

# Village News



YOUR FRANKLIN PARK NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2014

## Mayor's Desk

FROM MAYOR BARRETT F. PEDERSEN

# Spring is FINALLY Here!

*'Oh, to be in Franklin Park now that April is here!* Maybe that is not exactly what poet Robert Browning wrote; he said England. But all of us who have endured this long, brutal winter are wholeheartedly welcoming spring. This winter weather has taken a toll on our homes, our yards and our spirits.

Now is the time to check the condition and working order of a few things around the house. Gutters and downspouts should be clean, unobstructed and with no leaks. Drainage should flow away from the house and residents should consider installing a rain barrel. Windows should be checked for cracks, torn screens, broken hardware and dried out or damaged caulk. Also, check for leaky faucets and appliances inside the home to both conserve water and help reduce the cost of your monthly water bill.

When we can get in our yards, I strongly urge you to consider natural lawn care. This limits pollutants going into our groundwater and is better for our air quality. Pesticides and weed killers used on our lawns come into our homes and can cause illnesses. The Village utilizes natural lawn care on all its properties. Helping our environment can be as simple as using organic plant based fertilizers and weed deterrents, including corn meal gluten, planting native grasses and ground covers that require less fertilizer and water and watering only in the cool, early morning hours. For more information on natural lawn care, please visit [www.midwestpesticideaction.org](http://www.midwestpesticideaction.org) or our website to download details.

are again partnering with the Park District in their annual Earth Day celebration. This free event will be held at their Centre at North Park on Saturday, April 26 from Noon until 2PM. This family friendly event will feature music, games, crafts and an expanded Sustainability Fair. Interactive booths will offer opportunities to learn more about conserving natural resources, using rain barrels, environmentally safe cleaning methods and alternative energy sources. We will also look at ways to increase recycling through a contest where winners get prizes for identifying what is recyclable and what is not.

To aid in your spring cleaning, a recycling area will be set-up. Various organizations will be on hand to collect a variety of items. Savers will take clothing, the Lions Club will collect eye glasses and the American Legion will collect old flags and dispose of them properly.

Our E-Recycling Container will be available for your electronic recycling and items can include computer equipment, batteries, cell phones and televisions. You can find a complete list of what items can be recycled, including electronics, on page 3.

I am inviting everyone to join me at 11AM on April 26 to kick off our Earth Day celebration as we plant trees on the corner of Ruby and Pacific. Trees not only beautify our Village, they provide economic and environmental benefits as well.

I hope you enjoy our Spring weather, our Earth Day activities and are getting ready for summer. We have waited a long time.

## Earth Day Celebration - April 26

Franklin Park is working to be a model of sustainable communities. Toward that goal, we



Mayor's Desk Continued on Page 2. ▶



## The Village of FRANKLIN PARK

Barrett F. Pedersen  
MAYOR

Tommy Thomson  
VILLAGE CLERK

### TRUSTEES:

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POLICE & FIRE  
(NON-EMERGENCY)  
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VILLAGE HALL HOURS  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.  
8-4:30 pm  
Wed. 8-6 pm  
Sat. 9-12 pm

Village Hall will be closed  
on Friday & Saturday,  
April 18 and 19.



## Mayor's Desk

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### Tax Help Available

Spring is also tax time. Governor Quinn has doubled the value of the Earned Income Tax Credit, increasing tax relief for working families. There is FREE taxpayer assistance for seniors and families that qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The tax assistance site is at Leyden Township's Carl Fiorito Center at 2601 North Mannheim. Take advantage of this free assistance by calling 708-456-0300 ext.3895 to make an appointment.

### Street Repair Referendum Passes!

The referendum to allow the Village of Franklin Park to levy a 1% sales tax passed in the March 18 primary by 63%. When the Village Board of Trustees approves the sales tax, the funds raised will be dedicated to much needed street repair and maintenance. This tax will not be placed on groceries or medicine.

Passing this referendum will improve public safety, allow our Village to stay competitive in attracting new businesses and investment and lessen damage to our vehicles. This is a great step forward in revitalizing our Village without relying on property taxes.

As we progress with our streets program, we will keep you informed of upcoming street repairs and maintenance schedules. Thank you to the Citizens Advisory Committee for their work on exploring solutions to our infrastructure challenges. If you would like to help prioritize our projects and revenue expenditures, call 847-671-8235 or email Mayor@vofp.com.

*Barrett F. Pedersen*  
**BARRETT F. PEDERSEN**

Members of the Franklin Park Fire Department pose with St. Baldrick's volunteers at a fundraiser to fight pediatric cancer.

## Franklin Park Focus: Heroes Raise Over a Million Dollars to Fight Cancer!

This month's FOCUS features another story about our caring, compassionate community and the dedicated citizens and staff that give their all to help others. Nothing is more important to our community than the health and safety of our children.

We all know our firefighters are heroes, but their generosity and commitment to battling childhood cancer is truly courageous. For over eight years, our Franklin Park Fire Department has supported St. Baldrick's with an annual fundraiser to fight pediatric cancer. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and to give survivors long, healthy lives.

Every year, through the heroic efforts of our firefighters, Fire Chief Steven Iovinelli and Event Coordinator Extraordinaire, Lt. Dan Colantuono, the fundraiser has grown in size and donations.

This year the event has exceeded the \$1,000,000 mark in total monies raised. There are over 3600 St. Baldrick's events held annually across the globe. The Franklin Park Fire Department, with its record-breaking fundraising, is in the top 1% of all events!

