



### I-Cash Program – Are You Owed Money?

The State Treasurer's Office is holding 2.5 billion dollars in unclaimed funds for Illinoisans. The State holds these lost funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property is returned at no cost with proper identification.

In fact, the Village Treasurer was able to recover approximately \$16,000 in unclaimed cash belonging to the Village of Franklin Park! The recovered funds were deposited into the Village's general revenue fund.

For more information or to search for unclaimed funds in your name, go to <https://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov>.



▲ Village Clerk April Arellano, Trustees John Johnson and Karen Special and Village staff recently welcomed Doceo Real Estate to their new location at 9758 Grand Avenue in Franklin Park.



▲ Village Clerk April Arellano joined shop owner Angelita Bracero and her family to officially cut the ribbon for Angel's Closet located at 9706 Franklin Avenue. Welcome to the neighborhood!



### Friends of the Library Book Sale – August 17

Looking for great deals on new or gently used books, CDs, and DVDs? Visit the Library on Saturday, August 17 from 11 AM until 2 PM for a special, expanded book sale. You can also buy a reusable Friends tote bag full of materials for \$5!

### Franklin Park Library Community Survey – Please Respond

Attention Franklin Park – the Library needs your input! Help us understand how we can better serve your needs by completing our survey on the Village's homepage at [vofp.com](http://vofp.com).



▲ There was a fantastic turnout for the Hot Girls Walk event last month. Village Clerk April Arellano and Trustee Irene Avitia joined State Representative Norma Hernandez, Susie Castro, business owner of Ohare CrossFit and area residents for a walk across town to visit businesses on Franklin Avenue.

## Mayor's Desk



### Clean-up From Historic Storms Continues

Mother Nature has been throwing us curveballs lately.

On July 15, 27 tornados flew across the Chicago region causing widespread damage and power outages. This was the largest number of tornados recorded in a single day. Illinois has experienced over 100 tornados this year, and we are on pace to break more records.

We can expect volatile weather to continue as climate change warms the oceans, adding more strength to hurricanes and impacting weather across the country.

Franklin Park was severely impacted by these latest storms and high winds. To date the Village has lost 27 trees on parkways and another 20 still need to be removed. In addition, even more trees may need to be taken down in the future.

### Streets Division To The Rescue

Our Utilities Department's Streets Division lost no time in removing debris and clearing roads. Working through the night due to back-to-back storms, our crews not only cleared public thoroughfares but assisted residents with the removal of over 25 trees on private property as well as branches and other debris.

I can't thank our Public Works/Utilities Division enough, and indeed all our staff, for their prompt and tireless efforts during this crisis. Compliments and gratitude have been pouring in through Facebook

and our website.

'Utility Division did an amazing job, working hard to help our community.'

'Thanks for all the hard work of the Franklin Park Streets Department, we could not have done this without your help.'

'A huge thank you to the hard-working members of our Village's Departments on the clean-up.'

'Your crew did a fantastic job clearing the parkway.'

We welcome your comments and share your appreciation for our Street's staff, many of whom had to put the clean-up of their own properties on the back burner to serve our community first.

### Clean Up Continues

Thank you to our residents for their cooperation and patience as our crews work to get to all areas of town over the next few weeks. Place reasonably sized branches on the front parkway (not in the alley and not in the street). The branches will be removed when possible. If you have questions, call (847) 671-8252.

### Extreme Weather Is Now The New Norm

It is sad for our Village to lose so many trees. Older trees and forests are particularly devastated by extreme weather



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

April Arellano  
Village Clerk

Village Trustees:  
Irene Avitia  
Gil Hagerstrom  
John Johnson  
Bill Ruhl  
Karen Special  
Andy Ybarra

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Emergency 911

Police & Fire  
(Non-Emergency)  
847-678-2444

**Village Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2. Garbage and recycling will be picked up on Tuesday, September 3 and yard waste will be picked up on Wednesday September 4.**

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which causes disruption in our eco-system and reduces the valuable tree canopy in our community.

Extreme weather not only damages our trees but has also caused severe flooding in many areas. Franklin Park has increased our stormwater capacity and limited our floodplains over the years. But it could be just a matter of time before extreme weather causes flooding in our Village. These recent storms remind us to clean up our basements, clean up our yards, and overall, protect our planet and be nice to Mother Nature!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



**Help Shape the Future of Grand Avenue!**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is partnering with the Village of Franklin Park to create a plan to transform Grand Avenue into a safe, accessible, and thriving corridor. The plan will help residents and elected and appointed officials guide future actions, decisions, and development in the community. We want to hear your thoughts on the design, character, and functionality of Grand Avenue. Your input will guide the recommendations in the corridor plan. Fill out the visual preference survey on the Village's homepage at vofp.com.

# GARAGE SALE

## Village-wide Garage Sale - August 23, 24, & 25 from 8 AM until 7 PM

Sell your unwanted items and one-of-a-kind treasures at the Village-wide Garage Sale! You can register to be included in the list of participating addresses by emailing clerk@vofp.com or calling (847) 671-8242 by August 19. Like to bargain hunt? The list of addresses participating will be available a few days before the sale at vofp.com.



## Passport Service Available at the Library – August 24

The Village is accepting applications now for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to replace damaged and cracked concrete on the public sidewalk near your home. Homeowners and the Village will share the cost evenly. Please call (847) 671-8308 to be placed on the list for this summer. The Village will contact you to make an appointment to discuss the details. If you apply after July 31, 2024, you will be placed on the list for next year.

## Community Blood Drive – Please Donate

The Village will host a Community Blood Drive on Friday, September 20 from 3 until 7:30 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station. Please consider donating if you are able. It could save someone's life. Remember to eat a healthy meal and to stay hydrated before donating.



**BE A HERO**  
Donate blood

## Fire Department Wins Grant to Purchase Equipment

The Franklin Park Fire Department has been named a 2024 grant recipient by Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation receiving \$33,300.00 to ensure Franklin Park is safer than ever. The grant will be used to purchase Four Bullard Thermal Imaging Cameras & Four XT Thermal Throttles for the department and will ensure our community is better prepared for emergencies.

## Village Increases Rodent Control Efforts But Needs Your Help

The Village is continuing efforts to deter rodent activity. This summer we increased our contract with Orkin to double the number of bait boxes placed around town to 758 and to increase technician maintenance to twice per week. Also, each zone is inspected monthly.



It is critical that our residents and businesses help to eliminate sources of food and hiding places on and around your property. Garbage bins should always be closed with lids securely fastened to prevent critters from reaching a food source. Keep the area around your garbage bins free of trash, food scraps and spills. The Village is issuing tickets for any garbage overflowing out of containers and on the ground. If you have questions, please call (847) 671-8240.

## Mowing Lawns and Cleaning up After Pets

Mow your lawn on a regular basis and eliminate weeds in alleys and areas behind homes. Overgrown lawns and weeds are breeding grounds for rodents and insects. The Village is issuing tickets to homeowners if their grass is over six inches high.



Also, please remember to clean up after your pet while on walks and in your own backyard. Dog waste is a food supply for rodents. Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside which can attract unwanted wildlife. Pick ripe fruits and vegetables in your garden right away to eliminate a food source for pests and insects.

If you are disabled or elderly and need assistance complying, call (847) 671-4800. If you see properties that need to be maintained, please call the Village.



▲ Village Clerk April Arellano swore in three new Firefighter / Paramedics last month at the Board Meeting. Welcome Brajan Zajkowski, Anthony Gigovski and John Anderson! Also, congratulations to Officer Tomasz Klos who was promoted to Sergeant.