

Leyden Times

Volume 12
March 2025

Bensenville | Elmwood Park | Franklin Park | Melrose Park | Norridge | Northlake | Park Ridge | River Grove
Rosemont | Schiller Park | Unincorporated Leyden

Dear Leyden Township Resident:

This being our first newsletter of the year, I want to wish you all a belated Happy New Year! I hope you and your loved ones had a great holiday season and were able to enjoy one of our holiday events.

On February 28th, we held a groundbreaking ceremony with our elected officials from the federal, state, county, and local government to mark the beginning of our much-anticipated new Leyden Senior Apartments and Senior Center. The project will begin in March of 2025 with the completion set for Fall 2026. There has been a tremendous amount of collaboration between all levels of government to bring this project to life and we thank all those involved.



*V Inn Kitchenettes on Mannheim Road
is officially demolished*

The Township has completed the 2024 Decennial Committee on Efficiency Report and copies are available for any resident who would like to acquire one. We also still have a limited number of 2025 Township calendars available in our town hall lobby.

Mark your calendar for our 175th Anniversary Party on May 3rd at Westdale Park. We will have live music throughout the day, along with food vendors, a beer garden, community organizations, a kid's zone, and carnival rides.

Spring is upon us and summer will shortly follow. We are excited for the first season with our brand-new outdoor splash pad and playground equipment at Westdale Park (3045 Sandra Avenue, Melrose Park, 60164). The splash pad is available for all township residents to enjoy and will be open Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. We also installed all new playground equipment at Lee Street Park (3000 Block of Lee Street Melrose Park, 60164).

If you have a high school student and/or college student at home looking for work experience or extra income over the summer, our Recreation Department is hiring camp counselors and Public Works is hiring for summer help. For more information on these positions, please call the township office at: (847) 455 – 8616.

Rocco D. Biscaglia
Township Supervisor



JAMIE LOSURDO

TOWNSHIP CLERK

☎ (847) 455 - 8616, Ext: 5119

✉ clerk@leydentownship.com

📍 2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Leyden Township Residents,

In February, the Township Officials of Cook County Clerks Division was invited to meet with the new Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon. I am excited to begin building a strong partnership with the newly seated County Clerk and her team. Networking and collaborating with other government entities and agencies is an important tool that enables the Township to meet resident's needs and bring much needed programs and services to our community.

There is so much going on in Leyden Township this year! Remember to visit the calendar on our website and stay connected to us via social media. Below are a few important dates to mark on your calendar.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- March 17, 2025: First Day of Early Voting for the Consolidated General Election
- April 1, 2025: Consolidated General Election...Please VOTE!
- May 3, 2025: Leyden Township's 175th Anniversary Celebration at Westdale Park.
- May 31, 2025: Annual Electronics, Shredding, Paint, Textile and Prescription Drug Recycling Event.



**LEYDEN TOWNSHIP'S
175TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025
12:00PM - 10:00PM**

**LIVE MUSIC, FOOD VENDORS, BEER GARDEN
COMMUNITY CORNER, KID ZONE AND MORE!**

**WESTDALE PARK
3045 SANDRA AVE.
MELROSE PARK, 60164**

UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES REFERENDUM

Voters in Leyden Township will be sounding off on April 1st on State mandates made without State funding being provided.

On April 1st, ballots will display the following question:

“Should the State of Illinois be allowed to force unfunded mandates on local governments who may raise property taxes to cover the costs of those mandates?”

Leyden Township voters will have a chance to voice their opinions on unfunded mandates which drive up property taxes. Unfunded mandates are when the federal or state government dictates that local governments carry out a task without supplying the money and expecting the local taxpayers to fund the demand. If a state law changes requirements for local governments, they must budget for it, meaning higher taxes to comply with the new law.

According to a 2021 report by the Illinois Municipal League, local governments face hundreds of these mandates without receiving any additional compensation from the state. Over 180 unfunded mandates were proposed just last year, and 30 of those were passed and sent to the Governor. Without additional funding from the State of Illinois, local governments are forced to pass the burden of these mandates onto taxpayers, most often in the form of increased property taxes, or reductions in services to make up for the additional costs brought on by unfunded mandates.

Leyden Township voters will have a chance to have their voices heard on the issue in the April 1 Consolidated General Election. The question is advisory, meaning it will not directly change any laws, but it will send a message to lawmakers in Springfield.



