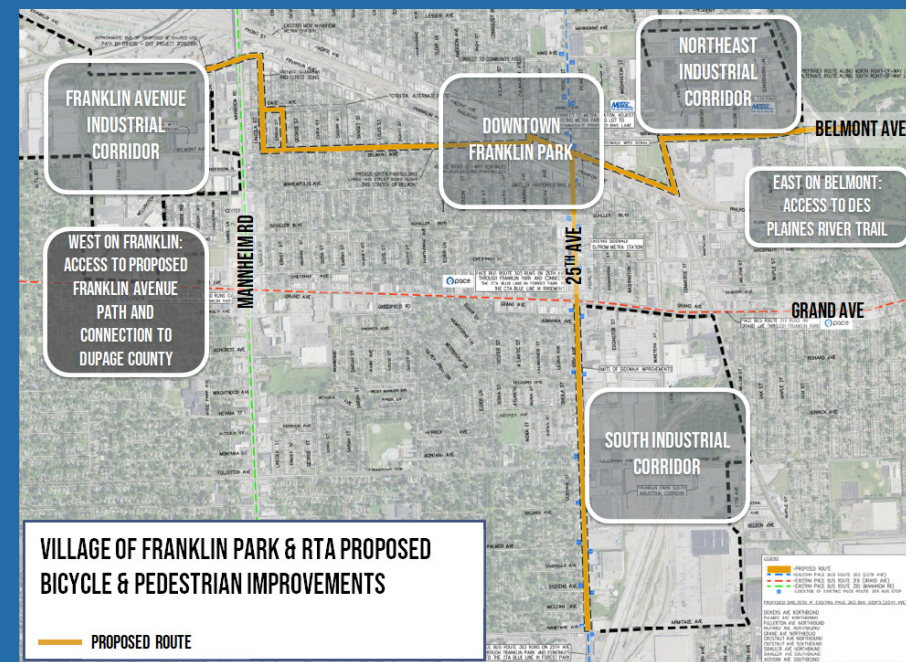
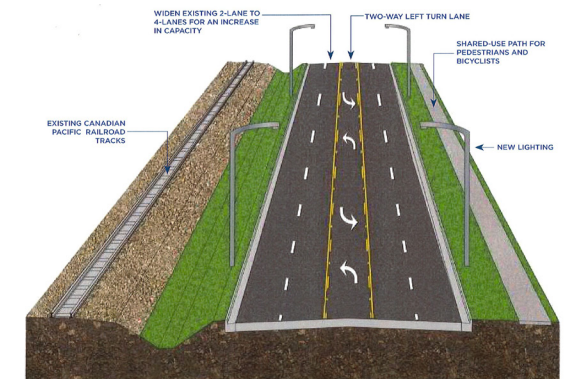
The need for the improvement of this roadway was immediate and evident. The above factors illustrate regional, national, and international implications for the status of Franklin Avenue and its ability to properly accommodate the projected influx of traffic west of Mannheim Road. With this in mind, the Village implemented the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project which is currently underway with construction slated to be completed in the fall of 2023. As a non-home rule municipality, Franklin Park would not be capable of accomplishing a reconstruction project of this magnitude on its own without partnerships and grant funding. In total, the project has received \$34,960,020 in funding from a variety of sources. A breakdown can be found below:

- \$26,318,120 – IDOT Competitive Freight Program
- \$2,537,900 – Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- \$1,000,000 – Cook County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- \$2,059,375 – IDOT Economic Development Program
- \$784,000 – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) – Federally funded program
- \$320,000 – Cook County Invest in Cook program
- \$2,000,000 – Village of Franklin Park TIF funding

Franklin Avenue west of Mannheim Road is a significant component of the region's network of roads and highways. It will tie directly into the tollway system and provide improved access to I-294 via the new I-490 alignment. Together with the EOWA project, the Franklin Avenue reconstruction project will help to decrease congestion and travel times in the region by getting trucks off of local roads and onto the tollway system more efficiently. ■



