

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2012



Mayor's Desk

The Village of
FRANKLIN PARK

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VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.
8-4:30 pm
Wed. 8-6 pm
Sat. 9-12 pm

Spring Into April

Our warm March weather brought us early tulips and daffodils along with the many wonderful reminders of what nature offers us this time of year. Mother Nature has given us many gifts and on Earth Day, April 22, more than one billion people around the globe will stand together for a sustainable future. Preserving the environment, finding alternative fuel sources and eliminating pesticides are among the many issues the 42nd Annual Earth Day will address.



Franklin Park Celebrates Earth Day

SATURDAY APRIL 28 • NOON - 2:00 PM • NORTH PARK CENTRE

Plan to attend the Park District of Franklin Park's annual Earth Day celebration which will feature interactive booths to allow families to learn more about renewable energy, easy methods to increase recycling, natural lawn care, advances in alternative fuel sources and the Village's on-going sustainability efforts.

Franklin Park is committed to being a green, energy efficient, sustainable community that serves as a model for other cities. To that end, we have undertaken a variety of initiatives that support that goal:

- The Village has instituted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy. IPM is a proven method of pest control that emphasizes simple, inexpensive prevention practices that cause the least harm to people and pets and is economically sustainable. IPM focuses on eliminating the cause of pests by minimizing access to food, water, and hiding places.
- We utilize natural lawn care on Village-owned properties. Residents can easily embrace similar practices for use on their own properties. Using natural practices avoids putting pollutants in our ground water and is better for our air quality as well. To learn more, visit the Safer Pest Control Project at www.spcpweb.org.

- We have applied for a Tree City designation that will allow the Village to access more grants that will continue our sustainable improvements.
- We have established a Franklin Park Sustainability Working Group that discusses ways in which we can make economically smart planning decisions for the future. If you share our passion for sustainable (green) practices and issues, please contact us at 847-671-8236.

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◀ Mayor Pedersen welcomes a new business, **Mysterious & Reassuring Consignment Shop**, located at 9701 Franklin Avenue. The business will feature a different non-profit animal shelter or rescue organization each month, who will receive 100% of the proceeds from sales of items they brought into the consignment shop. Any non-profit shelter or rescue interested in participating can send an email to info@mysteriousreassuring.com to sign up.



Mayor's Desk ▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Village held its first telephone town hall meeting last month. We want to make it as easy as possible for our residents to voice their opinions, participate in an open dialogue and to ask questions that may be on their mind.

Given everyone's busy schedule, we are embracing this innovative technology in order to expand the number of residents who can participate.

Our first call was a trial run and we were gratified that at one point over 800 people were on the call. We hope to have several more telephone town halls this year. Since many phones are not listed, if you want to make sure you are included, please send us an email at villagenews@vofp.com with your name, address and your current phone number.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN



Village Receives Prestigious Financial Award

The Village of Franklin Park has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

"This is a noteworthy achievement and I want to congratulate our Village Comptroller Ron Heller and his staff for their commitment to applying the highest principles and best practices to our budgeting and reporting," stated Mayor Pedersen. "They have worked hard to develop processes that have professionalized our operations and have created a transparent process that accurately reflects our true financial position." Last year Standard and Poor's issued an investment grade bond rating to the Village, making it the first time in Franklin Park's history that the Village's finances received an investment grade rating on its own and without credit enhancement.

"Our financial position continues to improve, thanks to the tireless efforts of our staff and the leadership of our Board," added Pedersen. "I believe that during challenging economic times, taxpayers deserve strong financial management and accountability. We have worked hard to put the village on solid financial footing through good management and adherence to generally accepted accounting practices. This award demonstrates that our effort has paid off."

"The fact that we have put our financial house in order, in the midst of a recession, is evidence of what dedicated professionals can accomplish when they work together. I am very proud of our team who work diligently to meet the needs of our residents and businesses," Pedersen concluded.

Chicago Raises Village's Water Rates

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel passed a 25% increase in water fees for the Village of Franklin Park beginning this year and a 15% increase for each of the next four years. This enormous increase is a \$650,000 hit to the Village's budget for this year. Our neighbors are equally affected and we are working with the West Central Municipal Conference to uncover ways that we can reduce this staggering increase. We will keep you posted on our progress.

We know any increase at this time is a difficulty. Water conservation is one way we can lower our rates and conscious of that, the Village Board of Trustees has passed an ordinance that rewards those who conserve water. If you use less than nine units (6,732 gallons/900 cubic feet) of water per month, you will see no increase in your water rates. If you use more than that, you will see an increase. Your water usage is noted on your monthly bill. Please watch the newsletter and our website for water conservation tips in the months to come.

