

Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER



Mayor's Desk

APRIL, 2013

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

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 is Finally Here

Mother Nature has kept us cool and wet this past month but at last spring has arrived! I know that my family and I are ready to get out of doors to plant our garden, do our spring cleaning and play baseball!

I am pleased to announce that Franklin Park has been awarded a Tree City USA designation. We were recognized for our commitment to tree conservation and for our viable-ongoing tree management program. As part of this designation and Arbor Day, I will be planting four new trees at the Crossing Two location at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Rose/25th Street. The tree planting will take place as we kick-off our Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 27 at 11AM.

Trees provide countless economic and environmental benefits to our community. Did you know that one tree reduces storm water runoff by over 4,000 gallons per year? Healthy trees can increase your property values by over 10% and neighborhoods with more trees have been shown to have a lower crime rate.

Communitrees Partner Program

Franklin Park has joined with Spring Grove Nursery and iTrees.com to offer our residents a convenient way to beautify our landscape. Residents can select and purchase trees online at a 10% discount for planting on your private property.

After ordering at itrees.com, your locally-grown tree will be delivered and planted by a professional. For every ten trees purchased by our residents, Spring Grove Nursery will donate a free tree to the Village. To learn more, visit our website or call 815-448-2138. Remember to indicate the code FRANKLIN PARK to receive your discount. Please note that if you want to purchase a tree for your parkway, you must contact the Village first.

Earth Day Celebration

Each year, more than one billion people participate in Earth Day-related activities, making it the largest civic observance in the world. Communities from approximately 192 countries across the globe voice their concerns for the planet and take action to protect it. Our Village's Annual Earth Day Celebration, sponsored by the Park District of Franklin Park, is scheduled for April 27, from Noon to 2 PM at the Centre at North Park.

Families should plan to attend and learn more about ways to incorporate healthier choices in our daily lives that will help to preserve and protect our environment. This free event will provide information on everything from gardening tips, to ways to increase recycling, to identifying alternative fuel sources.

Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



▶ Mayor Barrett Pedersen is joined by Governor Pat Quinn and Ken Kollar, President of the Chamber of Commerce in welcoming Cortina Safety Products and Digital Realty to Franklin Park. Governor Quinn said he was inspired to see how much Franklin Park is doing on the jobs front and referred to Mayor Pedersen as the Jobs Mayor.

▶ Governor Quinn and Mayor Pedersen thank Jeff Giannelli, President of Cortina Safety Products for bringing his recently acquired company and new jobs to Franklin Park.





FRANKLIN PARK
EST. 1877 • 1000 BROADWAY

Mayor's Desk (Continued from Page 1.)

Franklin Park is committed to being an energy efficient, sustainable community that inspires other communities to incorporate environmentally friendly practices as well. We will continue to 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, and read their article in this newsletter.


BARRETT F. PEDERSEN
MAYOR

Natural Lawn Care is an easy to follow system of taking care of your lawn without the chemicals and inorganic fertilizers that are heavily marketed each growing season. There are a few basic practices at the center of a natural lawn care system. If you are making the switch from conventional lawn care, keep in mind that it will take at least two growing seasons to transition your soil back to health. Providing your soil with good food and nutrition will help make this transition easier.

Remember that lawn care chemicals don't just stay put on the lawns. Kids and pets track them into our homes and they wash into our waterways where they can impact our health and our environment.

The Safer Pest Control Project has resources for homeowners interested in learning more about natural lawn care. Please go to www.spcpweb.org and check out the NLC Calendar Fact Sheet.

Follow these practices for a Healthy Lawn

MOW HIGH Keep your mower blades sharp and cut to 3 inches. Tell your lawn care provider to keep their lawnmower deck high. Wait until the grass is thick and almost tipping over before you mow for the first time this season. This will promote really strong early root growth.

WATER DEEPLY BUT INFREQUENTLY Water long and deep early in the morning or at dusk. Watering at night promotes disease. Make sure your lawn gets at least one inch of water per week. Conserve by not overwatering your lawn.

FERTILIZE CORRECTLY WITH ORGANIC FERTILIZERS Inorganic chemical fertilizers run off easily into our watershed and end up polluting our rivers and lakes. Organic fertilizers are stored in the soil so use only when needed. Also, don't use a pre-emergent (preventative) weed control in April.

USE HAND TOOLS TO REDUCE YOUR WEED POPULATIONS Stop spreading herbicides all over your lawn! It's so much easier to reduce your weed population by pulling by hand, spot spraying if absolutely necessary or using specialized tools.

RESEED AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR Fall and spring are the best times for reseeding. Choose seeds that will be naturally drought resistant and sturdy for our climate. Also, seed and fill in thin or bare areas in your yard. Getting a thick turf is your key to a healthy turf.



Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen, a sustainability advocate, welcomes US Senator Dick Durbin to Sloan Valve to discuss sustainable manufacturing practices.

Basic Steps for a Safe and Healthy Lawn

Is it possible to have a lawn that looks good without using herbicides and insecticides that can harm your family's health and the environment? The answer, happily, is yes. Unlike conventional lawn care, which relies on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to artificially green your lawn, Natural Lawn Care focuses on restoring balance to the soil system, including the microbes, organic matter, soil structure and nutrients that make a lawn healthy. Over time, your lawn will become naturally healthy, green and beautiful, with the added bonus that it will require less watering, fertilizing and mowing, saving you time and money.



Floodplain and Stormwater Improvements Update

In the last few years, the Village has been proactive in identifying the locations and causes of sewer back-up and stream overbank flooding problems within our town and in developing long-term solutions. Three construction projects will be completed this year and two others will be completed next year, that will address several of these problems. First, the Village will repair a low point in the embankment of the Jack B. Williams Reservoir that allows some of the stored floodwater to overflow into the adjoining residential area.