AL J. BIANCALANA, C.I.A.O

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

☎ (847) 455 - 8616

📍 2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Mary Trzebny

Deputy Assessor

Bina Conte

Deputy Assessor

Abby Nowak

Assistant Assessor

The Leyden Township Assessor's office is here to assist you with all your property tax needs. Including assistance filing for your Exemptions and Certificate of Error, and researching comparable properties for your appeal to the Cook County Assessor and the Board of Review.

PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The First Installment Property Tax Bill is due to the Cook County Treasurer's Office on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Property tax savings from exemptions do not appear on the First Installment Property Tax Bill. These savings will be reflected in the Second Installment Property Tax Bill.

EXEMPTIONS

The Cook County Assessor's Office issues the following exemptions: Homeowner, Senior Citizen, Senior Citizen Freeze, Persons with Disabilities and Veterans with Disabilities.

We can help you file for an exemption or an exemption refund through the Certificate of Error process.

Please contact our office for exemption information and eligibility requirements.

APPEALS

2025 is a reassessment year for Leyden Township.

Contact our office for appeal assistance when you receive your 2025 reassessment notice in the mail from the Cook County Assessor.

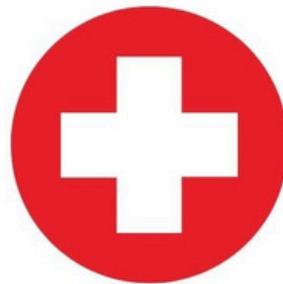
We can research comparable properties for your residential appeals to the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review.

Please visit our website www.leydentownship.com for Assessor's Office information.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR



HEALTH FAIR



MAY 17, 2025

**BRADLEY A.
STEPHENS
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

2620 N. Mannheim Rd., Franklin Park

 **SAVE THE DATE!**
10 AM - 1 PM



MORE INFO:

 (847) 455-8616

 www.leydentownship.com

LEYDEN APARTMENTS AND SENIOR CENTER



From left to right: Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar, Northlake Mayor Jeff Sherwin, Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen, Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco D. Biscaglio, Elmwood Park Mayor Angelo "Skip" Saviano, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, State Representative and Rosemont Mayor Brad Stephens and River Grove Mayor Dave Guerin.



Illinois Senate President Don Harmon was one of the featured speakers at the Groundbreaking Ceremony. He discussed how important intergovernmental cooperation is for communities like Leyden Township. There were many levels of government involved in this project including Federal, State, County and local.



Illinois Assistant House Minority Leader Brad Stephens, who previously served as Township Supervisor, recalls the numerous issues on Mannheim Road during his time in office and the stigma that follows Mannheim Road. State Representative Stephens continues to support the Township and looks forward to the ribbon cutting in Summer 2026.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



Leyden Township Trustee Nick Pecora, Highway Commissioner John E. “Bucky” Bjorvik, Assessor Al J. Biancalana, Township Supervisor Rocco D. Biscaglio, Clerk Jamie Losurdo and Trustee Bill Otte break ground for the new 80- unit senior apartment and senior center.



Evergreen Real Estate Group, F.H. Paschen and Leyden Township worked together for months on the Leyden Apartments and Senior Center project. This collaboration is the second for Evergreen and Paschen. This project would not be possible without the cooperation of these companies and their investment in our community.



Leyden Township was represented by all municipalities on Friday, February 28th at the Groundbreaking Ceremony. Pictured above are elected officials from Elmwood Park, River Grove, Rosemont, Schiller Park, Leyden Township and Northlake with Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar.



Leyden Township Supervisor Biscaglio with Undersheriff Parks and Commander Mena from the Cook County Sheriff's Department which continues to provide support to the Township and their vision to deliver residents a safe community and healthy lifestyle. We thank you for protecting our community.

LEYDEN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

 (847) 455 - 8616, Ext: 5136

 2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Monday & Wednesday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am - 7:00pm

Friday
1:00pm - 5:00pm



A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers and dedicated team.

The Leyden Community Food Pantry expanded its operations to five days a week in April of 2024 and we are grateful for your dedication in helping to end hunger and support those in need. Your efforts in using your organizational skills to help sort donations and your friendly demeanor in interacting with our clients are greatly valued. Thank you for your significant contribution to our mission.

