



**Veteran
Banners**
See page 4



**New Year,
New Chief!**
See page 6



**Coffee
with Cops**
See page 7



MOUNT PROSPECT VILLAGE news

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

CELEBRATE MOUNT PROSPECT'S SHINING STARS

33rd Annual Shining Stars Gala

Each year, the Village of Mount Prospect's Special Events Commission recognizes individuals, businesses, and organizations that lift up our community. Through the annual Shining Star Awards, the Village shines a light on these community members for their contributions and commitment to Mount Prospect.

The awards will be presented at the 33rd Annual Shining Stars Gala on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 6 pm to midnight at Crystal Palace Banquets, 1070 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mount Prospect. Award winners will be honored with special video tributes.

Please join us in congratulating Mount Prospect's Shining Stars:

BEST EDUCATOR | Karolyn Marabotti
BEST NEIGHBOR | Bob and Alison Burdick
COMMUNITY PARTNER | Mike, Eric, Omar, and Sammy, Pure Elite Fitness
EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH | John Ciok
INCLUSIVITY | Frank Mirandola
OPEN ARMS | Lemons of Love
PUBLIC SERVICE | Jill Friedrichs
STAR SPANGLED BANNER | Ron Vlcek
UNSUNG HERO | Mike Mokate and Maura Reschke, St. Mark PADS Shelter

Read about each winner and their stories at mountprospect.org/shiningstars.

Shining Stars Gala

A Mount Prospect Celebration

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 7

CRYSTAL PALACE BANQUETS

1070 S. ELMHURST RD

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT
MOUNTPROSPECT.ORG/GALA OR
BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



Through January 3, the Special Events Commission is offering \$75 Early Bird tickets (\$10 off the regular price). The ticket price includes an open bar, appetizers, dinner, a dessert table, live music from Out of Control, professional photography, a 360 photo booth, and dancing. The highlight of the evening is meeting and celebrating the Shining Star Award winners who make Mount Prospect brighter.

Winners are selected by the Mount Prospect Special Events Commission from nominations submitted by members of the community. The award categories cover a wide range of interest areas and are designed to recognize individuals who are shining examples of kindness, friendliness, and excellence. Whether or not you know one of the winners, the Special Events Commission invites everyone in the Mount Prospect community to enjoy a night out with their neighbors!

IN THIS ISSUE

Shining Stars Gala
Community Events

1
2

Village News
Community/Economic
Development

4
5

Fire Department
Police Department

6
7

Public Works
Human Services

8
10

Calendar
Message from the Mayor

11
12

Community Events

**JANUARY
6**

Play and Learn Group
Tuesdays | January 6, 13,
20 & 27
Tuesdays | February 3, 10,
17 & 24
11:30 am – 12:15 pm
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
CENTER
1711 W. Algonquin Rd.



Children ages 2 through 5 and their parents or caretakers are invited to join the Human Services Department for bilingual English/Spanish story time, music, and play-based learning.

**JANUARY
7**

Basics of Landscape Design
Wednesday | January 7
7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Discover the essentials of creating a beautiful and functional landscape with Mark Dwyer of Landscape Prescriptions by MD. To register for this virtual program, visit mppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
8**

Friends in Play
Thursday | January 8
Thursday | February 12
11:30 am – 1 pm
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
CENTER
1711 W. Algonquin Rd.



Adults 55 and over are invited to join the Human Services Department for games and connection with their neighbors. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

**JANUARY
9**

Fit 4 Life
Fridays | January 9, 16 & 23
(no class January 30) Fridays
| February 6, 13, 20, & 27 |
10 – 10:45 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.



This free seated exercise program is open to seniors of all fitness levels residing in Mount Prospect. Programming alternates between seated exercise with the Village Nurse, Whole Body Wellness, and Zumba Gold classes. It is a fun and socially engaging way to stay active. No registration is required.

**JANUARY
10**

Coffee with Council
Saturday | January 10
Saturday | February 14
9 – 11 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.



Join the Village Board for coffee and

conversation. Community members are invited to speak with Mount Prospect officials about topics and concerns and ask questions in an informal setting.

**JANUARY
12**

Senior Game Day
Monday | January 12
Monday | February 9
9:30 – 11 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.



Let the games begin! Come play old favorites, learn a new game, and connect. All are welcome — no registration is needed. Please call the Human Service Department at 847.870.5680 with questions.

