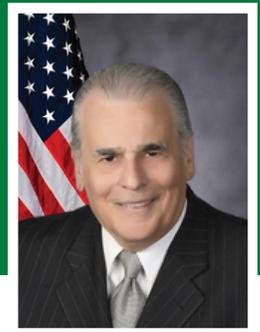


Leyden Times

December 2025, Volume 15



Dear Resident:

As we reach the close of 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year for Leyden Township. It has been a year of progress, partnership, and renewed commitment to serving our community. Together, we have made meaningful strides to improve facilities, expand services, and enhance quality of life for residents of all ages.

2025 Highlights & Accomplishments

This year, we:

- **Expanded community services and outreach** through the Leyden Community Food Pantry, providing record levels of food assistance to families in need.
- **Launched the Comprehensive Plan initiative**, engaging residents on the future vision for economic development, green space, housing, and infrastructure.
- **Improved public spaces**, including upgrades to our parks and recreation areas, and our new 80-unit affordable Senior Housing and Senior Center, which is scheduled to open Fall of 2026.
- **Strengthened partnerships** with local schools, civic groups, and first responders to build a more connected and supportive community.
- **Enhanced transparency and communication** by increasing community access to updates, events, and Township resources by launching our new Leyden 311 app.

These accomplishments would not be possible without our dedicated team, our elected officials, our partner organizations, and most importantly - you. Your participation in open houses, surveys, township events, volunteer efforts, and community discussions continue to shape our path forward.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We are entering the new year with energy and optimism. In 2026, we will be focusing on:

- **Finalizing and beginning implementation of the Leyden Township Comprehensive Plan**, setting the vision for the next 10–20 years.
- **Expanding programming and services**, particularly for seniors, youth, and families.
- **Investing in facility improvements and community spaces**, increasing accessibility, and modernizing our infrastructure.
- **Celebrating community pride** through events, seasonal gatherings, and the 250th America celebrations honoring our nation's milestone anniversary.

Leyden Township's strength has always come from its people. Thank you for your continuous support, involvement, and trust. It is an honor to serve as your Township Supervisor, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

On behalf of the Township Board and staff, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. We look forward to an exciting 2026 filled with growth, collaboration, and community spirit.

Serving the Communities of:

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

Rocco D. Biscaglio
Township Supervisor

Township Assessor



Al J. Biancalana, C.I.A.O

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

Bina Conte, Deputy Assessor: BConte@leydentownship.com

Abby Nowak, Assistant Assessor: ANowak@leydentownship.com

Leyden Township Assessor's Office is here to assist residents with all their property tax related needs.

We assist homeowners with filing for property tax exemptions or with filing for Certificates of Error for exemption refunds.

We can answer questions regarding assessments, exemption requirements, property sales, tax bills and tax bill calculations.

We provide assistance with filing appeals to both the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review.

2025 EXEMPTION SEASON

The 2025 exemption filing season will soon be upon us. We anticipate the 2025 season to "open" in February/March 2026.

Just a reminder - most exemptions will auto renew if you had the exemption on your 2024 second installment tax bill.

Homeowners in the following categories may have to renew their exemption or file for a new exemption during the filing season:

Senior citizens 65 years and older who qualified and received the 2024 Low Income Senior Freeze Exemption. A renewal application will be mailed to you.

- Homeowners who turned 65 in 2025.
- Homeowners who purchased/inherited their home in 2024 or 2025.
- Most Disabled Veterans who received the Veterans with Disabilities exemption on the 2nd installment 2024 tax bill. Renewal information will be mailed to you.
- Homeowners and Veterans who were diagnosed with a disability in 2025.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

Leyden Senior and Disabled Services

Arts and Crafts Coming Soon!

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Luncheon

March 5th, 2026

12:00pm

*Registration opens on
January 12th

Diamond Painting Club

1st and 3rd Tuesday

Every Month

Carl Fiorito Senior Center

Call for more information

If you are looking to join one
of the many Leyden United
Clubs, please call:
(847) 451-5119 for more
information on how to get
involved!

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

Lending Closet

Medical supplies available

Aging Care Connections

Advisors on all matters related to
the issues facing older adults as
they age - Walk-ins welcome!

1st Wednesday of the Month

9:00am - 12:00pm

Leyden Township Town Hall

3rd Wednesday of the Month

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Leyden Township Town Hall

Senior Exercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:00am - 10:00am

Bradley A. Stephens

Community Center

Senior Knitting Club

2nd and 4th 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

Please remember that registration is required for **ALL** programs, events and trips.

Call: (847) 455 - 8616 for more information.



Leyden Community Food Pantry

LEYDEN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Dry food:

- coffee
- crackers
- juice
- macaroni & cheese
- pudding/jell-o
- rice
- cereal
- pancake mix

Canned Food:

- corn
- green beans
- mixed vegetables
- soup
- peaches/ pears/
apples

Personal Essentials:

- deodorant
- feminine products
- laundry detergent
- paper towels
- shampoo
- toilet paper
- body soap

*Monetary Donations Can Be Mailed To:

(checks made out to: Leyden Community Food Pantry)

Leyden Township

Attn: Food Pantry

2501 N. Mannheim Rd.

Franklin Park, IL 60131



For additional food pantry questions or information please call:

(847) 455 - 8616 EXT: 5136

We appreciate all donations, however we cannot distribute expired food products. Please check dates before donating.

