

Village News



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Mayor's Desk

World Honey Bee Day – Protecting Our Food Supply and Our Planet

The Village will celebrate World Honey Bee Day on Saturday August 20 by hosting an informative and fun-filled community event. The day will focus on building awareness of the importance of preserving the health and habitat of the honey bee. The honey bee is an essential pollinator which is crucial to protecting the world's food supply. We rely on bees and other pollinators to protect our food systems and each day one out of every three foods we consume relies on pollination.

Over the last decade, experts have reported a severe decline in bee populations which has been blamed on the rampant use of pesticides, industrial farming techniques, and climate change. If bees and other pollinators are at risk, the entire food production system is at risk, and so are we. Without bees, the availability and diversity of fresh produce would decline substantially, and human nutrition would likely suffer.

Please join us Saturday, August 20 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Hammill Square to learn more about how bees are the cornerstone of our food system and how they benefit people, plants, and the environment. There will be informational vendors, games, giveaways, and a demonstration of how honey is extracted from an active beehive. You can also sample honey from the Village's beehives installed on the rooftop of the Water Department Garage.

Suicide Crisis Hotline 988 Announced

The challenging events of the last two years have made us all more aware of how critical it is to take care of our mental health.

An increase in suicide, along with substance abuse, have helped to foster a mental health crisis across the country. In response to this growing crisis, the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and various state resources are supporting the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Resolution Hotline.

This nationwide phone number, previously known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, connects callers directly to a counselor with the training to assist people in crisis. Too many people experience suicidal thoughts or mental health-related distress with nowhere to turn for help. Reaching out for help through the 988 system will deliver the support and care needed.

To help prepare for a forecasted rise in demand, the federal government has made a significant investment in the network by dedicating \$432 million, up from \$24 million, toward building the capacity of local and backup call centers and providing associated services, including a

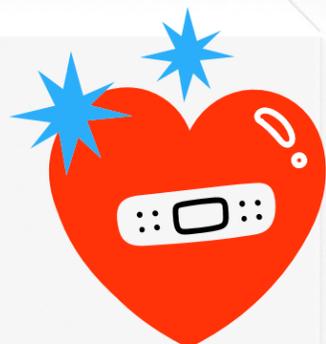


Complete the Water Service Line Survey

Homeowners can complete a survey to determine how many lead service lines are still in use in the Village with the goal of eventually replacing them. The survey will ask you to identify the type of material used in your water service. The survey is available, along with the instructional brochure to help you identify the material of your water service, on the Village website at vofp.com. You can download the survey and mail or bring it to the Village, or email the completed survey to the following address: servicesurvey@vofp.com.

Community Blood Drive – September 2

The next community Blood Drive will be held on Friday, September 2 from 3 until 7:30 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station in the Community Room. If you are able, please consider giving blood. Thank you for providing the gift of life to someone in need!



BE A HERO
Donate blood

Claim Your Cash at the State Treasurer's Office

The State Treasurer's Office is holding more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed funds for Illinoisans. The State holds these lost funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property can include checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, over payments, insurance checks, payroll checks, utility refunds, money orders, un-cashed checks, dividends, stocks, bonds, contents of safe deposit boxes, and more. All property is returned at no cost with the proper identification. Search their database and file your claim online at the Treasurer's Office at icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/.



Village Hall will be closed Monday, September 5 for Labor Day. Please note that trash and recycling pick up will take place on Tuesday, July 6.



◀ Mayor's Desk Continued from Page 1.

subnetwork for Spanish speakers.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a 24/7 national network of more than 200 crisis centers that helps thousands of people overcome crisis situations every day. All calls are confidential.

In 2020 alone, the US had one death by suicide about every 11 minutes. Among people aged 10-34 years, suicide is a leading cause of death.

Please make sure that everyone you know is aware of this life-saving resource.

Call or text 988 for confidential and immediate support and care.

Barrett F. Pedersen



▲ The Village installed five beehives on the roof of the Water Department building to encourage pollination in the community. Without bees, the availability and diversity of fresh produce would decline substantially.

Going Solar Will Save Money on Utility Bills

The Village of Franklin Park has joined communities across the region to spread the word about the advantages of going solar. The Grow Solar Chicagoland program, supported by the Citizens Utility Board, aims to make solar power more accessible and affordable to communities like ours, even if you cannot install solar on your own roof. Participating households have reported a 10% to 20% reduction in their electricity bills per month through the community solar program!

The Grow Solar Chicagoland program allows groups of residents to enter into an agreement (subscribe) to help fund solar panel construction. Then a utility installs, runs, and maintains solar panels somewhere in Franklin Park's "Utility Service Area." Everyone who subscribed then gets credits towards electricity bills equal to the solar panel's output.

Want to learn more? Start by attending a Solar Power Hour. If you missed the event held in Franklin Park, you can still attend one virtually or in-person in the metropolitan area during August and September. To see a listing, go to growsolar.org/chicagoland/. In this hour long presentation you will learn the basics of solar, how it can save you money, and how the solar group buy program works. Next, you will receive a free, no obligation site assessment from a competitively selected solar installer to get the ball rolling on a custom quote for your property. It's that easy!

The Grow Solar Chicagoland program will be offered through September 30, 2022.

Electric Vehicle Rebates Available

Illinois residents who purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer are now eligible for a \$4,000 rebate thanks to the Reimaging Electric Vehicles (REV) Act. To learn more about REV programs and to apply for the electric vehicle rebate, go to vofp.com.

Shop Till You Drop at Village-wide Garage Sale

This is your chance to shop for one-of-a-kind treasures and bargains! Its also a good time to clear out your clutter and sell it to someone else! The Village's annual three-day event will be held on August 19, 20, and 21 from 8 AM to 7 PM. If you would like your address to be included in the sale, please email clerk@vofp.com or call (847) 671-8242. Register no later than August 15 to be included in the list of addresses that are participating. A list of all participating homes will be available few days before the sale starts at Village Hall or on the website at vofp.com.

Leyden Family Services at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall to help residents who have questions or need help applying for government programs like Medicare, Medicaid, LIHEAP and more. Their staff can also help with understanding medical bills, prescription assistance, and more.

Scheduled Village Hall dates are from 9 AM to Noon on August 17 and September 21. No appointment is necessary, but please check the Document Checklist at vofp.com before attending. Bring your Social Security award letter and paycheck stubs that show the amount of income you receive.



▲ Franklin Park residents attended the in-person Grow Solar Chicagoland program presentation and many more participated in the virtual event this summer. You can learn more about reducing your electricity bills and saving the planet by going solar at vofp.com.

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