**JANUARY
12**

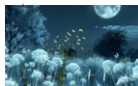
Genealogy Chat
Monday | January 12
2 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Chat with a genealogy librarian and other family history researchers and share your research victories and challenges. To register, visit mppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
13**

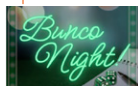
Creating Magnificent Moonlit Spaces
Tuesday | January 13
9:30 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.



An all-white "moon garden" comes to life at dusk, glowing as the vivid reds, oranges, blues, and purples of daytime flowers fade. Learn how to elevate your garden with fragrant plants, fire, water, and lighting to create an exquisite nighttime setting. This Mount Prospect Garden Club presentation will be led by Nina Koziol, horticulturist, Chicago Botanic Garden educator and author. The event begins with a 30-minute social, followed by a one-hour business meeting, and the presentation at 11 am. Guests are welcome.

**JANUARY
13**

Bunco Night
Tuesday | January 13
7 – 8:30 pm
CENTRAL SCHOOL
103 S. Maple St.



Enjoy a lighthearted evening of good company and great laughs. No bunco experience is needed — just bring a friend or two and enjoy the game. This event is open to adults only. Admission is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Learn more at mtphist.org.

**JANUARY
14**

Bessie's Workbasket: Create Your Own Journal
Wednesday | January 14
7 – 9 pm.
CENTRAL SCHOOL
103 S. Maple St.
Create a beautiful



handmade journal from simple materials. You'll learn basic bookbinding techniques, discover creative ways to personalize your cover, and leave with a one-of-a-kind journal that reflects your style. No experience needed — just your imagination. Admission is \$10 per person. Learn more at mtphist.org.

**JANUARY
17/18**

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Saturday | January 17
9 am – 4:30 pm
Sunday | January 18
11 am – 4 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Stock up on great books at bargain prices during the Friends of the Library's used book sale. Funds raised through the sale will help the Friends support additional library programs, events, and services.

**JANUARY
17/19**

Kids Care Fun Fair: Spread Kindness
Saturday | January 17
10 – 11:30 am
Monday | January 19
10 – 11:30 am &
1:30 – 2:45 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Kids can drop in for heartwarming activities that teach them how to help others and spread kindness. Stop at one station or explore them all. No registration required.

**JANUARY
20**

Coffee Talk & Construction
Tuesdays | January 20 &
February 17
7:30 – 9 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.



Building and Inspection Services invites you to meet with the department's team members and discuss any construction topics including aging in your current residence and steps to make your home more accessible. For more information, call 847.818.5289 or email building@mountprospect.org.

**JANUARY
20**

Perspective of Wonder: A Tour of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition
Tuesday | January 20 | 7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Author Cindy Keeling will take you on a tour of the fairgrounds of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 using vintage photographs, maps, and artwork. To register, visit mppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
22**

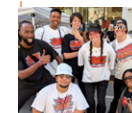
Winter Sowing for Native Plants
Thursday | January 22 | 7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Join a hands-on winter sowing workshop and discover the magic of growing plants outdoors during the cold months. To register, visit mppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
24**

We See Color Party
Saturday | January 24
10 – 11:30 am
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Bring your family to celebrate our community's many differences and similarities with crafts, activities, and high-energy dance featuring Movement Revolution. No registration required.

**JANUARY
27**

An Evening with Paul Lisnek
Tuesday | January 27
7 pm | *Virtual*
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Together with the League of Women Voters and the



Schaumburg Library, WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek will discuss Illinois politics and help prepare participants for the upcoming midterm elections in November. To register for the virtual event, visit mppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
28**

Preschool and Childcare Information Night

Wednesday | January 28
6 – 7:30 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



This annual open house provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to speak with teachers and directors of the more than 20 preschools and child care centers located in Mount Prospect. No registration required.

**JANUARY
29**

Financial Forecast

Thursday | January 29
7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Join John Daly, CFP, of Daly Investment Management, for a look back at 2025's major market developments, an analysis of where the economy stands now, and forward-looking insights into what these trends may mean for the markets in 2026 and beyond. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**JANUARY
31**

Afternoon Tea: Martha Washington

Saturday | January 31
1 – 2 pm
CENTRAL SCHOOL
103 S. Maple St.



Everybody knows George Washington is called the Founding Father of our nation, but what about his wife, Martha? Discover the story of how she met and married George, how they became our first President and Founding Mother, and learn about their life at Mount Vernon. Admission is \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members. Learn more at mtphist.org.

