



THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

March 2025



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

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Emergency 911

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847-678-2444

Franklin Park Library Hosts 125th Anniversary Party - April 11

The Library is celebrating 125 years of serving Franklin Park with a huge party! The Great Boodini will present his "Scary Objects...A Wizardly Magic Show" at 6 PM. Refreshments will follow from 6:45 until 7:15 PM and the event will end with a special performance from The Barefoot Hawaiians. Plan to attend this fun evening open to everyone.



Consider Switching to Natural Lawn Care

Did you know traditional lawn treatments often contain chemicals that could be harmful if children or pets play on the lawn?

Natural lawn care focuses on nurturing soil health, which creates stronger, more resilient grass over time. By enhancing the soil structure and promoting a robust root system, natural lawn care fosters healthier grass that is less prone to pests and diseases. Rather than relying on quick fixes, organic care feeds the soil with nutrients that encourage sustainable growth, meaning your grass stays greener and thicker with each passing season.

Early April (when the forsythias begin to bloom) is the time to start natural lawn care methods by applying corn gluten to stop root growth for weeds including crabgrass. This product offers a natural herbicidal alternative to toxic "weed and feed" lawn products and contains a significant amount of nitrogen that our full-grown turf grass loves.

To learn more about making the switch to natural lawn care, visit the Village's Sustainability page at vofp.com.



Donating blood is safe, easy, and it can save a life. **If you are able, please donate at the Village's Community Blood Drive on Friday, March 14 from 3 until 7 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station.**

Appointments are preferred and walk-ins are welcome! Make an appointment with Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 and use group code ORDOFR98.

Mayor's Desk

Village-wide Improvements Announced

Construction will begin this summer to build new curb bulbs on 25th Avenue at Chestnut Avenue. The curb bulbs will provide pedestrian safety for residents and schoolchildren.

A curb bulb creates an extension of the curb into the roadway at an intersection, which narrows the road and forces drivers to slow down. It also improves pedestrian safety by shortening the crossing distance and increasing visibility for drivers.

Currently at this intersection, there are Pedestrian Crossing signs with flashing lights on timers, one in each direction on 25th Avenue. There are also two signs at Chestnut and 25th that have a push button for pedestrians to activate when crossing.

Please remember to always drive carefully, especially near school zones. Observing and complying with speed limits, traffic signs, and warnings is important and could save a life. Pedestrians should always obey traffic signs and follow the directions of school crossing guards.

Eliminating Eyesores Makes Our Town More Attractive

The Village has been working hard to remove vacant buildings throughout town. One such project has started and when completed, will greatly improve the area.

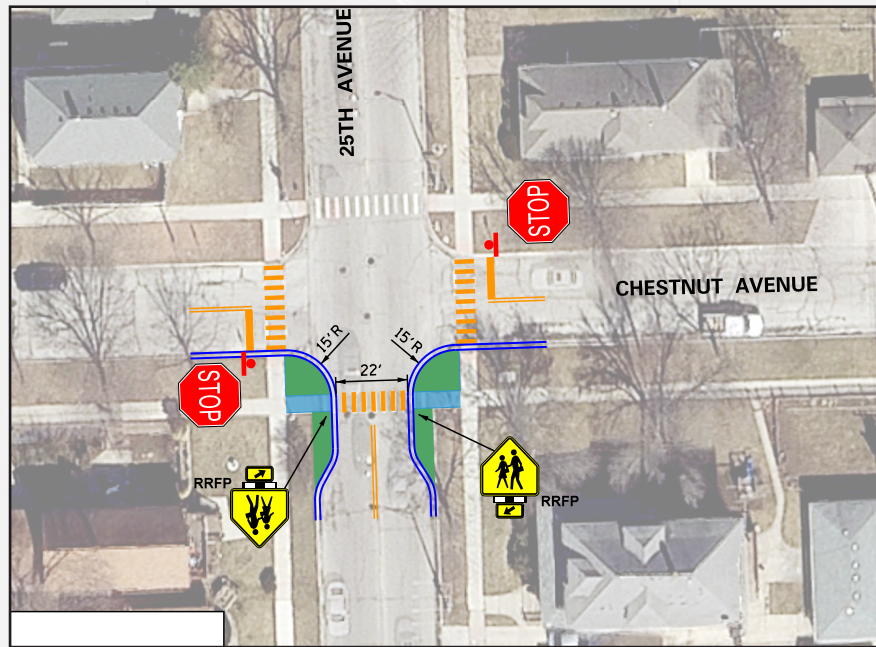
Demolition is in progress on the now closed Pure Nightclub (also know as SOP to old timers) on River Road at Robinson Road. Soon the building will be gone, and a beautiful new public space will take its place and will include landscaping and a new Franklin Park welcome sign. Last year a new traffic light was installed at the intersection to increase safety and help with traffic flow. In addition, this summer, the Village will repave the streets in the area, which includes Robinson Road, Crescent Drive, Birch Street, Lombard Street, and Martens Street.

