

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2011



## Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

### The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen  
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson  
VILLAGE CLERK

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#### POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)

847-671-8200

#### FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)

847-678-2400

#### VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.

8-4:30 pm

Wed. 8-6 pm

Sat. 9-12 pm

#### VILLAGE HALL CLOSED

April 22 & 23

## Business is Blooming

We may still be having some winter weather but new businesses are springing up all over town. Franklin Park's efforts to create a business-friendly atmosphere and ease the bureaucracy for new and expanding businesses continues to pay off. During the month of March, eight companies have either moved into or expanded their business in Franklin Park, adding jobs and tax revenue to our local economy. These companies recognize Franklin Park's superior locational advantages. They also have discovered that our Village staff and officials are ready, willing and able to assist with their business relocation or expansion needs.

**Royal Service Realty**, one of Illinois' largest independent real estate brokerage firms, opened an office in Franklin Park at 9842 Grand Avenue. I was pleased to be at their office grand opening event and welcome them to our community. We are also excited to welcome **Romano Brands, Inc.** a new restaurant that is now located at 10000 Grand Avenue and **Master Food Brokers, Inc.** a food distributor at 10750 Grand Avenue. We are pleased that **Healthwise Healthcare** and **Everest Home Healthcare**, two new in-home healthcare companies, will be locating in our Village. A new truck driving school, **Mega Driving School**, has located at 3380 North River Road and will occupy a space that contains an administrative office, a classroom and a driving yard. In addition, we are thrilled that two of our local companies chose to expand their businesses in Franklin Park. **Cortina Tool** will be expanding their warehouse and adding 90,000 sq ft. at 10750 Grand Avenue and **Reebie Storage** at 11130 King Street will expand their facility as well.

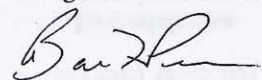
I am pleased that these companies have made Franklin Park their home and I hope to continue to report regularly about the businesses that have decided to locate or expand in our Village.

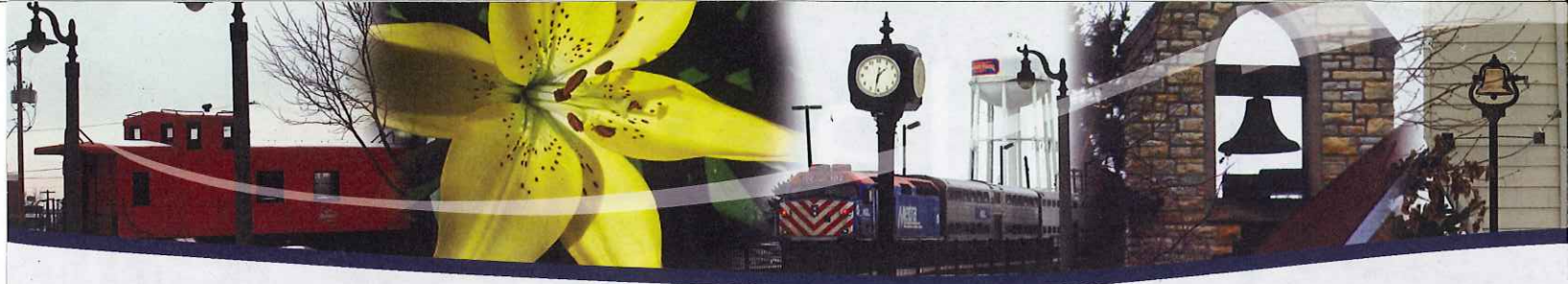


Mayor Barrett Pedersen cuts the ribbon at the office opening for Royal Service Realty.

## Budget as a blueprint

Village staff is hard at work completing our budget for the fiscal year. The Board will be working closely with Department Heads to be sure we can meet Village needs, offer quality Village services but safeguard the taxpayers' dollars. During these challenging economic times, it is imperative that we demonstrate budget discipline and a conservative approach to spending. Now more than ever, the budget will be our blueprint as we set an aggressive agenda for growth and opportunity. The budget will guide us as we develop services and also steer us towards areas where we need to increase grants or share resources with our neighbors. The Trustees, and our dedicated staff, pledge to work diligently to keep costs down, while operating an extremely responsive, yet efficient, Village government. We will report more on our budget process as well as announce the schedule for public hearings in our next issue.