**FEBRUARY
3**

Job Fair Secrets: Expert Advice on How to Prepare and Navigate with Confidence

Tuesday | February 3 | 10 am
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Navigating a job fair or hiring event requires preparation. This interactive workshop guides you through successfully preparing, navigating, networking, and following up like a pro. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**FEBRUARY
5**

Senior Connections

Thursday | February 5
9 – 10:30 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY ROOM
AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.
Meet Mount Prospect Fire
Department Chief Tom



Wang and Deputy Chief Joe Vena as well as the Village team, Police Department, and Human Services Department. Guests can learn, socialize, and connect with their community. Light refreshments will be served. This is for Mount Prospect residents only and no registration is needed. For questions, please call the Human Service Department at 847.870.5680.

**FEBRUARY
6**

National Go Red Day

Friday | February 6
Join the community in recognizing Go Red Day – a movement to bring attention to cardiovascular disease and its major impact on millions across the nation. Wear red on this day to help and raise awareness on the importance of cardiovascular health. A Village Board proclamation supporting Go Red Day will be presented at the February 3 meeting.



**FEBRUARY
6**

River Trails Park District Family Valentine's Dance

Friday | February 6
6 – 7:30 pm
ROB ROY GOLF COURSE
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd
Bring your sweethearts and



dance your socks off to the DJ's tunes. Enjoy fun family activities, snacks, and refreshments, and make a Valentine's craft to take home. Tickets are \$16 for kids ages 2 to 15 and \$26 for attendees 16 and over. Kids under 2 are free. Register by January 30. Learn more at rtpd.org.

**FEBRUARY
7**

Lunar New Year Party

Saturday | February 7
9:30 – 11:15 am
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Bring your family and friends to celebrate Lunar New Year with crafts and activities. Plus, participate in a dragon dance. No registration required.

**FEBRUARY
9**

Managing Your Genealogy Materials

Monday | February 9
7 pm | Virtual
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY



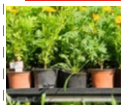
During this virtual event, Margaret Kapustiak will offer ways to manage the

many photographs, memorabilia and other items genealogists accumulate. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**FEBRUARY
10**

Best New Plant Varieties for 2026

Tuesday | February 10
9:30 am
FARLEY COMMUNITY
ROOM AT VILLAGE HALL
50 S. Emerson St.
Kim Hartmann will

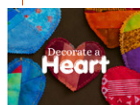


showcase the best new annuals, perennials, roses, vegetables, shrubs, and trees for 2026—focusing only on plants with unique features that thrive in our region. Kim brings 40 years of experience as a garden center manager, horticulturist, and landscape designer. This Mount Prospect Garden Club event begins with a 30-minute social, followed by a one-hour business meeting. Hartmann's presentation starts at 11 am. Guests are welcome.

**FEBRUARY
10**

"I Found a Quilted Heart" Craft

Tuesday | February 10
6:30 – 7:30 pm
CENTRAL SCHOOL
103 S. Maple St.
Enjoy a free heartwarming,
family-friendly craft event



in the Historical Society's schoolhouse. Decorate a quilted heart to take home and share with the community as part of the "I Found a Quilted Heart" project. Each heart becomes a small token of kindness waiting to brighten someone's day. Learn more at mtphist.org.

**FEBRUARY
11**

Multi-Employer Hiring Event and Career Mini-Mart

Wednesday | February 11
1 – 3:30 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Meet multiple employers hiring roles across all levels — from entry-level to senior positions — in various industries. The Career Mini-Mart offers on-site assistance to help you put your best foot forward when meeting employers at the event, which is presented by Business & Career Services, Inc. Registration is recommended. Walk-ins are welcome.

**FEBRUARY
11**

Bread Baking 101

Wednesday | February 11
7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.
Join Chef Cherise to learn
how to bake bread at home



and try a few of her creations. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**FEBRUARY
11**

Bessie's Workbasket: Personal Purse/Pocket Pals

Wednesday | February 11
7 – 9 pm
CENTRAL SCHOOL
103 S. Maple St.

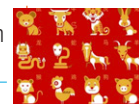


Create your own pocket pal — a tiny, hand-stitched keepsake meant to bring comfort, luck, or a smile whenever you need it. Using simple stitches and colorful felt, you'll personalize your piece to take home and carry with you. Admission is \$10. Learn more at mtphist.org.