During the holiday season, we collected over 1,000 bins in the community with food and toy donations and received over \$18,000.00 in monetary donations. We served over 3,300 individuals in the community.

Volunteers are crucial in our mission to end hunger together. If you're inspired by the positive impact of our food program and would like to join our amazing team of volunteers, we encourage you to sign up today! Please contact Dayana Rustrian-Gali, Food Pantry Manager, at: (847) 451-5136, if you are interested in learning more about being a volunteer.

Frequently Asked Questions

How to qualify for the food pantry?

- Proof of residency in one of the service area zip codes
- Must be 18 years or older

What zip codes qualify for the food pantry?

- 60016, 60018, 60019, 60025, 60053, 60068, 60160, 60164, 60165, 60171, 60176, 60631, 60707 and 60714

How can I make a donation to the food pantry?

- Donations are accepted year round Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm at our Town Hall: 2501 N Mannheim Road, Franklin Park, IL 60131.

EMERGENCY AND GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance provides financial assistance to Leyden Township residents in life-threatening situations who meet the income guidelines

We assist with:

- Disconnected or imminent disconnection of Gas
- Disconnected or imminent disconnection of Electric
- Disconnected or imminent disconnection of Water
- Past Due Rent/Mortgage

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assistance program can provide monthly financial assistance to eligible Leyden Township residents, who currently have no income due to lack of employment or are awaiting a decision on their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claim. The General Assistance office also offers referrals and information regarding eligibility for other assistance programs.

CONTACT:

Kelly Corona

(847) 451 - 5144

Kcorona@leydentownship.com



Veterans Affairs

Federal

- Healthcare
- Finance
- Employment
- Education
- Burial and Memorialization
- Disability and Compensation
- VA Pension

State

- Illinois Veterans Grant
- Illinois Homes
- Homeless Program
- Transitioning Veterans
- Military Vehicle Plates
- Veteran Designation
- Employment
- State License
- War Participation Bonus

County

- Veteran Business Enterprise
- Veteran Discount Card
- Emergency Assistance
- Veterans Discount Card
- Burial Assistance
- Transportation Assistance

Township

- Veterans Service Officer
- Veterans Honor Wall
- Disabled Veterans Homeowners Exemption
- Hero Phones
- Military Ventra Pass
- Kg's for Vet's
- Honor Flight

Appointments Available

Contact our Veterans Service Officer

Jesus Segura

jsegura@leydentownship.com

(847) 451 - 5111

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



The Canadian Pacific and Kansas City railway presented Supervisor Biscaglio with a \$10,000 check to The Leyden Township Community Food Pantry. The presentation was at their Holiday Train stop in Franklin Park on November 26th. Thank you to Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen for supporting our food pantry.



The Custom Companies, Inc. held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Carl Fiorito Senior Center. 300 of our Leyden Township seniors and food pantry clients enjoyed a hot Thanksgiving dinner. This is the 4th year we have partnered with The Custom Companies, Inc.



Thank you to American Legion Post 42 - Charitable Foundation for your generous donation to The Leyden Township Community Foundation for our food pantry.



Leyden Fire Protection District hand delivered toys for all ages to the town hall. Thank you to Leyden Fire!

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Happy 95th Birthday to Rose Rogas! Rose moved to unincorporated Leyden in April of 1964. Prior to living in unincorporated Leyden, Rose lived in Melrose Park where she attended Proviso East High School. Rose remembers when there was still farmland with horses in the unincorporated area. Rose has two daughters who both attended West Leyden High School. Rose was married for 17 years and worked at Borg Warner in Bellwood for 33 years. Rose has been actively attending Leyden Township programs for over 25 years. She has a great grandson in Wisconsin and a granddaughter in California. Rose and her husband traveled to all 50 states, mostly in their fifth wheel camper trailer.

REGISTRATION STARTS IN MAY!

**CAMP
WESTDALE**

Ages: 4 - 14

LEYDEN
TOWNSHIP
www.leydentownship.com



(847) 451 - 5144

Senior and Disabled Residents

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

DIAL-A-RIDE

You may be eligible for discounted PACE transportation.

One Way Fares

Adults: \$2.50

Reduced Fares

Seniors and RTA Disabled: \$1.25

Triton College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will offer FREE tax assistance to individuals (ages 60 or older) from low-to-moderate income households. This free service is made possible by a grant-funded IRS program called Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE).