"It's a privilege for me to thank all the generous donors and our firefighters, who volunteer their time, for helping this cause. It is a reflection of the character of our community that we have exceeded \$1,000,000 raised. Our success would not be possible without the leadership of our coordinator Lt. Dan Colantuono. He deserves a special thank you from all of us," Chief Steve Iovinelli stated.

"We are proud of the part we have played in helping St. Baldrick's Foundation. But each year over 175,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. Our work will not be over until cures are found," Chief Iovinelli concluded.

To contribute to the St. Baldrick's Foundation, go to the St. Baldrick's web site at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org) and search Hanging Gardens Banquet.





# Earth day

## Earth Day Celebration at North Park

The Park District of Franklin Park invites families to attend their annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday April 26 from 12 -2:00 PM at North Park. This free, family-friendly event features music, games, crafts, and a recycled art contest, a special 50th anniversary tree planting ceremony, a planting station and informational booths hosted by District 84 and 212. These booths educate participants how to conserve energy and protect the environment. Watch our Facebook Page for updates!

### Bring the following items to be recycled at the event:

- The Village will have the E-Recycling Bin to collect electronic recycling. Acceptable items include: Monitors, Laptops, TVs, Computers, Printers, Phones and Cell Phones, Stereos, Game Consoles, DVD & VCR players, Scanners, Copiers, Keyboards & Mice, Fax Machines, MP3/iPod players, All other computer parts, Electric Typewriters, UPS Batteries, Electric Cash Registers, Microwaves, Toaster Ovens, Curling Irons, Hair Dryers and Electronic Tools.
- Savers will collect gently used clothing and small household items.
- The Franklin Park Manila Lions Club will collect old prescription eyeglasses.
- The American Legion Post #974 will collect American flags and will properly dispose.
- Donate old cell phones to the Cook County Sheriff's Department who will utilize in an emergency alert effort for senior citizens.
- Donate a used book to the Franklin Park Library and select a used book to take home.
- Our local Boy Scout Troop will collect used Christmas lights and electrical cords.

Be sure to visit additional interactive booths hosted by The Park District of Franklin Park, The Village of Franklin Park, Com Ed, Triton College, The Edible Garden Club, Care of Trees, The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Allied Waste, A Pest Control, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and many more!



## Plant a Tree with the Communitrees Program

The Village is partnering with Spring Grove Nursery to again offer residents the Communitrees Program. Residents wishing to plant a tree on their private property can simply go to [www.itrees.com](http://www.itrees.com) and use discount code "Franklin Park" to receive a 10% discount on a diverse selection of trees. A locally-grown tree will be delivered and planted by a professional. For more information, call 815-448-2138. If you would like to plant a tree on your parkway, you must contact the Village first.

## It's Time to Schedule Your Garage Sale

Franklin Park residents must register with the Village to hold a garage sale. You can visit Village Hall or call the Clerk's Office at 847-671-8242. There is no cost to register. Remember, a garage or yard sale sign 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 cannot be earlier than 8 AM and must end by 7 PM.



Mayor Barrett Pedersen helps to serve lunch to our senior citizens at the Park District's Centre at North Park recently as part of the Mayors for Meals on Wheels program.



## Apply Now for Senior Grass-Cutting Program

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!

## Grass Cutting for Seniors



## Street Sweeping Has Started

Street sweeping operations have begun and will continue through the fall. Residents should check posted signs for information on dates, times and parking restrictions. If you have questions, please call 847-671-8200.



**Street Sweeping has begun.**

**Watch for signs.**

## Branch Pick-Up is Underway

The Village has initiated its branch pick-up program for 2014. Please place all reasonably-sized branches where you place your trash by 7 AM on Monday of the pick-up week. Branches will be picked-up sometime by the end of Friday.

## Branch Pick-Up



Pick-up dates for 2014 are April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19, June 2, 16 & 30, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20 and November 3. These dates are subject to change due to storm-related clean-up. If you have questions regarding size and weight restrictions, please call 847-671-8217.

## Village Seeks Food Vendors for Railroad Daze

The Village is inviting area restaurants to participate in our annual Railroad Daze Festival! Sign-up now and reserve your space as a food vendor at the event during the evenings of June 12 & 13 and during the day and evening of June 14. Participants from around the metropolitan region flock to the festival to sample the food, enjoy the carnival, view the train display and listen to the musical talent. This opportunity offers great exposure to our local community. For more information, please email [bcollins@vofp](mailto:bcollins@vofp) or call 847-671-4800.



## Library Celebrates Anniversary with the Community

The Franklin Park Library will celebrate its 115th Anniversary on Saturday, April 26, at 1 PM. Everyone is invited to join the celebration which will include speeches, a brief presentation, a barber shop quartet performance, refreshments and more! Participants will also be able to view an exhibit of library history that will be on display throughout the building. For more information, call 847.455.6016 x226.



## 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, economical method of caring for these cats while assuring their population doesn't grow and remains healthy. Once TNR'd, cats will not roam as much and nuisance behaviors disappear, including yowling, fighting and spraying. If you have cats in need of TNR, complete an ON Line TNR application on the CatVando Homepage and attend a TNR Workshop at the Community Center on the first Saturday of each month at 1pm. Please check their website for information on how you can help at [www.catvando.org](http://www.catvando.org). To follow their work, 'like' them on Facebook CatVando TNR.

**Feral Cats Trap Neuter Return**

