

Ranch Triangle Newsletter

January 2020

The mission of the Ranch Triangle Community Conservation Association is to advocate for and on behalf of its residents to improve and sustain a high quality of city life. RANCH seeks to fulfill its mission by supporting responsible development, improving the environment, fostering a thoughtful discussion and resolution of community issues, as well as involvement in charitable and community-building activities.

Alderman Michele Smith and Residents Walk the neighborhood to Identify Needs

About a dozen community residents met with Alderman Michele Smith in late November to walk the Ranch Triangle community area to check out needs and infrastructure problems. Some of the items identified for scheduled maintenance include; sidewalk replacements, street resurfacing, tree pruning and park improvements.

New Green Branch Committee Formed

In October, the board of Ranch Triangle voted to establish an environmental committee. The committee has met a number of times to establish goals and objectives. The mission of the newly named *Green Branch Committee* is to *educate, engage* and *activate* Ranch Triangle residents, and all residents along the North Branch, on sustainability issues impacting our community and city. The Ranch Triangle newsletter will now include a calendar of citywide environmental events, as well as information on various environmental issues and ways to engage in efforts towards sustainability.

Recycle your Christmas Tree/Lights

You can bring your Christmas tree to a recycling station on Fullerton and Cannon Drive. The City of Chicago grinds up the trees converting them to mulch that is then used in our parks and in public plazas. For details, go to <https://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago/brief/christmas-tree-recycling>

To recycle used Christmas lights, go to <https://windycitylights.com/recycle-locations/>

Consider Recycling Your Organic Waste

You can sign up to have your organic waste picked up on a bi-monthly basis. Instead of throwing your organic waste from the kitchen into landfills, it can be picked up from your front porch and taken away to a composting site for soil

production. Several households in Ranch Triangle already have subscribed to organic waste pick-up operations. Most firms pick up the buckets used to collect the kitchen waste on a bi-monthly basis. The pick-up fee is low, and you help to protect the environment by reducing organic waste that would otherwise go into a landfill.

There are several groups that pick up the organic waste. Google to find the one that works for you.

Another option is Chicago's Green City Market which offers an organic collection site every Saturday at the Notebaert Museum Saturday Market. For the low fee of \$3, you can bring your organic waste where it is used to create a healthy compost for soil enrichment. Go to <https://www.greencitymarket.org/programs/program.asp?id=12> for details.

General Iron: Community Concerns and Action Items

Neighbors have complained about an increase in noise, pollution and smells from General Iron.

If General Iron's operations are impacting your health, your property and/or the community, please take the following steps:

- **Report** ALL excessive noise, pollution - send complaints to both Chi311 app as well as the Illinois EPA
- **Tell your stories** – We need to hear from you: Contact Ranch Triangle
- **Get involved** – send your email to clean.north.branch@gmail.com to get involved and follow/engage on Twitter and Facebook

We need to work as a community to improve the air and noise quality of the neighborhood.

Calendar of Ranch Triangle's 2020 Environmental Events

Saturday, March 21, 2020 Spring Clean-up Day – get a group together to clean your street and alley of litter

Saturday, April 16, 2020 Earth Day Parks Clean Up Day – Check out your neighborhood park, Adams, Trebes, Oz, Lincoln to join the park cleanup activity

Friday, April 24, 2020 Arbor Day – Tree planting TBD

Saturday, May 16, 2020 River Clean Up Day – Join Ranch Triangle at the southeast corner where North Avenue intersects with the Chicago River as we clean up the small green park and river bank.

Ranch Triangle Board Meeting Schedule

You are invited to attend Ranch's board meetings to learn about the issues concerning the Ranch Triangle community. All board meetings are held at Adams Park, 1919 N. Seminary. Board meetings for 2020 are scheduled for the second

Wednesday of each month: January 8, February 12 and March 11, April 8, 2020 at 7:15 p.m.

New LED Light Fixtures Being Installed in Ward

New LED light fixtures are being installed throughout the ward on streets, alleys and viaducts. The new LED's reduce energy costs while reducing light pollution. The LED installation project for the 43rd Ward should be completed by the end of January 2020.

Snow Removal Reminder

Winter has arrived and we remind everyone of the need to keep our sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Below we provide the questions and answers provided by Alderman Michele Smith in her newsletter regarding the city's regulations about property owners and occupants responsibility for keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

When do I have to shovel my snow?

You must shovel snow as soon as possible after it falls. Snow that falls between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm must be removed no later than 10:00 pm. Snow that falls between the hours of 7:00 pm and 7:00 am must be removed by 10:00 am.

Do I have to shovel on weekends?

Yes. You must shovel 7 days a week in the City of Chicago.

In what way should I shovel my sidewalks to be in compliance?

You must clear a path at least 5 feet wide on all the sidewalks adjacent to your property, including any crosswalk ramps. Do not shovel the snow into the right-of-way, which includes transit stops and bus pads, parking spaces, bike lanes, bike racks, Divvy stations, and any other space where snow impedes traffic of any kind.

Are there special rules for corner lots?

Yes. If you are responsible for a corner lot, you must remove snow and ice from sidewalks on all sides of your building and from corner sidewalk ramps. This applies to residential property and business owners.

Can I be penalized for failing to shovel?

Yes, you can receive a citation for failure to shovel. The fines range from \$50 to \$500. The amount of the fine is determined by an Administrative Hearings judge.

How do I report a property owner who fails to shovel their sidewalk?

Report property owners who DO NOT clear their sidewalks by making a "Snow - Uncleared Sidewalk or Bike Lane" request with the City of Chicago 311 Service Request line.

Other Neighborhood Park News

Bissell Plaza, located at 1900 N. Bissell, is a Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) public plaza. Local neighbors are developing a plan to rebuild Bissell Plaza to improve the public park space for to enhance its usability. Check with Alderman Michele Smith for details.

Dickens Greenway Project, Stockton to Clybourn, The Chicago Department of Transportation and their consultants have developed a plan for the **Dickens Greenway Project**. The plan would turn Dickens into a greenway, adding a bike lane to and from the Lakefront as well as more greenery. Dickens is a wide one-way westbound street whose width would comfortably allow a bike lane. The greenway would increase the safety of bikers who already use Dickens as a safer alternative route to and from the Chicago Lakefront.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/transportation/ct-biz-dickens-greenway-controversy-getting-around-20190909-ewzwwqf5bajjmsylpxgzbhc3i-story.html>

Green City Indoor Market Open Every Saturday



The Green City Market is held indoors every Saturday at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon in Lincoln Park). The indoor market is open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. every Saturday through April.

Old Town School of Music

The Old Town School of Music hosts music classes for kids and adults. Also, the school presents a year-long schedule of fine concerts. For a complete schedule go to www.oldtownschool.org

News from 43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith

Alderman Michele Smith hosts Ward Nights the first Monday of each month. **The next Ward Night is set for Monday, February 3 from 5 to 7 p.m.**

To get important updates on the 43rd Ward, go to the alderman's webpage and subscribe to her newsletter at www.ward43.org

You can also email a question or request at www.yourvoice@ward43.org

Other Contact Information

2nd Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, 1400 N. Ashland, 312.643.2299, www.aldermanhopkins.com

5th District Illinois State Senator, Patricia Van Pelt, 1016 W. Jackson, 312.888.9191, <http://senatorvanpelt.com/contact-us>

5th District Illinois State Representative

U.S. Representative Mike Quigley, 3223 N. Sheffield, 773.267.5926 www.quigley.house.gov

18th District Police Department, Daniel O'Shea, Commander, 1160 N. Larrabee, 312.742.5870, <https://home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/18th-district-near-north/>