PROPOSED FRANKLIN AVE. IMPROVEMENTS



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY - ACCESS TO TRANSIT

In 2020, Franklin Park's proposal to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Access to Transit program was selected for assistance through the federally funded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. The \$890,196 proposal outlines a plan for much needed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements that will help make destinations within the Village more accessible without the need for a vehicle. An east-west bicycle route and north-south pedestrian improvements will make it safer and easier to get to Downtown Franklin Park, Metra stations, three Pace Bus routes, and three industrial areas which are major employment hubs for the region. The bike network will include a combination of multiuse paths, on road sharrows, on road dedicated bike lanes, and upgrades of existing paths.

The need for this project stems from the transportation plan outlined in the Village of Franklin Park's Comprehensive Plan from 2017. The Comprehensive Plan outlines a strategy to implement improved bicycle and pedestrian accessibility in order to encourage public transit ridership and promote alternatives to driving in single occupancy vehicles. Through improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, the transportation plan hopes to provide safer access to Metra and Pace Bus stops in order to provide regional connectivity for residents, visitors, and employees of the Franklin Park's bustling industrial corridors.

In addition to providing access to public transit and safe passage throughout the Village for cyclists and pedestrians, the plan also hopes to link the Village's network of bike paths westward to Bensenville and DuPage County and eastbound to River Grove and the Des Plaines River Trail. This linkage will fill a void in the regional bike path network, providing safer travel for both recreational cyclists and those that use a bicycle as their primary mode of transportation. ■

Franklin Park has experienced unprecedented growth within its industrial sector due to the Village's welcoming business environment, the rise of e-commerce, and its prime location at the center of Chicagoland. Since the beginning of 2020, the Village has added approximately 35 new industrial employers and 750 new jobs. The Village has also approved several projects that are currently under construction, bringing much needed reinvestment to aging properties.

Franklin Park's

Modern Industrial Movement



Pivot Bio is a supplier of a sustainable and safer fertilizer that uses microbial nitrogen technology. This advancement allows for increased crop yields and farmer revenue while aiding in the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, and global energy use compared to synthetic fertilizers. In 2020, Pivot Bio secured \$100 million in funding backed by Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy Ventures and global investment firm Temasek. The company's Franklin Park facility is their primary distribution hub for the region.



Life Fitness, the world-wide leader in commercial fitness equipment, is relocating its global headquarters to the Village of Franklin Park. Their facility at 10601 Belmont Avenue, which most recently contained research and development staff, is currently being renovated to include corporate office staff and will feature a state-of-the-art fitness showroom and an Experience Center to facilitate product development. The renovations are expected to be completed in 2023.



Quality Custom Distribution (QCD) provides distribution services to iconic retail customers across the United States. Their Franklin Park facility at the CenterPoint development was built specifically to serve as a primary distribution center for Starbucks locations throughout the region.



Moss, Inc. is a renowned printing and design company that specializes in manufacturing lighting, display fixtures, banners, graphics, and fabric walls for retail spaces and exhibits at conventions and events. With global partners such as Nike, Adidas, McDonald's, Peet's Coffee, and LinkedIn, Moss creates innovative branded environments with quality and sustainability in mind.



Moss consolidated all of its manufacturing operations and moved their global headquarters into a state-of-the-art, 180,000 square-foot facility at 10501 Seymour Avenue.



Founded in 2011, Coregistics is an award-winning, industry-leading packaging-centric supply chain solutions company. They provide packaging solutions for companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Coca-Cola, Pfizer, and Starbucks.



Founded in North Carolina, Lowe's is one of the largest home improvement retailers in the world. Their distribution center in Franklin Park brought 100 new jobs to the Village and serves the company's many Chicagoland retailers.

COREGISTICS - 11601 COPENHAGEN - 40 EMPLOYEES

LOWE'S - 10701 FRANKLIN - 100 EMPLOYEES

Franklin Park 2020 & 2021 in Review

- NEW BUSINESS
- NEW DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED I-490 CONNECTION
- FRANKLIN AVE IMPROVEMENTS
- NEW BIKE ROUTE



Construction has begun at 3500 Wolf for IDI Logistics' new facility.



