

2026 Branch Removal Schedule and Yard Waste Information

Regular branch removal service will start the week of April 6. Place reasonably sized branches on the front parkway (not in the alley) by 7 AM on Monday of the removal week indicated below they will be removed sometime by the end of the day on Friday. If your branches are put out after 7 AM on Monday of the designated week it is possible that you could miss the pickup. Branch removal begins promptly and if trucks have already driven through your section of town, your branches will not be collected until the next scheduled pick-up week. If storm clean-up is necessary, workers may need to delay the scheduled removal. Branch collection will resume where we left off the following week.

The following will not be removed:

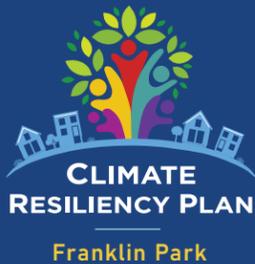
- Branches left out in a tangled mess
- Woody branches under 1/2 inch in diameter
- Large stumps, roots, and root balls
- Wooden fencing and construction lumber
- Branches and tree debris generated by contractors
- Leaves, vines, herbaceous plants, grass clippings, twigs, and weeds should go in a lawn bag for pick up on Tuesday (see Yard Waste Removal information).

Pick up weeks for 2026 are: April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, June 1 & 15 & 29, July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24, September 7 & 21, and October 5 & 19 & 26.

Yard Waste Removal

Yard waste removal will start on Tuesday April 7 and continue every Tuesday until late autumn. Garbage and recycling will continue to be removed on Mondays in Franklin Park.

Yard waste includes only items that will fit in a lawn bag including leaves, vines, herbaceous plants, grass clippings, twigs, and weeds. Branches should be put out for removal on Monday (see Branch Removal information). If you have the reusable yard waste bin provided by Republic Services, use that container for your yard waste. Residents can also purchase brown biodegradable bags. As an alternative, residents can select sustainable ways to eliminate yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders, or backyard compost piles.



VIRTUAL EVENT: Meet the Contractors for the Grand Avenue Greenway Project

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Time: 6 pm

Location: Virtual, Zoom Meeting

Register: Scan the QR code to sign up

(Registration required to receive Zoom link)



Join us for a virtual opportunity to meet the contractors working on the Grand Avenue Corridor Improvements Project. Learn what to expect during construction, ask questions, and connect directly with the project team.

About the project: The \$2.3M Grand Avenue Greenway Project will reduce flooding and heat island effects, improve pedestrian safety and ADA access, enhance corridor aesthetics, and support more than 150 businesses and nearly 4,700 nearby residents. This project is part of the Cook County Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities Program and is funded through ARPA.

Questions? CIScook@cisolutions.com , 708-665-4445

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ALN 21.027 awarded to Cook County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Environment &
Sustainability



THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK

Village News

March 2026



Mayor's Desk

Village Kick's Off Another Busy Year of Street and Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Another busy construction season lies ahead as we move into spring and summer. We will begin new street and infrastructure improvement projects and finish projects that were started last year. We will also hold public meetings to discuss the design phase of projects that will benefit from community input. We will post construction updates, lane closures, and public meeting notices on our Village website and Facebook page.

2026 Infrastructure Improvement Projects

George Street (from Grand Avenue to Franklin Avenue) will receive a full roadway reconstruction and watermain improvements.

Street resurfacing is planned for Medill Avenue, Belden Avenue, and streets west of River Road, including Maple Street, Ashland Avenue, Walnut Avenue, and Exchange Avenue.

A new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of George Street and Grand Avenue this year to reduce congestion and improve safety.

Last year the Robinson Road subdivision received new water mains and lead service line replacements, which caused an unexpected project delay. This spring the project will be completed with the resurfacing of Robinson Road and landscaping restoration.

Roadway resurfacing will take place this spring on Washington Street, from Belmont Avenue to King Street. Sewer mains were installed in 2025 to improve stormwater management and new rain gardens will be added, and trees will be planted this spring.

Stormwater improvements on Crown Road will include storm sewer upgrades and construction of an underground stormwater system. A park will be constructed above the stormwater system at Houston Street and Crown Road. These improvements will address flooding concerns on Crown Road during heavy rainfall events, while also providing a new community green space.

In 2025, Franklin Avenue from Mannheim Bridge to Wolf Road was widened from two-lanes into a modern five-lane industrial avenue. Construction is now underway to connect Franklin Avenue to the new Tollway interchange planned east of County Line Road.