Second, the Village will install a check valve on the north end of the George Street storm sewer to prevent floodwater stored in the Jack B. Williams reservoir from backing up into the sewer and onto the low areas of Nevada Street and Sarah Street.

Third, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is expected to begin construction of the final phase of the Crystal Creek flood control project later this year. This phase will include channel improvements to Sexton Ditch, a tributary of Crystal Creek that flows north near the Tollway Oasis. This project will provide flood relief to the north-central area of the Village.

Two more stormwater improvement projects south of Grand Avenue will be started this year and completed next year. These projects require significant capital funding and time to prepare the engineering design and construction phases. The Village has identified a funding source for these projects. One project involves providing

separate storm and sanitary sewers on Westbrook, Hawthorne, Elder, and Wrightwood to reduce the risk of raw sewage backing up into homes and laying on the streets. As a part of this project, Herick and Richard will be repaved and receive curb repair. The other project involves replacing the failing Silver Creek culvert between Riverside Drive and Park Street with an open, wider, channel that will provide more storm water capacity. Removing the old culvert will also eliminate the restriction that the culvert imposes on flows through Silver Creek, thus helping to reduce flood elevations. Homes north of Grand and south of Belmont between Ernst and Emerson will benefit from these projects as it will remove most of them from flood plain.

Next month we will discuss the Village's efforts to revise the FEMA flood insurance rate maps based on the completion of these above mentioned projects and of the IDNR Crystal Creek project which will enable us to create an up-to-date engineering study for Silver Creek. Revising the flood maps for these two streams could result in the removal of as many as 450 homes and several businesses from the regulatory floodplain; thereby removing the mandatory requirement to purchase costly flood insurance. For more information on any of these projects, call the Engineering Department at 847-671-8304.



Annual Earth Day Celebration - April 27

The Park District of Franklin Park invites everyone to come out and celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 27 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 kite flying, music, games, crafts, and interactive booths featuring energy saving exhibits and information about conservation provided by area organizations and companies. Meet live reptiles and animals, and explore the nature garden at North Park. This fun, family-oriented event is held outdoors at the Centre at North Park, located at 10040 Addison. Admission is FREE! For more information, call 847-455-2852.

New Ordinance Requires Right Turn Only from Elm onto Belmont

A recently passed ordinance created a right turn only option onto Belmont Avenue for motorists traveling southbound on Elm Street. The Elm and Belmont intersection has been a site of numerous serious accidents over the last four years as a result of cars trying to go southbound on Elm and being struck by vehicles traveling east or west on Belmont Ave. This change will greatly reduce traffic flowing through a residential community. "Motorists often speed through this residential area putting children and pedestrians in harm's way," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "This new, right turn only restriction will force motorists out of their way, which should stop them from using Elm Street as a quick route through our Village."

A sign will be installed at the corner of Elm Street and Belmont Avenue immediately to inform motorists and violators will be ticketed by the Franklin Park Police Department. Eventually, a barrier will be placed at the intersection blocking access from southbound Elm beyond Belmont.



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 8 AM and must end by 7 PM.



Street Sweeping The Village will start street sweeping beginning on April 1st. Residents should check posted 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. Allied Waste will begin pick-up on April 1. Bags are available for purchase at local grocery and hardware stores.

Branch Pick-up The Village will start branch pick-up on Monday, April 1. Please place all reasonably-sized branches where you place your trash, by Monday morning and branches will be picked-up sometime by the end of Friday.



Senior Grass Cutting Program – Apply Now The Village is accepting applications for the Senior Grass Cutting Program now, which will run from May until the end of October. 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, but will need to submit an application. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited, so please get your applications in as soon as possible.

Emergency ID Bracelet Program The Village is offering an Emergency ID Bracelet program for Franklin Park residents who have chronic medical conditions. The bracelet provides medical information and medications to emergency personnel during a medical emergency. The cost of the ID bracelet is \$6. If you already have a medical ID bracelet, you can go to Village Hall to complete an application so we can update our files. To purchase a bracelet or for more information, call 847-671-8240.



Trap Neuter Return – Helping to Control Feral Cats CatVando is working to reduce the number of cats reproducing in our community. They utilize a Trap Neuter Return (TNR) Program, which is the only effective, humane and economical method of caring for these cats while assuring their population doesn't grow. For more information go to www.Catvando.org. If you have cats in need of TNR, email catvando@ttnr@yahoo.com.

Farmers' Market to be Held Every Saturday at New Location Franklin Park will expand its Farmers' Market to EVERY Saturday and it will be held at a new location. The market will be EVERY Saturday starting on June 1, from 8 AM to 12 PM at the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and 25th Street (next to the Crossings Condominiums) while the Village pursues a permanent use for this site. This site will be undergoing landscaping to help food vendors come and share their local harvest with Franklin Park residents and visitors. This market will also feature local Franklin Park merchants as well as new vendors selling unique household items. For more information, please call (847) 671-8276.



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 6 – 9. Volunteers are needed to help on Saturday, June 8th. Come out and join the fun. It's a great way to meet new friends and catch-up with our neighbors. For more information on volunteering or to sign-up, email djordan@vofp or call 847-671-4800.



Village Seeks Crafters for First Ever Craft Fair The Village of Franklin Park will host its first ever Craft Fair on Saturday, June 8 from 8 AM to 5 PM. The Craft Fair will be held on the site of our popular, weekly Farmer's Market and during our annual Railroad Daze Festival, an event that draws people from around the metropolitan region. Specifically, we are seeking Crafters who produce jewelry, accessories, clothing and other home-made items for the home. For more information, contact Barb at 847-671-8240.