**FEBRUARY
12**

The Animals of the Chinese Zodiac and You

Thursday | February 12
7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Join intercultural educator Yvonne Wolf for an exploration of the Chinese zodiac in the Year of the Horse. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**FEBRUARY
17**

Retirement Ready: Medicare, Money, and Your Legacy

Tuesday | February 17 | 2 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Discover how Medicare choices, financial planning, and estate strategies work together to protect your health, wealth, and family's future. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

**FEBRUARY
21**

Craft Supply Swap

Saturday | February 21
1 – 4 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Come out for a craft supply swap at the library. Donate items from February 7 through February 15 and receive a ticket to enter the event an hour early. Doors are open to the public at 2 pm. No registration is required.

**FEBRUARY
25**

Seed Starting

Wednesday | February 25
7 pm
MOUNT PROSPECT
PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 S. Emerson St.



Learn important seed-starting concepts and techniques from a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener. To register, visit mmppl.org or call 847.253.5675.

Veteran Banner Program Returns for its Fourth Year

The Village of Mount Prospect is honored to bring back the Veteran Banner Program, an initiative that has grown from the overwhelming support and gratitude of our community. This heartfelt program offers residents a powerful way to recognize the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of the veterans who have served our nation.

Who Can Be Honored?

Residents are invited to nominate any veteran with a meaningful connection to Mount Prospect who served in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Veterans may be honored whether they are living or deceased, ensuring their legacy continues to inspire future generations.

How the Program Works

Banners featuring the names and photos of honored veterans will be prominently displayed along Northwest Highway in the downtown corridor for two weeks before and after both Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Participation is completely free, and the program will showcase up to 40 veterans each year. Nominations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If capacity is reached, additional registrations will be placed on a waitlist for the following year. After display, each banner will be respectfully retired and returned to the applicant or the veteran's family.

How to Submit a Nomination

To participate, simply complete the application and submit a high-resolution photo of the veteran in uniform. Forms can be found at www.mountprospect.org/veteranbanners and emailed to publicworksdept@mountprospect.org. Applications are due by April 1, 2026. For questions or assistance, call Public Works at 847.870.5640.

Join us in proudly honoring the veterans of Mount Prospect—those whose service continues to shape and strengthen our community.



Village Response Policy to Federal Law Enforcement Immigration Operations

On November 15, the Village released its policy regarding Village Response to Federal Law Enforcement Immigration Operations. This policy defines the restrictions placed on the Mount Prospect Police Department under the Illinois TRUST Act, outlines the services offered by the Village's Human Services Department to support residents experiencing hardship, and recognizes the severe impact these issues have on the community. All residents should know that the safety of every member of the community, regardless

of immigration status, is the Village of Mount Prospect's highest priority.

Community members are encouraged to read the full statement, available in Spanish and other translations, on the Village's website by visiting mountprospect.org/information or scanning the QR code.



SCAN TO READ
FULL STATEMENT

Community/Economic Development

Cloud HQ

Our vision for the Mount Prospect Technology Campus took a major step forward in October as the Village Board approved an amended plan for the redevelopment of the former United Airlines world headquarters property at 1200 East Algonquin Road and 1200 Dempster Street.

The updated plan replaces the three smaller buildings approved in 2022 with two larger, more efficient facilities and represents more than \$2 billion in private investment in Mount Prospect. Collectively, the two new buildings built and operated by TUR Ventures, LLC will transform the 49-acre site into a modern data center campus featuring the state-of-the-art data-center buildings, a second ComEd electrical substation, and related site improvements.

Construction on the first building should now be underway. Located along Algonquin Road, the first data center will have a footprint of approximately 445,000 square feet and a gross floor area of 1.3 million square feet, with up to 240 megawatts of data capacity. The target completion date for this first building is March 2027.

The second data center building, located along Dempster Street, will have a footprint of approximately 296,000 square feet and a gross floor area of 872,000 square feet, with approximately 105 megawatts of capacity. Construction of the second building is scheduled to begin in June 2029, with completion targeted for December of 2030. The total development will generate between 225 and 450 permanent skilled jobs and 900 to 1,000 temporary construction jobs. The project will incorporate high-quality architectural design, sustainable management practices, and extensive landscaping that enhances the appearance and function of this industrial corridor. As part of the project, TUR Ventures, LLC will also donate approximately \$3 million toward public improvements in the surrounding area.

We will continue to provide updates on the project throughout each phase of development.



Conceptual rendering of the new CLOUD HQ DATA CENTER campus.

Openings & Ceremonies!