Luna's Ice Cream Place opened in Downtown Franklin Park at 9759 Franklin.



New signage and road markings were installed to identify safe bicycle routes throughout the Village.



The expansion and renovations at East Leyden High School were completed. The combined renovation and addition projects cost approximately \$90 million dollars. These projects are being funded without the need for a local property tax increase or a referendum.



Phase 2 of the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project has begun with work to allow for additional lanes at the I-294 underpass.



The Tollway began constructing the brand new I-490 Interchange.



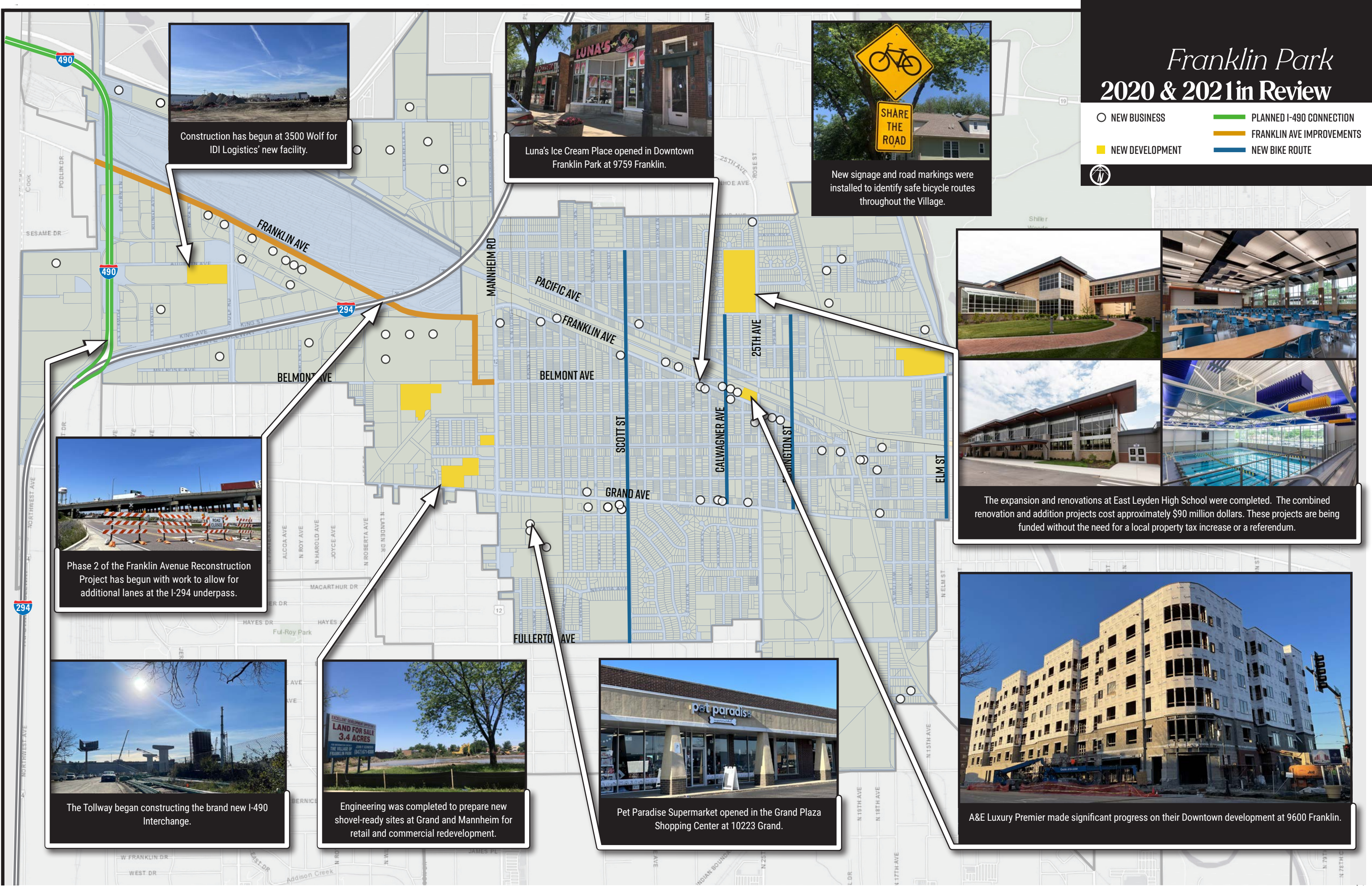
Engineering was completed to prepare new shovel-ready sites at Grand and Mannheim for retail and commercial redevelopment.