  
BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



# Think Green and Switch to Natural Lawn Care

Did you know that pesticides can be harmful to human health? In fact, children are the most vulnerable to the health risks of pesticides and studies have found links between the use of lawn pesticides and certain cancers and asthma, and they may weaken their immune functions. In addition, pesticides degrade the soil by killing beneficial organisms and bacteria and pollute the water by leaching down into aquifers and can seep into our drinking water. Pesticides are also dangerous to wildlife and can even harm our pets who also track the dangerous chemicals in to our families' homes.

So is it possible to have a lawn that looks good and doesn't harm your health or the environment? According to the Safer Pest Control Project, you can indeed have a beautiful lawn without using pesticides, plus it's easy and affordable. Natural Lawn Care focuses on restoring balance to the soil system, helping to create a healthy lawn and over time, will require less watering, fertilizing and mowing, all saving you time and money. Follow these basic steps to get the results you want.

## Soil Test

Healthy natural lawns thrive in healthy soil, with nutrients properly balanced in the right amounts. A soil test will help you determine exactly what kind of nutrients to add. It can be done inexpensively and infrequently, every 3 to 5 years, saving you money in the long haul by reducing unnecessary fertilizing.

## Water Correctly

Water deeply and infrequently and shoot for one inch of water delivered once a week. Daily and brief watering discourages deep root growth, one of the essentials of healthy turf grass. Pest fungus can thrive in the damp grass, so give your lawn a chance to dry before nightfall. You should water in the early morning to minimize evaporation and safeguard against fungus problems.

## Mow Properly

Tell your lawn care provider that you want to keep your lawn at least three inches high. Correct mowing will increase the strength of the root system and naturally shade out some weeds. Don't mow your lawn every week out of habit. Mow with sharp blades which make a clean cut, while dull ones will rip the grass, weakening your lawn's defenses.

## Fertilize Organically

Switch to an organic fertilizer because most commercial fertilizers have too much nitrogen for your lawn. Since the grass can't use it fast enough, most gets washed away - polluting nearby water bodies. Organic fertilizer will allow the grass to take only what it needs. Organic fertilizers are available at some local nurseries or via mail order.

## Reseed and Top Dress Annually

Fifty years ago, most lawn mix had clover in it but broadleaf weed herbicides were introduced and destroyed the clover in lawns. Clover is a great addition to any lawn so reintroduce it. It is drought tolerant, immune to diseases, and greens up all summer. Rabbits love it, and hopefully will eat the clover instead of your other perennials. Reseed at least once a year with a mix of grass seed and compost. Water slightly each day for two weeks so the seed can get established. This will naturally replenish your lawn and keep your soil healthy.

## Banish Weeds Naturally

Consider using corn gluten (an organic corn by-product that is a natural pre-emergent weed control) to reduce weeds. Apply it early in the season before the soil reaches 55 degrees (usually when the forsythia bloom), and it will, over the course of a few growing seasons, make a big difference. Invest in a sturdy weeding tool and go after weeds for short periods on a regular basis, rather than all at once. Don't be so focused on a perfect green lawn - instead realize that a healthy lawn can naturally resist disease and drought.

For more information about natural lawn care, contact the Safer Pest Control Project at 773-878-7378 or at [www.spcpweb.org](http://www.spcpweb.org).





Last fall, Governor Quinn signed an Executive Order creating the Elgin O'Hare West By-Pass Advisory Council and appointed Mayor Barrett Pedersen as a member. This appointment gives Franklin Park a stake in one of the largest infrastructure improvement projects in our history and will provide increased stormwater detention for our Village and interchange improvements at Irving Park and York Roads to ease transportation access for our businesses.

## Community Notes

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG** Warmer weather and spring rain will help our grass and weeds to grow. Please remember that it is unlawful for any owner or occupant to grow weeds, thistles, cockleburrs or any such plant on their property. Grass and weeds are required to be maintained less than six inches in height because mosquitoes and rodents harbor and breed in overgrown grass. Residents or owners are also responsible for cutting and maintaining grass on parkways and must maintain their alley.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** Help keep mosquitoes from breeding by eliminating all sources of standing water, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, pools, old tires and catch basins on private property and any other receptacles. Remember to not neglect your gutters! It is also a breeding ground for mosquitoes which can carry West Nile Virus. Contact Kathleen Kuffer at 847-671-8280 with questions.