ALL DONATED ITEMS BENEFIT LEYDEN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS IN
NEED



Donations:

Food and Hygiene

Donations may be dropped off during business hours at:
2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131



Monetary Donations

Please make all monetary donations payable to:
**Leyden Community
Food Pantry**

Donations may be dropped off or mailed to:
2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

BUSINESS HOURS:

MONDAY

9:00am - 5:00pm

TUESDAY

11:00am - 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY

9:00am - 5:00pm

THURSDAY

11:00am - 7:00pm

FRIDAY

1:00pm - 5:00pm

HOW TO QUALIFY?

- Must be 18 and over
- Live in the service area zip codes, provided

CONTACT US:

(847) 455 - 8616

Extension: 5136

2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

SERVICE AREAS

- 60016
- 60018
- 60019
- 60025
- 60053
- 60068
- 60160
- 60164
- 60165
- 60131
- 60171
- 60176
- 60631
- 60706
- 60707
- 60714



LEYDEN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Bring joy to a child this holiday season!
Your gift will make the season brighter for a child in our community. Thank you for helping us spread holiday cheer!

Most Needed Items:

- Toys for ages 0-12
- Board games & puzzles
- Books & art supplies
- Dolls, cars, and action figures

Donation Tips:

- Please keep toys new & in original packaging
- No toy weapons or violent imagery
- Gift cards for teens also welcome

Join us in collecting new, unwrapped toys for local children.
Starting November 1st, 2025

Drop-off Location:
Leyden Community Food Pantry
2501 N. Mannheim Rd.,
Franklin Park, IL 60131

For questions or large donations contact Dayana at:
(847) 451 - 5136 or email: drustrian-gali@leydentownship.com.

General Assistance

For questions or more information, please contact: Director of General Assistance, Kelly Corona: (847) 451-5112

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance provides financial assistance to Leyden Township residents in life-threatening situations who meet the income guidelines. We assist with utilities, rent, and mortgage.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The General Assistance program is a state-mandated, locally administered welfare program designed to support single township residents experiencing financial hardship. General Assistance is designed to be a safety net after all other resources have been exhausted. 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. Assistance can be provided for shelter, utilities, food, clothing, household supplies, personal essentials, and laundry.

SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Our General Assistance Office offers SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program) services, providing free Medicare counseling. As SHIP-trained counselors, we help with Medicare, supplements, and long-term care insurance, empowering seniors to make informed healthcare decisions.

FREE RESIDENTIAL SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

- Containers available upon request
- Sharps must be stored in an acceptable collection container
- All containers must be closed and locked

Leyden Township
(REAR by Sheriff's Sub Station)
2501 N. Mannheim Rd.,
Franklin Park, IL 60131

BENEFIT ACCESS

The Benefit Access Program offers two benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities:

- Seniors Ride Free Transit Benefit
- Persons with Disabilities Ride
- Free Transit Benefit
- Secretary of State License Plate Discount

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP helps low-income people and families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being.

ACCESS TO CARE

The Access to Care (ATC) program is administered by the Suburban Primary Health Council. ATC is a non-profit primary health care program for residents of suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago who are lower - income, uninsured, and underinsured.

LOW INCOME HEATING AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (LIHEAP)



Beginning January 2026, Leyden Township will be able to process applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Administered through CEDA, LIHEAP provides heating and electricity assistance to income-eligible households. Benefits are available through Direct Vendor Payment (a one-time credit to your utility account) or the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (affordable monthly payments). Assistance can cover heating bills (natural gas, oil, or propane) and/or electric bills.

CONTACT US (847) 451 - 5112
2501 N. MANNHEIM RD.
FRANKLIN PARK, IL 60131
WWW.LEYDENTOWNSHIP.COM



Leyden Fire Protection



Smoke Detectors and Devices

Through a cooperative effort between The Leyden Township and Leyden Fire District we have installed at no cost to residents over 550 smoke detectors in 2025. If you would like smoke detectors installed in your home please contact (847) 455 - 8616 to schedule your installation.

Shake and Wake Smoke Detector Devices



We have a device that will assist those that are hard of hearing to hear your smoke detector called Shake Awake. This device will shake your bed when the alarm is activated. Leyden residents can receive these at no cost as these are grant funded. Call (847) 455 - 0180, installation can be arranged.

2026 Fire Protection Funding Update

The Leyden Fire Protection District will be asking for your help next year for the funding needed to maintain necessary staffing and emergency equipment to maintain services to our residents. We have not asked for a tax increase in over 50 years and have made the operations continue to work through grants and sound financial management. After the Holidays we will host informational open house sessions to inform our citizens of the status of Leyden FPD. We welcome your thoughts and input. Have a great Holiday Season!