Pet Paradise Supermarket opened in the Grand Plaza Shopping Center at 10223 Grand.



A&E Luxury Premier made significant progress on their Downtown development at 9600 Franklin.



Connecting Communities: BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FRANKLIN PARK



Franklin Park has been taking steps toward creating a complete streets bike network in the Village. Such investment will allow residents to access Downtown restaurants, Metra stations, municipal buildings, parks, schools, and even regional trail networks. Over the last two years, the Village has focused on four different projects throughout the Village. They include the implementation of cyclist friendly routes, a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) sponsored grant, the Franklin Avenue Reconstruction Project, and the Des Plaines River Trail Improvements Project.



Franklin Park hosted an open house with Christopher Burke Engineering and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in February of 2020.

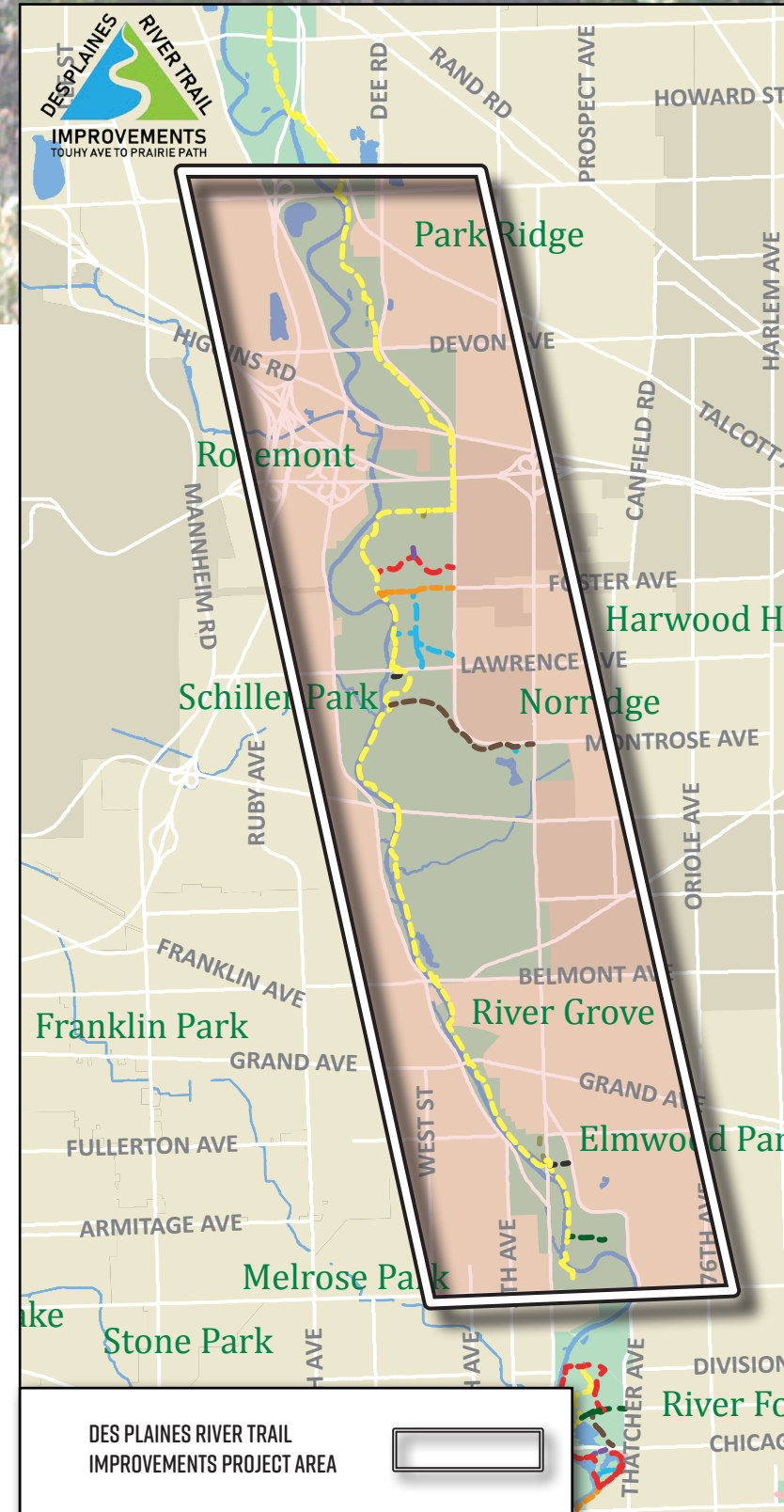
Last year, Franklin Park created safe routes through residential areas along Scott, Calwagner, Edgington, and Elm. New, vibrant signage and road markings will allow for safer interactions between cyclists and motorists. The Village also recently entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the RTA for construction of an east-west bicycle route and a north-south pedestrian route linking Downtown Franklin Park, two Metra stations, and three Pace Bus routes to the Des Plaines River Trail. Moreover, the Village has received funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation through the Illinois Competitive Freight Grant award for the redevelopment of Franklin Avenue west of Mannheim Road. Along with roadway improvements, this project will expand cycling access allowing Franklin Park residents to seamlessly travel all the way to the DuPage county line with an off-street shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Des Plaines River Trail Improvements Project will fill a missing link in the regional trail network, allowing the trail systems of Franklin Park, Chicago, Suburban Cook County, and the Greater Chicagoland Region to directly connect to one another. The plan— which aims to fix years of chronic flooding, disrepair, and unsafe road crossings— will rebuild, reroute, and revitalize over 10 miles of the Des Plaines River Trail from Touhy Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path in Maywood.



