



# Village News



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

Roberta Johnson  
Village Clerk

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## Spring is the Time to Switch to Natural Lawn Care

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops. When it rains, the pesticides and fertilizers you put on your lawn can be carried by runoff and end up contaminating a stream or wetland dozens of miles away. Contaminants can also be carried for long distances through the air and deposited on land and in water by rain or fog.



Caring for your lawn in an environmentally sensible way can have a bigger impact than you might think. 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 to make a lawn healthy. Over time, your lawn will become naturally healthy, green, and beautiful. It will also require less watering, fertilizing, and mowing, saving you time and money!

### How to make the switch:

- Choose non-chemical weed controls whenever possible.
- Mulching, spading, hoeing, and pulling up weeds are good ways to avoid weed growth rather than applying weed killer.
- Fertilizing more than the recommended rate does not help plants grow better and often harms them and excess fertilizer will likely wash into streams and rivers killing some species of amphibians.
- Leave the grass clippings from mowing to decompose on your lawn (feeding your lawn this way is equal to fertilizing it once or twice a year).
- Use compost in your garden to develop healthy soils and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Have your soil tested to find out exactly what nutrients it needs to avoid applying unnecessary fertilizers.
- Use organic fertilizers rather than synthetic ones. Organic fertilizers release more slowly into the environment and create healthier soils.
- Apply fertilizer when the soil is moist and lightly water. This will help the fertilizer move into the root zone.
- Minimize the attraction of pests such as rats, therefore reducing the need for pesticides, by moving wood piles away from the house and clearing away weeds, litter, and garbage.

Corn gluten, the by-product of corn processing, contains proteins that inhibit root growth during seed germination for several small-seeded annual and perennial 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.

**Corn gluten is most effective when it attacks a weed just before germination or sprouting. Apply corn gluten in early April or when forsythias begin to bloom.** Choose a product with a high protein content for the most effective results. Check the weather forecast and apply it when it will not likely rain over the next few days. Wet the corn gluten with a soft spray and you are ready to start suppressing weeds! Note that corn gluten will also suppress the germination of turf grass seeds, so either plant these seeds in locations away from corn gluten application or wait four to six weeks after for its herbicidal effects to wear off. You can likely find corn gluten products in the “weed n’ feed” section of your local garden center or online.

To learn more, go to [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides).

## Turn in Expired or Unused Prescription Drugs and Medications

Did you know that medicines that are flushed down the toilet can end up polluting our waterways? Returning unwanted medicines to a take back location is the most environmentally protective way to dispose of unused medications and helps to keep us safe. The Franklin Park Police Department makes it easy for you to drop-off expired or unwanted prescription drugs in the lobby of the police station. Drug drop-off is completely anonymous and available seven days a week. For more information call 847-678-2444. Also, many local pharmacies including Walgreen’s and Osco will take back unused prescription drugs or unwanted medications

## Mayor’s Desk



### When it Snows, Franklin Park Shines

In February, the snow fell and fell and fell again. For some, it was a Winter Wonderland. It all looks so pretty when the snow covers everything like a white blanket. Then as we experienced one large snowfall after another, the drudgery of moving all that snow, day after day started to seem endless. While many found the snow magical, many others found it to be an annoyance. Getting to your job, running your errands, or simply taking out your trash and recycling became a major challenge.

Once again, our Public Works Department did an excellent job in clearing our streets and keeping up throughout the back-to-back snow events. Our dedicated staff put the safety of our residents first. They worked around the clock so we could keep our appointments and get our groceries and prescriptions. Public Works crews responded quickly and efficiently because they were well prepared. The staff is well trained, they keep their equipment in good repair, and they make sure they have adequate supplies so that when we call on them, they answer.

Our residents, senior citizens, business owners, and members of our school board have all expressed their gratitude for our Public Works Department. People who travel through our town to get to work have shared their appreciation for how quickly and thoroughly our crews have cleared snow making our streets easy to navigate after snow events. Our Police and Fire departments work hard to coordinate with Public Works to ensure Village fire hydrants are cleared of snow and that vehicles are moved to allow snow removal. I am proud that our Board and

our staff share a sense of commitment to our Village and for the good service they consistently provide to the community.

Please join me in thanking all who make Franklin Park a great place to live, work and raise a family.

### COVID UPDATE

One of the dangers of an on-going pandemic is that we grow weary of hearing about it.