October 14, 2025
Estheras Neuro Clinic & Medspa
1250 W. Northwest Hwy.
312.388.2334 | estheras.com



October 16, 2025 | *Ribbon Tying Celebrating 5 years*
The Glow Place
13 E. Prospect Ave.
847.463.6133 | theglowplace.com



October 30, 2025 | *Groundbreaking Ceremony*
Lions Recreation Center | Mt. Prospect Park District
411 S. Maple St.
847.255.5380 | mppd.org



November 6, 2025
Bloom & Brush
350 W. Kensington Rd.
773.225.6161 | bloomandbrushartstudio.com



December 5, 2025
CoCo & Maple
130 E. Northwest Hwy.
847.230.0475 | cocoandmaple.com



December 10, 2025
Time Mission
132 Randhurst Village Dr. | Randhurst Village
847.250.9560 | timemission.com



New Year, New Chief!

Following John Dolan's retirement on October 7, 2025, former Deputy Chief Tom Wang was sworn in as the new Fire Chief. The start of the new year is a good time to get to know a little bit about Chief Wang as a person and a leader, so please take a moment to read the interview below.



Tell me a little bit about your background before being hired by the Mount Prospect Fire Department. I was hired in October 2003. I was a recent graduate of Valparaiso University with a communications/public relations major. I also worked at Yellowstone National Park as a Park Ranger. I was in college during the tragedy of 9/11 in 2001. I knew I wanted to help, and this sparked my interest in the fire service.

At what point in your career did you know you wanted to pursue leadership? I waited 11 years before taking the Lieutenant exam. Even though I was eligible, I skipped a few tests because I wanted to become more acclimated to all the different aspects of the fire department. I wanted to make sure I was truly ready before becoming a Lieutenant.

What qualities do you feel embody a good Chief? I feel it is important to be approachable. You need to be a good listener to your team. A good chief should know how to be accountable and take responsibility for their actions. A strong leader should be

diligent about gathering all the information necessary and then be willing to make tough decisions.

What are your top two goals as Fire Chief heading into 2026? First, I need to settle in and get acclimated. Second, I plan to spend time assessing the needs of my staff and the community. I hope to use the resources available to me to meet as many of those needs as I can. I want to assist others in being as successful as possible in their roles in this department and, in turn, be of greater service to the community.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work? I love spending time with my family. I am married, and my wife and I have two sons, ages 2 and 4. I love to travel, and I am a big soccer fan.

What would you like to tell the residents of Mount Prospect? I truly think we have the best members in the department. They train hard and are dedicated to being there in your time of need.

Manufactured Home Communities – Smoke Alarm Project Kickoff



In 2024, the Mount Prospect Fire Department became the primary fire and emergency medical services provider for an area of unincorporated Cook County along I-90.

This new area encompasses three separate manufactured home communities that were

previously serviced by the Elk Grove Rural Fire Protection District. With the help of a generous \$10,000 donation from Elk Grove Township, the Mount Prospect Fire Department created the Manufactured Home Smoke Alarm Program and Fire Safety Outreach Program.

This multi-year smoke alarm campaign was created with the intent of focusing on families with limited resources within the manufactured home communities (Oasis, Willoway, and Blackhawk). The streets within these areas are very narrow and have limited access to fire hydrants, so additional attention to fire prevention safety was needed. This initiative aims to reduce fire-related injuries and fatalities by ensuring that every home has working smoke alarms and access to preventative safety information.

On November 4 and 6, the program kicked off when 11 paid-on-call firefighters and members of the Fire Prevention Bureau spent four hours visiting 25 homes, servicing and installing 85 smoke alarms. It was discovered that 25% of these homes had zero working smoke alarms, and 75% had an inadequate number of smoke alarms. Roughly 45% of the households serviced identified as primarily Spanish-speaking, so each household received important fire safety information in both English and Spanish. Full coverage was achieved in every Oasis home that was visited.

Firefighters also brought out a fire engine, along with giveaways such as helmets and stickers, giving kids an opportunity to learn more about fire department equipment and meet the firefighters.

We are excited to offer this proactive program, which takes important steps toward making these communities safer for their residents.

We look forward to continuing this program at the Willoway and Blackhawk manufactured home communities in 2026!



**Congratulations to the 2025
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
Poster Contest Winners!**



Coffee with the Cops

The entire family is invited to enjoy a morning treat and some coffee while getting to know your local police officers.