Signage and road markings along Scott Street identify safe bicycle routes and reminds drivers to share the road with cyclists.

Phase II engineering, construction plans, and design approvals are under way. Segments 1-4 from Touhy Avenue in Park Ridge to Irving Park Road in Schiller Park will be supported through a variety of funding sources including Surface Transportation Program (STP), Invest in Cook (Cook County), Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAP). It is anticipated that funding for Segments 5-8, including portions of the trail near Franklin Park, will be applied for during the next cycle of grants. When all the above projects are completed, Franklin Park residents will be able to jog or ride their bike anywhere in Chicagoland. ■



Examples of flooding, inadequate trail surfaces, and dangerous road crossings that can occur along the Des Plaines River Trail. (Photos courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Christopher Burke Engineering)

The Improvements Project covers over 10 miles of the Des Plaines River Trail from Touhy Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path where inadequate trail surfaces, unsafe road crossings, and increased flood risk can limit accessibility. When completed, the Des Plaines River Trail will provide connections to other trail systems that extend from the Wisconsin border to the Stevenson Expressway. A trail system of this scale is an important amenity that provides communities with opportunities for educational and recreational programs while connecting people with the natural environment.

Meet the Department of Community Development and Zoning



John P. Schneider
Director of Community
Development and Zoning



Nicholas Walny
Senior Planner



Ryan Adriatico
Village Planner



Rudolph Repa
Village Planner

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2009,
the Village of Franklin Park received
\$70.5 million
in grant funding for projects &
infrastructure improvements.



