



### Mayor's Desk

Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



Barrett F. Pedersen  
Mayor

Irene Avitia  
Village Clerk

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847-678-2444

**Village Hall  
will be  
closed  
April 19  
and 20**

### Is the SNAP Program Right for You?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was formerly known as food stamps and currently helps to pay for groceries for over 188,000 senior citizens throughout Illinois. SNAP recipients get a LINK card, like a debit card, that can be used in local stores.

A special presentation to discuss the SNAP program will be hosted by Age Options on Tuesday, April 16 at 11 AM. It will take place at the Franklin Park Library, located at 10311 Grand Avenue. The presentation will also outline how to apply for the SNAP program and staff will screen attendees to determine their eligibility. No registration is required to attend.



### Apply Now for Senior Grass-Cutting Program

The Village is currently accepting applications for the Senior Grass Cutting Program, which will run from April until the end of October. Qualified seniors will pay \$11 per cut. Applications have been mailed to past participants. New applicants should go to Village Hall or call 847-671-8240 to apply. 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 again this year. You must be living on the premises to qualify. Space is limited so please apply early!



### Community Garden Space Available

Did you know that the Village has a Community Garden available to residents interested in growing flowers, vegetables and herbs? It is located between the Veteran's Memorial and Village Hall on Belmont Avenue. If you are interested in learning more or want to reserve a growing space, call Andy Smolen at 847-708-2963. Please note that if you reserve a space, you must commit to regularly maintaining and weeding the area.



### Village Offering Trees for Parkways

This spring, the Village will plant trees on parkways, at no cost to residents. If you would like a tree planted in your front parkway, contact the Utilities Department at 847-671-8252.



**Save the Date – Franklin Park Fest Featuring Railroad Day will be held on June 6 – 9!** If you would like to be a volunteer at our annual Railroad Day on Saturday, June 8, please call Dafne at 847-671-8236. Volunteers will receive a newly designed Franklin Park Fest t-shirt and a free meal!

### Earth Month

Every April, people across the globe celebrate Earth Day. But in Franklin Park we take sustainability very seriously. So, we are designating April as EARTH MONTH!

Earth Day was established in 1970 to focus on how we can best maintain and sustain our planet's precious resources. Protecting those resources is a solemn commitment we must undertake every day. The earth is our home, and charity begins at home.

The Village will participate with the Park District of Franklin Park at their free annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 20 from Noon to 2 PM at North Park. There will be a variety of sustainability vendors participating including a demonstration on how to recycle correctly. If you have recycling questions, check our Recycling Guide on the Village website.

The Village will have electronic recycling available and will also collect old cell phones. The Village will take your expired or unused medications so that they can be disposed of safely. Never flush medications; they will taint our water supply.

### Protecting Our Species

The conservationist and author Rachel Carson warned in 1962 that "In nature, nothing exists alone."

Man's activities on the planet affect every living thing. We are all interconnected. We need to be conscious of our environmental footprint. Every species that is lost is an irreversible ecological crisis for our planet.

Climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, unsustainable agriculture, pollution and pesticides are causing us to lose species every day. The impacts are far reaching.

It's imperative that we educate ourselves about how to control our footprint, limit carbon emissions and reuse and recycle consumer products. Along with the Village's Sustainability Page on our website, our Library is an excellent source for information on how we can include sustainable activities into our everyday life.

Simple things such as using public transportation, utilizing our bike and walking paths and mulching grass clippings and leaving them on your lawn, or composting them, are important steps in preserving our species and our planet.

### Tree Planting Events

Franklin Park is not only committed to



Mayor Barrett Pedersen recently participated in a Chair Zumba class at the Park District's Centre at North Park.



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preserving our trees, but also to expanding our tree canopy. Trees provide shade and help to decrease temperatures by 2 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit. Trees purify our air by removing air pollution and capturing storm water runoff which lightens the load on the Village's sewers. Urban planners suggest that more green urban space invites pedestrian traffic and fosters community pride, which in turn helps to deter crime.

There will be two tree planting events this year. Everyone is welcome to attend. Prior to the Park District's Earth Day event, join us on Saturday April 20, at 10 AM at 3102 Mannheim. Parking will be available on Houston St, behind 3102 Mannheim.

We will also plant trees in honor of Arbor Day on Saturday April 27, at 10 AM at 10035 Grand Avenue on the parkway in front of U. S. Bank.

  
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### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Available

Cook County residents can dispose of household hazardous waste in an environmentally-friendly manner on Saturday, April 13, from 8 AM to 3 PM at the Brookfield Zoo in the North Parking Lot at 8400 W. 31st Street.

Items that will be accepted include medicines, chemical cleaners, aerosol and oil-based paints, paint thinners, antifreeze, weed killers, insecticides, pesticides, and similar hazardous household products. Batteries and electronic waste will also be collected. Smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, controlled substances and sharps will not be accepted. Latex paint is not considered hazardous; it can be dried and put out you're your regular trash.

Contractor, agricultural, business, governmental, commercial, industrial, school or public works wastes cannot be accepted. Please contact the MWRD, the event organizer, with questions at 312-751-6633.

### Village Introduces New WaterSmart Program



Franklin Park residents can sign-up to have access to a new innovative program designed to help you reduce your water usage and save you money on your monthly water bills. WaterSmart is an online program that allows users to review and understand their water use. Setting up an account is fast, easy and free. You can sign up for your personal account profile on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Once you have logged into your WaterSmart account, you can analyze your current water use and also review your usage history from monthly figures even down to an hourly use. The program also allows you to set up alerts via text or email to help you detect leaks or other unintended water use. In addition, the program allows you to compare your water use with other similar users in your area.

WaterSmart is available now but you must enroll to participate by calling 847-671-8252.

### Students Can Apply Now for Summer Job with the Village

The Village is currently hiring students for part-time summer jobs at Village Hall and in the Public Works Department. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, currently enrolled in high school or college and have a "C" average. Salary begins at \$9 per hour. Go to [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) to download an application and guidelines for the program.





THE PARK DISTRICT OF FRANKLIN PARK INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR ANNUAL



**SATURDAY APRIL 20**  
**12:00 - 2:00 PM AT NORTH PARK**

**Free Event!**

Our annual Earth Day celebration is a community gathering featuring many activities and organizations. This fun, family-oriented event is free to attend. Explore the nature garden at North Park & learn how to keep our earth clean!



### Yard Waste Pick-up and Street Sweeping Has Begun

Place yard waste in brown biodegradable bags that can be purchased at local grocery and hardware stores. Put yard waste bags out on garbage day with your recycling. Consider starting a backyard compost pile or using a mulching mower instead of bagging your waste to help you and the Village to save money!

The Village has started street sweeping which will continue through the fall. Please check posted signs for information on dates, times and parking restrictions. If you have questions, please call 847-671-8200.

### Leyden Family Services at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall to help residents apply for government assistance programs from 9 to 11:30 AM on Wednesday April 10 and 24 and on May 8 and 22. They can also help you understand your medical bills, provide prescription assistance and assist you in applying for license plate discounts and free train and bus passes. Go to [vofp.com](http://vofp.com) BEFORE you visit to see the list of items to bring with you.