**50/50 SIDEWALK PROGRAM** Homeowners can apply for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program again this year, to replace damaged and cracked concrete or trip hazards on the public sidewalk. The homeowner and the Village share the cost evenly. Please call 847-671-8245 if you would like to be placed on the waiting list. We will contact you and make an appointment with more details when the program begins.

**PET LICENSES** All pet owners are reminded that the Village requires dog owners to obtain a pet license for \$5 and have it renewed each year by July 1. For more information, please call 847-671-4800.

**SEEING CATS?** Learn about CatVando's Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) Program in Franklin Park on Saturday, 4/16, 1-3PM, at the Franklin Park Community Center. Learn more at [www.catvando.org](http://www.catvando.org).

## Upcoming Meetings

**April 4**

Police and Fire Commission - 6PM  
Board of Trustees - 7PM

**April 7**

Adjudication Court - 10AM  
Senior Citizen Commission - 6PM

**April 12**

ETS 911 Board - 9AM  
Library Board - 7:30PM

**April 13**

Zoning Board of Appeals - 7PM

**April 18**

Board of Trustees - 7PM

**April 19**

Police Pension Board - 5PM

**April 21**

Adjudication Court - 10AM

**April 26**

Fire Pension Board - 9:30AM  
Park District Board - 7PM

**April 27**

Plan Commission - 7PM

**April 28**

Economic Dev. Commission - 8AM

**May 2**

Police & Fire Commission - 6PM  
Board of Trustees - 7PM

**May 5**

Adjudication Court - 10AM  
Senior Citizen Commission - 6PM

**May 10**

ETS 911 Board - 9AM  
Police Pension Board - 5PM

**May 11**

Zoning Board of Appeals - 7PM

## Village Cost Cutting Measures Yield Big Savings

The Utility Department made a few simple, yet highly-economical changes that have resulted in a big cost savings for our Village. Last July, they began using Homer Tree Industries to haul away 17, one hundred yard trailers full of wood chips and wood debris at no cost to the Village and therefore saving us \$42,500. The decision to use Land of Lakes Trucking to haul away leaves after street sweepings resulted in a savings of \$12,620

compared to the previous year. Additionally, Hoffman Trucking was retained to remove street debris after water main leaks. Their reduced rate of \$250.00 per load versus the past rate of \$400.00 saved the Village \$3300.00 in just one month. This cost-conscious mind-set by staff in the Utility Department created a total savings of \$58,420.00!

## Village Prepares for Emergencies with State-of-the Art Notification System

When a crisis affects Franklin Park, Village officials must be able to reach residents instantly with warnings, information, and updates. To ensure that our residents can be contacted quickly and effectively, the Village of Franklin Park will soon begin using Global Connect's Emergency Notification System, allowing officials to call thousands of residents, staff members, and volunteers within minutes.

The Global Connect system will allow the Mayor, Chief of Police, or Fire Chief to record a message in their own voice and send that message to every telephone number listed in the directory within a matter of minutes. Whether residents need to be informed of a water main break, approaching storm, or other crisis, the Global Connect System is the most efficient way to reach residents with the news.

"Many municipalities and school districts have already seen the benefits of the Global Connect Emergency Notification System," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "The speed, simplicity, and flexibility of this cost-effective system make it a good choice for Franklin Park."

The Global Connect System uses Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) to send a message to a database of telephone numbers, email addresses, or fax numbers. The system offers a number of features that make it particularly useful during a crisis:

**Instant Callback** Residents who need additional information or require special assistance from the municipality can make a return call to a designated telephone number with the press of a single key on their telephone keypad.

**Customized Mapping Capability** Municipalities can create a customized list of call recipients by selecting the area(s) affected by the emergency at hand. Global Connect will instantly develop the list of telephone numbers for residents in that area.

**Remote Access and Deployment** Emergency management officials can deploy a message from any location. Only a telephone is required to record and send a broadcast.

**Real-Time Reporting** Municipal officials can see immediately which residents have been reached by telephone, and which have received messages. The system will continue to call residents who have not been reached as frequently and as many times as desired.

To sign up to receive notification of emergencies **beginning May 1**, please go to [www.vofp.com](http://www.vofp.com). Or, cut out and complete the attached form and bring or mail to: Village Hall, 9500 Belmont Ave, Franklin Park, IL 60131.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to receive weather alerts at phone number: \_\_\_\_\_