New Downtown Signage is Attractive and Informative

The Village will install new signage throughout the downtown area this spring. The attractive and helpful signage will include a welcome to downtown sign, directional signage, public park signs, and parking lot signage. Also, downtown directory signage will be built for pedestrians. The new signage will improve the look of the downtown area and will also help residents and visitors find parking lots and other public buildings and areas such as Village Hall, Metra Stations, Park District facilities, area parks, and more.

I look forward to these improvements to our community.

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



The Village will construct an important safety project at the intersection of 25th Avenue and Chestnut Avenue to force drivers to slow down. Construction will take place over the summer so it will not disrupt access to school while it is in session.

Fire Department Wins Grant to Upgrade Equipment

The Franklin Park Fire Department received a grant from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal through the State of Illinois to improve our firefighter's respiratory protection systems. The \$12,126 grant enables the department to buy new canisters that will upgrade current facepieces into certified air-purifying respirators. The upgrade will give firefighters additional protection when operating in environments affected by chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear contamination.

The Fire Department is grateful for this support and remains committed to ensuring the safety of our personnel and our community.

Enroll in Program That Provides Coverage for Outside Water Lines

A letter was recently mailed to residents about the Service Line Warranty Program that covers the consumer-owned portion of the primary water or sewer service line from the foundation of the home to the public utility connection. The program provides coverage to repair clogged, broken or leaking water and sewer lines serving a home when the flow of the line is interrupted due to normal wear and tear. To read more about this program, what it covers, and how to enroll, please go to vofp.com.

Spring Clean Up

Spring is the perfect time to clear clutter from around your property which will eliminate hiding places for unwanted critters. Pick ripe fruits and vegetables in your garden right away to eliminate a food source for pests and insects. Clean up spills around trash cans and fasten the lids tight. Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside which can attract unwanted wildlife.

Also, please clean up after your pet while on walks and in your own backyard. If you need assistance in complying, please call (847) 671-4800.



Demolition is in progress on the vacant Pure Nightclub building on River Road at Robinson Road. Soon the property will be cleared, and an attractive new public space will be developed.



Watch for attractive and helpful new informational signage coming to the downtown area.

Branch Removal Schedule

Regular branch removal service will start the week of April 7. Place reasonably sized branches on the front parkway (not in the alley) by 7 AM on Monday of the removal week indicated below they will be removed sometime by the end of the day on Friday. If your branches are put out after 7 AM on Monday of the designated week it is possible that you could miss the pickup. Branch removal begins promptly and if trucks have already driven through your section of town, your branches will not be collected until the next scheduled pick-up week.

Please note that if storm clean-up is necessary, the Village may need to delay the scheduled branch removal. In this situation, we will resume branch collection where we left off the following week.

Please note that the following will not be removed:

- Branches left out in a tangled mess
- Woody branches under 1/2 inch in diameter
- Leaves, vines, herbaceous plants, and weeds
- Large stumps, roots, and root balls
- Wooden fencing and construction lumber
- Branches and tree debris generated by contractors

Pick up weeks for 2025 are:

- April 7 & 21
- May 5 & 19
- June 2, 16 & 30
- July 14 & 28
- August 11 & 25
- September 8 & 22
- October 6 & 20

If you have questions, call (847) 671-8252.

Yard Waste Removal

Yard waste removal will start again on Tuesday April 1 and will continue every Tuesday until late autumn. Garbage and recycling will continue to be removed on Mondays in Franklin Park. If you have the reusable yard waste bin provided by Republic Services, please use that container for your yard waste. Residents can also purchase brown biodegradable bags. As an alternative, residents can select sustainable ways to eliminate yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders, or backyard compost piles.



Early Voting Available at Village Hall for April 1 Election

- March 17 – March 22 – Monday through Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
- March 23 – Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM
- March 24 - March 29 - Monday through Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
- March 30 - Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM
- March 31 - Monday - 9 AM to 5 PM

Voters are asked to enter the voting area via the parking lot. You must cast your ballot at your designated Polling Place on Election Day. Mail-in ballot applications are available, contact the Clerk's Office for more information (847) 671-8242.