WINTER HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO GET TOGETHER. BUT THAT ALSO MEANS A GREATER RISK FOR FIRE. FOLLOWING A FEW SIMPLE TIPS WILL ENSURE A HAPPY AND FIRE-SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Almost half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



Think about using **battery - operated flameless candles**.



Christmas is the peak day for candle fires.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.



More than 1 in every 5 Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/holiday and nfpa.org/winter.

Veterans Affairs Office

VETERANS BENEFITS

Are You Enrolled in VA Healthcare?

If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces, you may be eligible for comprehensive health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Enrollment provides access to primary and specialty care, mental health services, prescriptions, hearing and vision exams, and much more, often at little or no cost.

You can enroll directly with your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO). The Leyden Township Veterans Affairs Office is available to assist you with enrollment and accessing other benefits you may be entitled to.

Benefits of enrollment

- Priority access to VA health services and specialists
- Preventive care, including annual exams and screenings
- Access to VA pharmacies and prescription savings
- Free or low-cost mental health care, counseling, and substance use support
- Coverage for service-connected conditions and travel reimbursement for eligible veterans

Who's eligible

- Most veterans with active duty service who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- National Guard and Reserve members who meet certain active duty criteria
- Recently separated veterans (within 10 years) often qualify under expanded PACT Act eligibility

How to apply

- Visit the Leyden Township Veterans Affairs Office
- Apply online at www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application
- Call the VA Health Benefits hotline at 1-877-222-VETS (8387)

Local Veterans Service Organizations

American Legion Post 974

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday: 19:30
9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, 60131

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5979

Meetings: 2nd Thursday: 19:30
8664 Grand Ave., River Grove, 60171
(708) 606 - 0742

American Legion Post 335

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday: 19:30
8664 Grand Ave., River Grove,
60171
(708) 606 - 0742



Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
5000 S. 5TH Ave.
Hines, IL 60141

**For more information about services available,
please contact our office: (847) 455 - 8616**



VETERANS HONOR WALL

Leyden Township is proud to honor
Veterans who served in the
United States, Army, Marine Corps.,
Navy, Air Force, Space Force,
Coast Guard and National Guard.

To apply or for questions
please call: (847) 455 - 8616.



Leyden Township's Annual

DROP & POP

*Free Children's
New Year's Eve Celebration*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:30AM - 12:30PM

**FOOD, GAMES & PRIZES,
ENTERTAINMENT**

*RSVPs required, space is limited,
and you must be a Leyden Township resident
Must RSVP by December 26*

**Please call (847) 451 - 5144
to make your reservation**

Bradley A. Stephens Community Center
2620 N. Mannheim Rd. Franklin Park, IL 60131



www.leydentownship.com

The Leyden Township Community Foundation Proudly Presents

The Robert J. Biancalana



"Tuscano" Style

WILD GAME DINNER

Benefitting those in need within Leyden Township

Monday, January 19, 2026

Elmcrest Banquets

7370 W. Grand Avenue - Elmwood Park

Cocktails: 6:00pm - Dinner: 7:00pm

A large silhouette of a deer with large antlers stands in the center of the page, surrounded by several evergreen trees. The background is a light tan color with a white horizontal band across the middle.

**Tickets
\$50**

Reservations

Al Biancalana: (708) 494 - 7145

Gabe Caporale: (708) 473 - 7334

Sponsorship

Jonathan Zivojnovic

(708) 456 - 9200

JOIN US FOR OUR...

Daddy-Daughter Dance



FREE EVENT

FOOD

DANCING

PHOTO BOOTH

Friday, February 13

6pm - 8pm

Must RSVP by February 6

For more information,
call (847) 451-5144



www.leydentownship.com



Bradley A. Stephens

Community Center

2620 N. Mannheim Rd.

Franklin Park, IL 60131



JOIN US FOR OUR...

BUNNY-BASH EGG-STRAVAGANZA

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28
11AM - 1:30PM**

FREE EVENT!

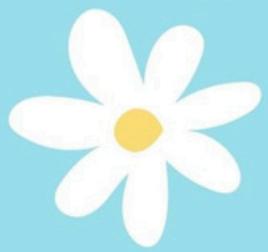
**PICTURES WITH THE BUNNY
EGG HUNTS
GAMES
BOUNCY HOUSE
FOOD & DRINKS**

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 ARRIVE ON TIME, AS HUNTS WILL START
PROMPTLY AT THESE TIMES. CHILDREN WILL ONLY BE
ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR AGE GROUP.**

Westdale Park
3045 Sandra Ave.
Melrose Park, IL 60164



Leyden Township
2501 N. Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Presorted STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Melrose Park, IL.
Permit #6



Township Offices will be closed:

- December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve
- December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day
- January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day
- January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 12, 2026 - Lincoln's Birthday
- February 16, 2026 - Presidents' Day



Rocco D. Biscaglio
Township Supervisor



Jamie Losurdo
Township Clerk



John E. "Bucky" Bjorvik
Highway Commissioner



Al J. Biancalana
Township Assessor



Ronald Klinger
Trustee



William Otte
Trustee



Nicholas J. Pecora
Trustee



Vincent S. Fiorito
Trustee