Water Rates Going Up





ANNUAL Earth Day Celebration April 28



The Park District of Franklin Park invites everyone to come out and celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 28 from noon to 2PM. Bring the whole family to learn more about how you can help conserve energy and save the environment. This year's event will include music, games, a tree planting ceremony and interactive booths featuring energy saving exhibits and information about conservation provided by area organizations and companies. The Earth Day event will be held at North Park, located at 10040 Addison. Admission is FREE! For more information, call 847-455-2852.

Spring is Here

Warmer weather and spring rain will help our grass and weeds to grow. 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.

Street Sweeping

The Village will start street sweeping beginning on April 2nd. Residents should check signs for information on dates, times and restrictions.

Yard Waste Pick-up

Please place your yard waste in brown biodegradable bags and remember to put them out on garbage day with your recycling for pick-up. Pick-up will begin on April 2. Bags are available for purchase at local grocery and hardware stores.

Branch Pick-up

The Village will start branch pick-up on April 16. Please place all reasonably-sized branches where you place your trash, by Monday morning and branches will be picked-up sometime during the week, by the end of Friday. Please check our website for the list of weeks that pick-up is scheduled for during the summer.

Senior Grass Cutting Program – Apply Now

The Village is accepting applications for the Senior Grass Cutting Program now, which will begin in April and run throughout the summer and into early fall. Qualified seniors will pay \$7 per cut. You can obtain an application at Village Hall or by calling 847-671-8240. If you have previously been on the grass or snow program and your health condition has not changed, you will not need to send in a new doctor's note. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited, so please get your applications in as soon as possible.

Time to Plan for Garage Sales

It's time to schedule your garage sale! Residents must register with the Village to hold a sale at 847-671-8242. There is no cost to register and garage or yard sale signs can only be placed on your property. Sales can be held for a maximum of 30 hours within a three day period. Residents are allowed two garage or yard sales per 12-month period, with at least a 3-month period between the two sales. Sale hours must be no earlier than 8AM and must end by 7 PM.

Earth Day

LET'S MOVE!



Loyola Graduate Nursing School students participate in a Let's Move promotional effort at Hester Junior High School recently. The next Let's Move meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 pm in Village Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. To learn more go to www.letsmove.gov and follow us on Twitter at: @letsmoveFP.





Library to Close for Renovations

The Franklin Park Public Library will be closed for renovations beginning Monday, April 16 through Monday, April 30. During the renovation, Reference staff will answer questions via email, Instant Message, or text. Scheduled adult, young adult, and youth programs will be held. People attending the programs are asked to use the north entrance. The book drop will remain available during renovation. For more information, please contact Marie Saeli at 847-455-6016 x226.



Bike Lockers Available at Metra Station

Bicycle lockers, considered to be the safest in the industry, have been located west of the Metra train station and are available for rent. Residents who are interested in renting one on a weekly, monthly or annual basis should contact the Village at 847-671-4800 for information.



50/50 Sidewalk Program – Applications Accepted

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.



Railroad Daze Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are now being sought by the Village to help with activities at Franklin Park's annual Railroad Daze Festival scheduled for June 7 – 10. Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 9 th. For more information on volunteering or to sign-up, email djordan@vofp or call 847-671-4800.



Trap Neuter Return Program in Franklin Park

In 2011, CatVando, was awarded a 2 year grant from PetSmart Charities to reduce the number of cats reproducing in our community and to establish a Community Based Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program in Franklin Park. A TNR Program is the only effective, humane, economical method of caring for the cats while assuring their population doesn't grow. With the cooperation of the Village, it residents, organizations and businesses, CatVando completed 260 TNRs in the first year.

This year they we will be focusing on developing neighborhood TNR teams. CatVando will train, coordinate, support, make clinic appointments, loan equipment, and sponsor the colonies and caretakers in accordance with the Cook County Ordinance, Managed Care of Feral Cats. CatVando will be depending on resident volunteers to do the trapping and aftercare.

Their goal is to TNR at least 380 cats and will help put Franklin Park on the path to achieving the goal of zero or controlled cat growth. Their grant covers about half of the clinic fees and doesn't cover extra medical fees, printed material and supplies. Please watch their website for information on fundraisers at www.Catvando.org.

CatVando will be hosting educational training sessions on the second Sunday of the month from March through October from 1 – 4 PM at the Franklin Park Community Center and on the third Sunday of the month at the Franklin Park Library. Follow them on Facebook at 'CatVando TNR'. If you have cats in need of TNR, email catvandoTNR@yahoo.com.