In 2020 & 2021,
redevelopment efforts resulted in approximately
3.6 million gallons
of new stormwater storage,
which helps prevent flooding.



In 2020 & 2021, the Village welcomed
75 *new businesses*
or expansions
and approximately
1,220 new jobs.



In 2020 & 2021, the
Franklin Park
Enterprise Zone Program
has helped to facilitate over
\$31.5 million
in new construction.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission reviewed 7 applications for the Cook County Real Estate 6b Classification. The County program is designed to encourage industrial development and increase employment opportunities.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals reviewed 33 cases pertaining to zoning related matters.

This included 20 conditional uses, 6 text amendments, 2 map amendments, 2 variances, 2 subdivisions, and an appeal.

Plan Commission

The Plan Commission had a series of discussions about Franklin Park's Zoning Code and how it can be improved to better facilitate modern development standards. This feedback was vital for the ongoing update of the Village Zoning Code.

Village of FRANKLIN PARK

ZONING CODE UPDATE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

camiros

Community Development staff has been working diligently with Camiros, department heads, and stakeholders to make progress on the comprehensive update of the Franklin Park Zoning Code. Together, it is our goal to comprehensively update the Franklin Park Zoning Code in order to facilitate modern redevelopment and uses while respecting existing conditions. Another focus of the update will be to make it more user-friendly and easier to read with diagrams, definitions, and have well organized standards and procedures that regulate clearly and effectively.

The current version of the zoning code was written in 1974 and has been amended countless times over the past 45 years, but not on a comprehensive level. A full update will allow the Village to facilitate construction that preserves existing development when necessary while encouraging emerging industries, promoting sustainability, and revitalizing commercial corridors through landscape, building, and site design standards. The new code will take several plans into consideration that have been adopted over the years including the Franklin Park Downtown Zoning Code (2014), the Franklin Park O'Hare Industrial Plan (2014), and the Franklin Park Comprehensive Plan (2017).

In February of 2020, the Franklin Park Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission held a joint meeting that was open to the public to discuss the Zoning Code Update. Camiros also presented an in depth summary of findings from the Technical Review and Approaches Report which was released in January of 2020. This report discusses findings from a technical review of the Village's current Zoning Ordinance and takes into account issues and feedback presented by staff and stakeholders. The report also introduces concepts and regulatory approaches that set direction for revisions to be included in the new Zoning Ordinance. Staff worked to ensure that any proposed changes will be able to facilitate development that is in line with the Village's vision as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Staff has since been going through each chapter of Camiros' first drafts of the new ordinance with consultation from Village attorneys, the Building Department, and Engineering to ensure that the new zoning ordinance will be a successful, beneficial tool in shaping future redevelopment in Franklin Park. As the draft approaches a more finalized iteration, opportunities for public feedback and informational meetings will be a vital step in this process. Be on the lookout for announcements as we continue to make progress on this initiative.

Visit www.FranklinParkZoning.com to stay updated on the project's progress, review staff reports, view presentations, and to find information on opportunities to get involved. ■



Arista Strungys of Camiros presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Plan Commission, and members of the public on February 5, 2020.

Ribbon Cutting & Groundbreaking Ceremonies

Alongside Mayor Barrett Pedersen and Village Trustees, the Department of Community Development and Zoning held ribbon cutting events and groundbreaking ceremonies in 2020 and 2021 to celebrate new businesses and developments in town.