Join us at Coffee with the Cops for a chance to get acquainted with members of the Police Department, get an up-close look at squad cars, participate in fun activities for the kids, and take home a few fun surprises. We've scheduled two events on days that local schools are closed, so join us on Monday, January 19, from 10 – 11:30 am at the Dunkin' located at 1798 S. Elmhurst Rd., or Monday, February 16, from 8:30 – 10:30 am at Chick-fil-A at 950 N. Elmhurst Rd. We hope to see you there!



Welcome Officer Cieslak



We are pleased to welcome Officer Victor Cieslak, who is joining our Police Department after serving the past 6 years as a police officer in Des Plaines. During that time, he served as a breathalyzer operator, juvenile officer, firearms instructor, defensive tactics instructor, tactical response

team negotiator, and Polish translator. Victor attended Alonzo Stagg High School in Palos Hills and went on to attend Winona State University on a football scholarship, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. **Welcome to Mount Prospect, Officer Cieslak!**

Lock Up to Freeze Crime

Even in winter, cold weather won't stop criminals — especially when vehicles are left unlocked. Each year, many thefts occur from unlocked cars in parking lots and driveways, and these cases are hard to solve because they leave little evidence behind. You can greatly reduce your risk by following these safety tips:

- Close windows and lock doors on any vehicle parked outside. An open window or unlocked door is an easy invitation.
- Park in well-lit areas. Avoid isolated spots, which make vehicles more attractive to thieves.
- Remove loose valuables. Items that can be grabbed quickly are top targets.
- If valuables must stay in the car, hide them in the trunk or under the seats.
- Report suspicious activity, like someone wandering parking lots or driveways or looking into cars. Call or text 9-1-1; you may remain anonymous.
- Use exterior lighting at home. Driveway and porch lights help deter criminals.

Finally, be extra cautious when warming up your car — an unattended running vehicle is an easy target.

Warning Signs for Common Scams

Protect yourself by watching for these telltale signs:

Scammers pretend to be from organizations you recognize.

They may claim to be from the IRS, Social Security, Medicare, or familiar companies like utilities, cable providers, or charities, and can spoof caller ID to look legitimate.

They claim there's a problem or offer a prize. They may say you're in trouble, owe money, have a computer issue, or that a family member is in an emergency. Others say you've won money. In every case, they ask for personal or financial information.

They pressure you to act immediately. Scammers don't want you to think. They may threaten arrest, lawsuits, loss of licenses, deportation, or computer damage and may insist you stay on the phone.

They demand payment in a specific way. Common tactics include demanding money transfers or gift cards or sending a fake check and asking you to deposit it and send money back.

Protect Yourself

- Block or filter unwanted calls and texts.
- Never share personal or financial information in response to an unexpected request.
- Legitimate organizations won't ask for Social Security, bank, or credit card numbers.

If you get a message from a company you use, don't click links. Go to their official website or call a verified number — not one from the message or your caller ID.

Resist pressure to act immediately. Real businesses give you time.

Know how scammers ask you to pay. Never use gift cards or money transfer services, and never deposit a check and send money back.

Talk to someone you trust. A quick conversation with a friend, family member, or neighbor can help you recognize a scam.

Public Works



A Snowy Start

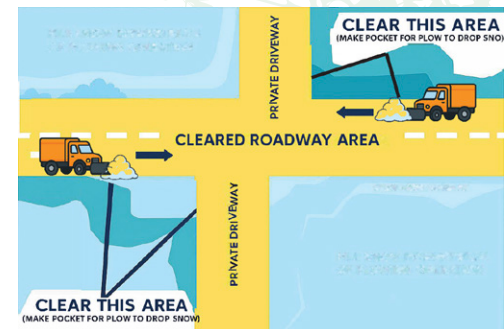
We've already had significant snowfall this season, and there is always a chance for more snowy days ahead. Our Village crews work hard to clear streets and roads quickly and completely after any snowfall. Please remember that shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow from your driveway or walkway into the street is not allowed. It only makes the process of clearing the streets more difficult and can create hazardous conditions.

One of the challenges we know you face is dealing with the windrow – the ridge of snow left at the end of your driveway after a plow passes. However, adhering to the following technique not only minimizes that impact but also reduces the potential danger for other drivers and Village crews.

- Always shovel snow to the side of your driveway, never into the street.
- Before the end of your driveway, clear a small pocket of snow on the side of the street from which the plow will approach.

- As the plow passes, the snow it carries will naturally fill the pocket instead of your driveway opening.

Let's work together to keep our streets clear and safe for all.



