



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Gary Mack or Wes Bleed

August 1, 2012 [630-357-7552](tel:630-357-7552)

Clean, Safe and Beautiful program already showing results

Homeowners, businesses respond to call to keep Village a great place to live

ELMWOOD PARK – Village President Pete Silvestri's campaign to encourage all residents, merchants and business owners to do their part in keeping the community clean, safe and beautiful is already yielding positive results.

"We're seeing business owners and homeowners take steps to comply with Village code and cut high grass or remove excessive debris," Village Manager Paul Volpe said. Volpe, Village staff and department heads canvassed neighborhoods last week, identifying homes and businesses that need to do a better job keeping their yards, walks and alleys clean, mowed and free from clutter.

"We issued approximately 275 reminders," Volpe said. "Most were for yard maintenance; high grass or weeds. Obviously, most residents and businesses take great pride in their homes and property." Code Enforcement staff will return within 10 to 14 days to see if the problems have been addressed.

Additionally, the Village worked with Metra to dispatch workers Tuesday to cut down high vegetation along the railroad tracks just west of Grand Avenue. "In addition to providing its own laborers, Metra has pledged to provide "flaggers" (look-outs) as early as next week to authorize our Public Works personnel access to the areas near the tracks so we can clean it up even further," Volpe said.

President Silvestri thanked Metra for its assistance. "This is a great example of intergovernmental cooperation, and we're grateful for Metra's help to keep the areas near the tracks clean and safe at no cost to the Village.

Also on Tuesday, seven workers from the Cook County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) joined Village Public Works employees to clean a large area next to the south end of the tracks on Marwood. They removed garbage, debris, tree limbs and cut down vegetation.

The SWAP program, whose participants perform a wide variety of work, is available to municipalities throughout the county. "It was a huge improvement," Volpe said.

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. 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](tel:708-452-3920).

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