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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 21, 2011

For More Information

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POLICY TO REDUCE USE OF PESTICIDES ON VILLAGE-OWNED PROPERTY

Village Encouraging Residents and Businesses to Adopt Similar Practices

Franklin Park, IL - Village President Barrett Pedersen announced today that the Village recently approved a resolution supporting a sustainable pest control and pesticide reduction policy for all Village-owned property. The policy applies to all Village-owned or leased property and is part of an overall effort by the Village to limit the use of pesticides which are potentially hazardous to human health and economically unsustainable.

"I am pleased that we have been able to take action to curtail the use of pesticides in our Village," stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "Traditional pesticides are linked to a variety of known adverse health outcomes in people and pose a dangerous economic impact on our water, air, soil and fisheries. There are effective alternatives that do not involve poisons for controlling most pests. Preventing exposure to these potentially toxic pesticides is not only good policy, but is also good economic sense."

Studies have found links between the use of lawn pesticides and certain cancers, asthma, and could weaken a child's immune functions. In addition, pesticides degrade the soil by killing beneficial organisms and bacteria and pollute the water by leaching down into aquifers, rivers and can seep into our drinking water. They have been found to be a potential cause of loss of fisheries. Pesticides can even harm our pets who also track the dangerous chemicals into our families' homes.

The Village has embraced Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a proven method of pest control that emphasizes simple, inexpensive prevention practices that cause the least harm to people and are economically sustainable. IPM focuses on eliminating the cause of pests by minimizing access to food, water, and hiding places.

MEDIA RELEASE (continued)

“By embracing a policy comprised of sustainable pest control practices, including natural lawn care and integrated pest management, we hope to serve as an example to encourage residents to embrace similar practices for use on their own properties,” said Pedersen.

The Village recently purchased earth-friendly landscaping materials including those produced from corn gluten and hosted a community presentation to promote the benefits of switching to natural lawn care. The resolution allows the Board the right ability to suspend the pesticide restrictions if a pest outbreak arises and is deemed an immediate health threat to the public.

“I am proud of the commitment the Village of Franklin Park is making in the area of sustainability,” concluded Pedersen. “In Franklin Park, we are committed to our physical and economic health. We are applying for a Tree City designation that will allow us to access more grants for sustainable improvements. We are encouraging our residents to make the switch to natural lawn care. It is our goal to be a green, energy efficient, sustainable community that serves as a model for other cities.”

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