Winter Driving Tips

No matter how many years you've been driving in winter weather, it's always good to get a few reminders for staying safe in winter conditions. Slick roads and reduced visibility complicate even the most basic of trips. When you travel, follow these important safety tips:

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Clear all ice and snow from windows before driving.
- Plan for all trips to take a little longer than usual.
- If snow is falling, avoid using high-beam headlights as they increase glare and can reduce visibility.

- Allow more space between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- Brake slowly and gently to prevent skidding.
- Be aware that bridges and less-traveled roadways will freeze more quickly than primary roads.
- If you are involved in a minor accident, move to a safe area before exiting your vehicle.
- Keep extra distance when driving behind a snowplow. Never pass a truck that is actively plowing or salting.

Staying cautious and prepared can make a significant difference during winter driving. Safe travels!



Water Main Breaks – A Likely Occurrence in Winter

Freezing and thawing of the ground during winter puts extra stress on underground pipes, and in some cases, that pressure can cause a break.

When we are alerted to a break, Public Works immediately evaluates the situation. If a break is confirmed, we are required by law to first contact J.U.L.I.E. so utility companies can mark their underground infrastructure before digging begins.

Our repair crew then pinpoints the leak and evaluates the pipe's condition to determine the best course of action. Many breaks can be fixed with a repair clamp, but if the pipe shows significant deterioration or multiple breaks, the damaged section must be removed and replaced with new ductile iron water main. We work as quickly as possible and, in most cases, can properly repair a main within 5 hours. Nearby residents may experience reduced or no water pressure; full interruptions are usually no more than 2 hours. Excavations must settle properly, so restoration of landscapes, pavement, or driveways is often scheduled later.

During the process, Village staff will notify affected properties by knocking on doors or leaving door hangers. In emergencies, water service may need to be limited before notifications are complete.

After repairs, the water remains safe to drink. Some residents may notice discoloration or air in their pipes due to the disturbance of the main. Running cold water from the highest point in the home—often a bathtub faucet—typically clears the issue.

2026 Solid Waste Collection Schedule

There will be no solid waste collection on the following holidays during 2026:

**Memorial Day | Independence Day | Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day | Christmas | New Year's Day (2027)**

If a holiday falls on a weekday and your regularly scheduled pickup is on that day or the following day, your pickup will be delayed by one day. Friday pickups will be done on Saturday.

Ready for Spring? Make Sure Your Trees Are

The especially dry summer of 2025 may have stressed your trees. While they appear dormant in winter, this is an ideal time to prepare them for a healthy 2026 growing season.

Winter is one of the best times to prune, especially for oaks, elms, and fruit trees, which are sensitive to pruning during the growing season. Winter pruning reduces the risk of insect damage to fresh cuts and makes it easier to see the tree's structure without foliage.

Removing broken, dead, diseased, or poorly attached branches can greatly improve health and stability. Avoid removing live limbs unnecessarily or taking more than 25% of the crown in one season. For large trees or uncertain situations, consult a certified arborist—improper pruning can cause long-term problems.

Young trees with thin or smooth bark may need added winter protection. Wrapping trunks can prevent frost cracks from rapid freezing and thawing. Evergreens may benefit from an anti-desiccant spray to help them retain moisture during cold, dry months.

Even in winter, water remains important. Consider occasional watering—especially for young trees—during extended warm spells above freezing so they maintain adequate moisture until spring.

More information on caring for your trees can be found at mountprospect.org/treecare.



Holiday Lights Recycling

Public Works offers a holiday lights recycling program to keep broken or unused holiday lights out of landfills. Residents can drop off unwanted holiday string lights at the Public Works Department Recycling Center, 1700 W. Central Rd. Drop-off bins are available 24 hours a day all year long. This program is for string lights only. Trees, garland, wreathes, and other non-recyclable materials are not accepted. For more information call 847.870.5640.



Human Services



Serving Our Seniors

Our community is committed on many levels to caring for our seniors and making sure Mount Prospect is a safe, nurturing town where residents can comfortably age in place. Navigating the aging process and accessing needed resources and support systems can be overwhelming for both seniors and their loved ones. The Human Services Department provides a number of services for the elderly, many of which are under the direction of our Senior Services Social Worker, Ginny. Ginny is a licensed clinical social worker with a background in gerontology and community senior services. In her role, she helps residents understand and access the many senior services, programs, and benefits that exist to support them. She is also called on to intervene in more complex situations, often referred by first responders, to ensure that residents are safe and have the appropriate support in place. Whether you need basic information or find yourself in a crisis, we encourage you to connect with Ginny for assistance.