But because most have followed the public health protocols, the positivity rate is dropping. Some of the restrictions are loosening and we are looking forward to a return to some level of normalcy down the road. The vaccine roll out has begun and more and more of our friends and neighbors are being immunized.

However, a new, more contagious mutation of COVID-19 is spreading rapidly through the nation. If we really want to see an end to this public health crisis, we must continue to adhere to the three W’s. Wash our hands, Wear a mask,

Mayor’s Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



Public Works crews worked around the clock to clear our streets and made getting around a little easier during February’s back-to-back snowstorms.



### ◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

Watch our distance, and make every effort to get vaccinated when it is your turn. We know getting an appointment to get vaccinated has been challenging, but it is worth the effort.

I am also weary. This pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. Franklin Park has navigated this crisis well. I promise a celebration of our great Village at a time when we can safely gather.

Until then, I strongly recommend you sign up to be vaccinated. There is now a vaccination site at Triton College, a convenient location for Franklin Park residents. It is not a drive-up facility and you must have an appointment. Go to [vaccine.cookcountyil.gov](http://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov) to register. You can also register at local pharmacies and with your healthcare provider. We will continue to post updates on our website and the Village's Facebook page.

Stay safe and be well,

**Barrett F. Pedersen**

# VOTE

### Early Voting Available At Village Hall

Early voting for the April 6 Consolidated Election will be available at Village Hall from March 22 through April 5. Please enter the site through the door in the parking lot of Village Hall located at 9500 West Belmont Avenue.

Monday through Saturday, **March 22 – April 5**  
9 AM – 5 PM

Sundays, March 28 and April 4  
10 AM – 4 PM



▲ **Franklin Park Trustee John Johnson received his COVID-19 vaccination and encourages everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they qualify.**



▲ **Colinette Marshall, a local resident and Women's Auxiliary Board member at the American Legion Post 974 was vaccinated in February and looks forward to getting her second shot in a few weeks!**

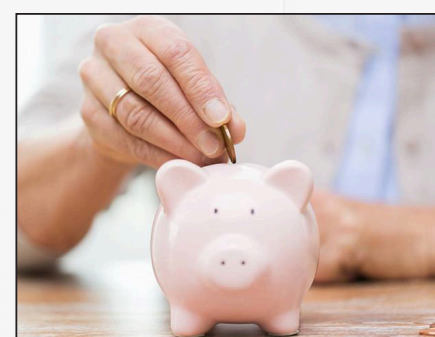
### Franklin Avenue Improvement Project

The Village has completed the design and secured the required federal, state, and county permits for the Franklin Avenue Improvement Project and is anticipating construction to begin in the next few months. The project will improve approximately 2.1 miles of the Franklin Avenue corridor and will include the reconstruction and widening the roadway, the modernization of traffic signals, adding a new storm sewer, installing roadway lighting and the addition of a shared-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Improvements to the Franklin Avenue roadway network will be completed in two phases. The first phase will consist of the construction of a new box culvert at Silver Creek and a new retaining wall under I-294. The second phase will be the reconstruction of Franklin Avenue, anticipated to begin in fall 2021 with expected completion by fall 2023. The Village will be temporarily redirecting traffic onto an alternative detour route that will divert traffic away from the project construction area. The detour will last approximately four weeks. Local traffic will be able to access the project area and driveways. The map details the proposed detour to provide safety for motorists and construction workers during the construction phase.



Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this improvement. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Project Manager, Jimmy Samaniego of Smith LaSalle Consulting Engineers at [jsamaniego@smithlasalle.com](mailto:jsamaniego@smithlasalle.com) or 312-447-1134.



### Free Tax Counseling for Senior Citizens

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of West Suburban Cook and Southern DuPage Counties, sponsored by Triton College in River Grove, is offering the Internal Revenue Service's Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), a free program for individuals aged 60 and older from low-to-moderate income households. The Triton College RSVP Volunteer Program is currently offering this FREE service by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3895 on Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 3 PM or on Friday from 9 AM to Noon.

### Leyden Family Services Needs Donations

Leyden Family Services desperately needs towels (new or clean, usable used) and toiletries for its SHARE location. Please call Bruce at (847) 451-5077 to arrange pickup or drop off. Donations can also be brought to the Chamber headquarters 9524 Franklin Avenue on Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 5 PM. SHARE also needs new lightweight twin size blankets for in-house patients. Due to health and sanitation reasons, they cannot accept bedding items. SHARE is an addiction rehabilitation facility that offers inpatient 24/7/365 care and that requires linens, toiletries, towels, wash cloths etc. for their patients.