This service is by appointment ONLY. Call (708) 456-0300, ext. 3895 to make an appointment. Appointments are held at: Westdale Park, 3045 Sandra Avenue, Melrose Park, 60164.

SENIOR TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Four Winds Casino

Friday | April 4

**Call for more information*

Volo Museum and Maggiano's

Friday | May 9th

**Call for more information*

Leyden United Senior BINGO

Thursday | June 12 at 12:00pm

Carl Fiorito Senior Center

**Call for more information*

Senior Exercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 9:00am - 10:00am

Bradley A. Stephens Community Center

Senior Knitting Club

Tuesdays | 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Carl Fiorito Senior Center

Senior Line Dancing

Wednesdays and Fridays | 10:00am - 1:00pm

Carl Fiorito Senior Center

Senior Movie Day

Thursdays | 12:00pm

Carl Fiorito Senior Center



Advisors on all matters related to the issues facing older adults as they age.

Leyden Township Town Hall

1st Wednesday of the Month

9:00am - 1:00pm

3rd Wednesday of the Month

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Walk-ins welcome!



Reservations are required for all programs and events.

For more information or to register, please call Jamie at: (847) 451 - 5119.

Senior and Disabled Residents



If you restrict your activities due to a fear of falling, then join **A Matter of Balance** workshop to keep moving and stay active!



What is A Matter of Balance?

A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based program that emphasizes practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels. Participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

Classes are for anyone:

- Concerned about falls or has fallen in the past
- Interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength
- Who has restricted activities due to concerns related to falls

Participate in a workshop and learn to:

- View falls and fear of falling as controllable
- Set realistic goals for increasing activity
- Make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- Exercise to increase strength and balance



Activities included in workshop sessions:

- Group discussion and problem-solving
- Skill building and assertiveness training
- Sharing practical solutions
- Learning to change negative thinking to positive thinking

Length and timeframe of a workshop:

- In person workshops meet once **OR** twice a week for eight, 2-hour sessions
- Virtual workshops meet for nine sessions; the first session is to provide instruction on how to utilize a virtual platform

How do I join a workshop?

- Call the number below or email the Health Promotion Team at AgeOptions for more information or to find a workshop.

Reservations are required for all programs and events.

For more information or to register, please call Jamie at: (847) 451 - 5119.

Recreation Department

Leyden Township Presents...



~ Bouncy House ~ Petting Zoo ~ Hayrides ~ Games ~ Face Painting ~
~ Dunk Tank ~ Caricature Artist ~ Margarita Truck ~
~ Smokin' BBQ Food Truck ~ Sernas Food Truck ~
Tacoselamigazo ~ My Funnel Truck and more!!!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

CAR SHOW



Call Bobbie at (847) 451-5143
to register for the Car Show.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets
~ Westdale Park ~ 3045 N Sandra Ave. ~ Melrose Park, IL 60164 ~



~ FREE ADMISSION ~

Electronics, Shredding, Latex Paint, Textile and Prescription Drug Recycling Event

Saturday, May 31, 2025
10:00am - 2:00pm



Leyden Township Town Hall (Parking Lot)
2501 N. Mannheim Road, Franklin Park



**Evento de reciclaje de electrónicos,
papel, pintura de látex, textiles y
medicinas con receta.**

Sábado 31 de Mayo del 2025
10:00am - 2:00pm



(Estacionamiento) de las oficinas del Municipio de Leyden
2501 N. Mannheim Road, Franklin Park



Leyden Township
2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131
Phone: (847) 455 - 8616

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm



LeydenTownship.com

**Our office will be closed in Observance of the following Holidays:
Friday, April 18th: Good Friday | Monday, May 26th: Memorial Day**

Leyden Township presents....

Bunny-Bash Egg-Stravaganza

Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 11:00am - 1:00pm

- Games
- Egg Hunts
- Food & Drinks
- Bouncy House
- Pictures with the Bunny



EGG HUNT TIMES

Ages: 0 - 3 @ 11:15am

Ages: 4 - 5 @ 11:45am

Ages: 6 - 9 @ 12:15pm

Ages: 10 - 12 @ 12:45pm

Bring your Easter Basket for the Egg Hunt! Please don't be late, hunts will start promptly at these times. Children will only be allowed to participate in their age group.



www.leydentownship.com

FREE
COMMUNITY
EVENT

Westdale Park
3045 Sandra Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60164