



Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen



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Mayor

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Emergency 911

Police & Fire
(Non-Emergency)
847-678-2444

Summer Jobs Available for Students



Part-time job openings in the Village's Public Works Department and at Village Hall are available for the summer. 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. To apply or obtain more information, call (847) 671-8282 or go to vofp.com for an application and guidelines for the program.

Schedule Your Garage Sale

It's time to plan your garage sale and sell your stuff to someone else! Residents must register with the Clerk's office by calling 847-671-8242, by visiting the Clerk's Office at Village Hall or via our website at vofp.com, one week prior to the sale. There is no cost to register. 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. Sale hours cannot be earlier than 8 AM and must end by 7 PM. There is a limit of 2 garage sales per year per address.



Seniors to Apply Now for Grass-Cutting Program



The Village is accepting applications now for the Senior Grass Cutting Program, which will run from April until the end of October. Qualified seniors will pay \$10 per cut. Applications are being mailed to past participants. New applicants should go to Village Hall or call 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, apply early.

Yard Waste and Street Sweeping Begins

Place yard waste in brown biodegradable bags and put out on garbage day with your recycling. Purchase bags at local grocery and hardware stores. Residents can select alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles to help you and the Village to save money!

Village street sweeping has begun. Please check posted signs for information on dates, times and parking restrictions. If you have questions, please call 847-671-8200.



Apply for Sidewalk Program by May 1



The Village is accepting applications now for the 50/50 Sidewalk Program to replace damaged and cracked concrete on the public sidewalk near your home. Homeowners and the Village share the cost evenly. Please call at 847-671-8217 to be placed on the list for this summer. The Village will contact you to make an appointment to discuss the details. If you apply after May 1, you will be placed on the list for next year.

Mayor's Desk

Welcome Spring to Franklin Park

In Franklin Park, we are ready to embrace springtime and renew our commitment to being a sustainable community. Whenever possible, the Village aims to make financially-smart decisions that also help to preserve our environment.

I am pleased that our residents have actively embraced recycling. We have a handy Recycling Guide on our website that indicates which items can or cannot be recycled. As a reminder, please do not place plastic bags in your recycling cart. Plastic bags get caught in the equipment at recycling centers and stop or break the machinery. You can bring your discarded plastic bags and plastic wrap to our local Jewel and they will be recycled properly by the store.

Is it possible to have a lawn that looks good without using harmful herbicides and insecticides? The answer 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 nutrients that make a lawn healthy. Visit our Sustainability Page on the website to learn more about making the switch to natural lawn care this year.

Tree Planting on Earth Day

Franklin Park is proud to have a Tree City USA designation. Please plan to join me at 10:30 AM on Saturday, April 21 as we plant more trees at 9659 West Grand Avenue. Then head over to the Park District's Earth Day celebration at North Park from Noon to 2 PM. Remember to bring your electronics, and cell phones for recycling, and any medications

and unused prescription drugs so that they can be safely disposed.

Quiet Zone Update

The Village has received verbal notification that we have been approved for a \$1.1 million Pedestrian Rail Safety Grant! The grant will fund a significant portion of the safety improvements needed at the pedestrian crossing at the Calwagner and 25th Street grade crossing and at the Metra Station. Next, we will be working with Metra to design and construct the safety improvements. The Village will make street improvements including installing a median barrier at 25th and Ruby.

Watch this newsletter and our website for updates as we move closer to obtaining a Quiet Zone Designation in Franklin Park!

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Mayor Barrett Pedersen was inducted to the Triton College Alumni Wall of Fame last month



Understanding Your Water, Sewer and Garbage Fee

Last month all account holders saw a \$5 processing fee included on their water, sewer and garbage bill. Many of you had questions about what this fee covers and why it was necessary. This fee covers the various costs related to processing the monthly water bills as well as printing and mailing the bills and newsletter to all businesses and households.

It is also important to note that the processing fee covers the administrative staffing costs required to produce a monthly reading which includes data input, verifying and maintaining residential and business accounts, managing and updating billing software, tracking and billing late fees to delinquent accounts and conducting hearings for users who need payment plans established. Also, Village personnel spend a considerable amount of time on the collection process for delinquent accounts including producing and mailing late notice letters, door tagging, sending shut off letters, shutting off water and sending accounts to a collection agency.

In addition, the staff monitors and reviews accounts regularly to identify unusual spikes in water consumption and notifies users that a possible leak has been detected on the property. Often, this requires a site visit and assistance in locating a service provider to fix the plumbing problem.

Staff time is also spent on garbage billing each month as well as time to verify that garbage is removed by various haulers and department personnel in a proper and timely manner.

This processing fee does not establish any new revenue for the Village. It does help defray some of the cost in order for the Village to provide free monthly garbage service to our senior citizens.

We are sorry if there was confusion regarding the processing fee. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact our Water Billing Specialist Ewelina at 847-671-8252.

Village Hosting Free Seminars on Identity Theft and Reverse Mortgages



Scams, including identity theft are often very difficult to recognize. To help you learn more about how to protect yourself, attend the FREE seminar on **Thursday, April 12 at 10:30 AM**, at the Community Café in the Park District's North Park facility at 10040 Addison.

A representative from the Office of Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza will discuss how you can identify potential scams and frauds and learn about

ways you can protect yourself against falling victim to identity theft. The discussion will include ways to safeguard your personal information and how to keep it out of the hands of identity thieves.

Turn on the TV and you will probably see an ad for reverse mortgages. But do you really understand how they work? You can learn more about the advantages and disadvantages of reverse mortgages versus other financial alternatives at a **FREE seminar on Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 PM** in the Community Room of the Police Station, located at 9451 West Belmont.

Registration is not required for either seminar. These events will also include information from other organizations that serve our community. Refreshments will be served too! For more information, call 847-671-8236.

IEPA Loans to Fund Large Multi-Year Infrastructure Project

The Village is in the process of applying for two low interest loans from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) which are available to qualified municipalities to support improving their water and sewer systems. The loans would allow the Village to continue to fund much needed improvements in the Reuter Sub-division, including replacing sewer and water mains and increasing storm-water capacity to help direct urban flooding to the streets.

Currently the Village does not generate enough revenue from water and sewer sales to demonstrate the ability to pay back the loans. Water usage has decreased by at least 20%, primarily as a result of large industrial users using innovative cooling techniques that require using less water. In order to qualify for the loans, the Village will be instituting a 15% increase in water and sewer rates effective with May water bills. This will allow the Village to certify they have the ability to pay existing debts and the new loans.

The IEPA loans carry an interest rate that is substantially lower than the interest rate available on the open market and would save the Village approximately \$2.4 million over the life of the loans.

The mammoth infrastructure project is expected to take place over a seven to ten year period, is estimated to cost \$10 to \$14 million and will encompass the area south of Grand Avenue to Fullerton and many of the streets east of 25th. Additional funding from the Village's Non-Home Rule Sales Tax would pay for a complete rebuilding of the failed roadways in the area.



EARTH DAY!
Celebration

FREE

ALL AGES

We invite you to be a part of this community wide celebration of Earth Day! Our celebration includes interactive booths, vendors, music, games and a whole lot of learning about the importance of keeping our Earth clean. Our goal is to provide families with information on how they can make a difference in their everyday lives. This family-oriented event is free to attend and is held outdoors at North Park.

Day	Date	Time
Sat	Apr 21	12-2pm

Location:North Park

847-455-2852

www.fpparks.org

Park District
of FRANKLIN PARK