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Village launches program to keep community clean, safe, and beautiful

Silvestri encourages homeowners to take pride in community

ELMWOOD PARK – Elmwood Park is launching a Village-wide campaign to encourage all residents, merchants and business owners to do their part in keeping the community clean, safe and beautiful.

“People live and work here because it’s a beautiful community and a wonderful place to live,” Village President Pete Silvestri said. “By stressing to property owners and businesses the need to keep their yards, walks and alleys clean, mowed and free from clutter, we continue our proud tradition and we all benefit.”

On Thursday, July 26, Village Manager Paul Volpe, his staff and nearly every department head will canvass neighborhoods in teams of two, traveling down each and every street and alley throughout Elmwood Park. They will identify homes with high grass or weeds, excess garbage or are in other forms of visible disrepair.

Village code requires property owners to cut grass and weeds and to contain garbage in a way that ensures the health and safety of the community and does not adversely affect the enjoyment of the residential neighborhoods of Elmwood Park. Homeowners will be notified of the apparent violation and what steps they can take to remedy the problem.

“By simply doing the right thing, our residents contribute significantly toward our community's long-standing efforts of maintaining a clean, safe and beautiful community that we can continue to be proud of,” Silvestri said. “Our increased effort to enforce these quality of life ordinances will benefit not only individual residents, but the community as a whole.”

Within about 10 days after the initial canvass, Village Code Enforcement personnel will return to each house or business that was identified as needing some improvement. Individuals who have not followed through with steps to improve the condition of their properties could face significant fines depending on the violation. Anyone who has special needs or is unable to address the needs of their property is encouraged to call the Code Department at 708-452-3920.

“This is not about imposing fines on people. I would prefer that everyone simply take care of their property,” Silvestri said. “That is why I asked the Village Manager to offer a reminder to people first. But,

at the same time, people need to understand that this is a community, and what we do as individuals affects everyone else. We all need to do our part to keep our village clean, safe and beautiful.”

Additional information will be available on the Village website at www.elmwoodpark.org.

Elmwood Park is located approximately 12 miles from downtown Chicago. Incorporated in 1914, the Village is primarily a residential community of single-family homes, newer condominiums and town homes, but also includes several business districts and a small light industrial area.