Last year the Village initiated work on the Grand Avenue Climate Resiliency Project. The project supports improvements to reduce flooding, improve pedestrian access and traffic safety, and beautify the corridor along Grand Avenue from Louis Street to 25th Avenue.



Barrett F. Pedersen
Mayor

April Arellano
Village Clerk

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Andy Ybarra

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villagenews@voftp.com

Emergency 911

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

**Village Hall
will be closed
on Friday,
April 3**



Over \$2 million of federal funding will be utilized to install rain gardens, add turn lanes, construct medians with trees and landscaping, and rebuild curbs and sidewalks to enhance ADA handicap accessibility and pedestrian safety. **Please see details about the March 25 Virtual Meeting on Page 4.**

Finally, an open house was held last year to discuss location and design ideas for a vehicular underpass connecting Belmont Avenue to Martens Street and a pedestrian underpass near 25th Avenue. This critically important project would address blocked crossings at the CPKC tracks, causing congestion that impacts emergency vehicles, commuters, students, and the economic vitality of the area. Funding to construct the underpasses has not yet been obtained but the Village looks forward to continued progress in the year ahead.



▲ Mayor Barrett Pedersen at the Underpass Lounge with the restaurant's owner Dave Guerin and Patti Garcia, chief of staff to Congressman Chuy Garcia.


Mayor Barrett F. Pedersen

Passport Service at the Library

The Clerk's Office will provide passport service at the Franklin Park Library by appointment only from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, March 14, and April 18. On-site photo services will be available. To schedule your appointment or if you have questions, call (847) 671-8242. A list of items required to apply is available at vofp.com.

Be Someone's Lucky Charm and You Could Win BIG by Donating Blood

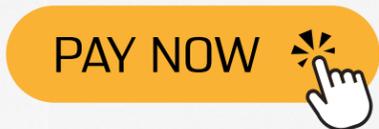
Donate blood from March 1 through April 5 and you will be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card. Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL and use blood drive code: ORD0FR98.

You can also be entered to win by donating at the Community Blood Drive on Friday, March 13, from 3 until 7 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station in the Community Room. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. It could be your lucky day!



Reported Mail Delays in Our Area - Use Online Bill Pay

Residents have informed the Village that they are experiencing on-going mail delivery service delays. As a result, residents are receiving mail from the Village, including their water bills later than in the past. The Village is in contact with the Franklin Park Post Office regarding the service delays and will post updates on our website. Therefore, the Village recommends that residents sign up for the free water bill payment option to avoid slow mail service causing late fees. There is NO convenience fee or any other fee charged for this service. Go to vofp.com to set up your account.



USPS Postmark Changes and Vote by Mail Ballots



Effective January 1, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) changed how it defines a postmark. Previously, a postmark reflected the date mail was received by USPS. A postmark now reflects the date the mail is processed, which may occur days after a voter drops their ballot in the mail. As a result, mail ballots may not be postmarked the same day and could affect whether a ballot meets Illinois' legal requirements to be counted — even when voters follow all existing rules. The Cook County Clerk's Office is strongly encouraging vote-by-mail voters to either bring their ballot directly to a USPS location and request it be postmarked at the counter; or use one of the 55 secure mail ballot drop boxes that will be available throughout suburban Cook County beginning March 2, 2026.

The Early Voting Period for March 17, 2026, Gubernatorial Primary Election will take place daily at Village Hall from Monday March 2, through Monday March 16.

First Week - Monday, March 2 through Sunday, March 8
Monday - Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM

Second Week - Monday, March 9 through Monday, March 16
Monday - Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday: 10 AM to 4 PM
Monday: (3/16) 9 AM to 5 PM (Last Day of Early Voting)

Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day; you must cast your ballot at your designated Polling Place on Election Day. If you have questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at (847) 671-8242. Voters are asked to enter the Early Voting area from the parking lot at Village Hall.



Three Referendums on March 17 Ballot

The Village is seeking resident input through three advisory referendums, which will be on the March 17, 2026, Primary Election ballot. Voters will be asked to vote Yes or No for each of the following questions:

Shall the Village of Franklin Park, Cook County, Illinois, require that all household garbage be placed in plastic bags and deposited into a sealed rodent proof garbage can as part of the village's rodent abatement program?

Shall the Village of Franklin Park, Cook County, Illinois, increase the penalty imposed against any person that fails to promptly remove their dog's feces as part of the village's rodent abatement program?

Shall the Village of Franklin Park, Cook County, Illinois, impose a penalty on any person that tampers with or removes a rodent bait box on public property as part of the village's rodent abatement program?