Social Engagement

Social engagement is a vital part of our health and well-being, and it is a key focus of the Aging in Community Action Plan. To learn more about new opportunities for socialization in the Farley Community Room or throughout the community be sure to check out the Senior Buzz Newsletter for January/February at mountprospect.org/seniorbuzz. If you haven't yet subscribed to the Senior Buzz, you can do so by contacting the Human Services Department at 847.870.5680.



Stay informed about the Aging in Community initiative by visiting mountprospect.org/AIC.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AGING IN COMMUNITY



SCAN TO
SUBSCRIBE TO
SENIOR BUZZ



The Senior Hub

If you are a senior looking to connect with new friends, or need specific resources, we invite you to visit the Senior Hub. The Senior Hub is designed to help you thrive in our community. Located at Village Hall in the entrance of the Farley Community Room, the Senior Hub serves as your central connection point for local senior activities, a place to discover social opportunities, and is the home base for Village senior programming.

Food Pantry Donations Needed

The Human Services Department continues to see a growing number of residents utilizing the food pantry. With this increase, we need help to keep the shelves stocked. Human Services recently launched an easy way to donate needed items to the food pantry through an Amazon Wish List. If you would like to donate, scan the QR Code. Donations can also be dropped off at the Human Services Department on the second floor of Village Hall.



SCAN TO DONATE



**community
connections
center**

1711 West Algonquin Road
Mount Prospect | IL 60056
847.506.4930

Hours

Monday-Friday 11 am – 7:30 pm
Saturdays 11 am – 3 pm
(South Branch Library only)



January is National Blood Donor Awareness Month, and February is Heart Health Awareness Month. Follow the Human Services Facebook page at facebook.com/MPHumanServices for information and resources on these topics.

2026

January

February



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

LEARN MORE AT



www.experiencemountprospect.org

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31			



*****ECRWSSDDM*****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mount Prospect, IL
Permit No. 13
CR RT



Message from the Mayor

Where are we headed in 2026 ... I believe you cannot look forward until you take a quick look back.

A Look Back at 2025

2025 was another very strong year for your Village. Revenues such as sales taxes were extremely robust, there was no increase to the Village's Property Tax levy, and a responsible balanced budget was developed and approved in late 2025 for 2026. We continued to experience growth and development throughout the Village. Also, we have committed additional resources and staffing to Public Safety, our #1 Priority, to continue to strengthen this critical service. Our newer Public Safety facilities like Fire Station 11 in South Mount Prospect, which recently came online, are also functioning well meeting the needs of our residents.

A Look Forward to 2026

As we move forward into the new year, as I see it, your Village Board and Staff have done the preparatory work to position our Village for yet another strong year in 2026. Your Village continues to maintain an extremely solid and growing financial position which provides for strength, stability, and flexibility. In addition to a balanced budget, we continue to have strong revenue flows, maintain well-funded reserve funds, and practice responsible spending, which when taken together, allow us to explore additional opportunities for growth when they arise – such as development of Block 56 (former bank building) and the St. Mark parking lot and gym building site that the Village purchased in late 2025. In South Mount Prospect, a water main and hydrants have been constructed on the Oakton Corridor, enhancing fire protection and



DIMEO BROTHERS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

offering economic development opportunities. Private investors are also active in Mount Prospect. DiMeo Brothers recently broke ground on their

new headquarters, and Cloud HQ is moving forward with construction in the first quarter on the former United Airlines site. In North Mount Prospect, the former

Holiday Inn has new owners who are reestablishing the property as a new Holiday Inn Hotel, and Time Mission, a social gaming entertainment experience, recently opened at Randhurst.

Bottom line, your Village is positioned to meet any challenges or opportunities that may come our way in 2026 and beyond. As your Mayor, I am bullish on Mount Prospect and the years which lie ahead of us and believe we will continue to move our Village far forward, as we have for the past number of years.

As I close this Mayor's Message, I would like to make a couple of personal comments. First, I hope that everyone had a joyful and fulfilling holiday season with family and friends.

Additionally, many know that my wife, Linda, recently passed away after a long illness. Her passing has been very hard for me and my family especially during the holidays. However, it has been made easier by the outpouring of incredible support from our community. I simply want to say thank you to everyone for your love and your prayers. You have all made a real difference during this very difficult time.

Paul Wm. Hoefert | MAYOR OF MOUNT PROSPECT



TIME MISSION RIBBON CUTTING