AT&T - 2830 MANNHEIM ROAD, SUITE 200



IDI LOGISTICS - 3500 WOLF ROAD



LEYDEN FAMILY SERVICES LIVING ROOM - 10013 GRAND AVENUE



IMPERIO DE LA ELEGANCIA - 9755 GRAND AVENUE



PREMIER LUXURY APARTMENTS - 9600 FRANKLIN AVENUE



CREATE PROGRAM - 3148 ROSE STREET (FRANKLIN PARK METRA STATION)

NEW BUSINESSES 2020-2021

The Village of Franklin Park was proud to welcome the following new businesses and expansions from 2020-2021:

2020

Blaine Window Supply
BLK Out Transport Inc
C&S Public Adjusters and Construction Management
Chucking Machine Products
Coregistics
Cricket Wireless
DHL eCommerce
DSV Air & Sea
Enjoy Technology, Inc.
Factor75
FNS, Inc
Franklin 9816 LLC
Grand Cuts
Innovation Driving School
Las Islas Maria's
Leyden Family Service and Mental Health Center
Love & Learn Children's Center
Lowe's

Mary Sears Children's Academy
Moss, Inc.
Park Ridge Baseball/Softball Inc.
Paul Heath Distributors, Inc.
Pet Paradise Supermarket, Inc.
Pivot Bio
QCD
Renew and Refresh
Rodriguez Jewelers, Inc.
S&G Custom Stainless Steel
Savino 5, inc.
Terraneo Merchants
Value City Furniture
Wades Best Kids
We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym
Worlds Best Movers
Worldwide Flight Services
Zoom In, Inc.

2021

Aliyans Global, Inc.
Alternative Terracotta
Ayala Transport
Bravo Oscar Charlie Veteran Outreach
Clingan Steel/Northwest Steel
Compu-Cells
CR Beauty and Spa
D&N Deburring, Inc.
DHL eCommerce
E-Tech Trading LLC
FH Paschen
HQA Inc.
Idea Property Investments
Imperio De La Elegancia
Industrial Drying Solutions, LLC
JDM Chicago, Inc.
KAAS Industries
Kristopher's Furniture Service, LLC
LDR Printing
Leyden Lawn Sprinklers

Luna's Ice Cream Place
M S Glass Inc.
Maj Lawncare
Metal Installations, Inc.
NextCar
Nubani Distributors
Palmieri Construction and Property Management Corp.
PC Recycling
Pollux LLC
Regal Steel Group
Remarkable Events
Shape of Beauty
Sharvelle Photography
Smart Keys and Remotes
Stanislaw Guzik Construction, Inc.
SweetBB Boutique
Tablescapes
The Right Barber's Inc.
TOBB Trade Center



From left to right, top to bottom: (1) Representatives from Ex-Cell Kaiser and Leyden Family Services joined Mayor Pedersen and Village Clerk April Arellano in collecting food donations to aid families in need (2) A ribbon cutting event was held to commemorate a brand new pedestrian bridge along the Des Plaines River Trail. Guests included Forest Preserve Superintendent Arnold Randall, Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen, State Representative and Rosemont Mayor Brad Stephens, State Senator Robert Martwick, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri. (3) Residents and visitors enjoyed live music in Downtown Franklin Park at Franklin Park Fest 2021 (4) The Franklin Park Manila Lions Club hosted their annual Thanksgiving dinner for our senior citizens and others in need in our community (5) Mayor Barrett Pedersen attended a vaccination clinic hosted by Leyden Township and Leyden Family Services (6) Art students from Hester Junior High painted the windows on Franklin Avenue to celebrate the holiday season (7) The Village of Franklin Park partnered with the House of Restoration/Transformation to help ease the burden for individuals and families who faced food shortages during the pandemic and economic crisis. Free boxes of donated fresh and non-perishable food were distributed (8) Senator Don Harmon delivered hand sanitizer and disinfectant to our hard-working first responders. (9) Leyden High School District 212 Superintendent, Nick Polyak, gave the Chamber By O'Hare Board of Directors a tour of East Leyden High School's new facilities (10) State Representative Camille Lilly, Mayor Barrett Pedersen, and MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos (11) Village Trustees John Johnson, Andy Ybarra, Bill Ruhl, Irene Avitia, Karen Special, Gil Hagerstrom, Village Clerk April Arellano, and Mayor Barrett Pedersen light the Village's Christmas tree, which was donated by A & E Luxury Premier Apartments.