



Village of Mount Prospect Press Release

VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT – CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 3/31/20

DATE: March 31, 2020
CONTACT: Michael Cassady, Village Manager
PHONE: 847/392-6000

The Village of Mount Prospect continues to manage the COVID-19 pandemic response while maintaining core services to residents and business owners. Federal and State guidance to all non-essential businesses is to stay at home, practice safe physical distancing and frequently wash hands. These efforts will assist in reducing the number of COVID-19 infections and hopefully allow our hospitals and health care professionals to handle the flow of more serious cases.

STAY HOME, SAVE LIVES

The main message we wish to convey to you is “STAY HOME, SAVE LIVES.” The best thing we can do as a community is to stay home, even if you have no symptoms. If you must go out for an essential reason, maintain a 6-foot distance between you and someone else. That means avoiding playdates, sleepovers, bars, restaurants, parties, or houses of worship. Avoid all crowds. Spread the word that physical distancing works! Include the hashtag #stayhomesavelives when posting on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

According to Cook County, the number of Mount Prospect residents testing positive for the COVID-19 virus is at 16. These numbers are expected to change daily and we will continue to keep you updated.

VILLAGE EFFORTS/CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN

The Village activated our Emergency Operations Center on March 16th to proactively organize, plan and implement our Continuity of Operations Plan. Village staff convenes daily meetings via remote technology to keep departments connected, updated and informed about needs facing our community in these challenging circumstances. We have published a COVID-19 Resource Page on our website, which can be found here: www.mountprospect.org/COVID19.

A weekly meeting has been established for all Mount Prospect units of government, via remote technology, including the Village, the Mount Prospect Public Library, the Mt. Prospect Park District, River Trails Park District, and School Districts 57, 26, 214 and North Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO). This meeting allows these units of government to share information and resources in an effort to better understand and plan for the impact of this pandemic on our organizations and our mutual stakeholders. This collaboration has been extremely productive in keeping an open line of communications with our schools, parks and library.

- MORE -

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING – APRIL 7, 2020

The next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting will take place remotely on April 7th at 7:00pm. Mayor Juracek and the Board of Trustees and staff will use a video remote platform to facilitate this meeting. Residents can view the meeting on the MPDC web-stream at: www.mountprospect.org/MPDC or they can watch it on cable television on channel 17 on the Comcast and WOW Systems. Residents are asked to send in their questions prior to the meeting by going to www.mountprospect.org/PublicComment.

VILLAGE FACILITIES/SERVICES

Village Hall (50 S. Emerson Street), Public Works (1700 W. Central Rd), the Community Connections Center (1711 W. Algonquin Rd) and Fire Headquarters (112 E. Northwest Hwy) will continue to remain closed to the public through April 30, 2020 (per Gov. Pritzker's extension of the Stay at Home order announced on March 31).

Village staff members continue to work to assist customers using on-line services or by appointment. We have reduced our staffing footprint to support employee physical distancing pursuant to our Continuity of Operations Plan. Our staff members are still able to answer phone calls and emails as well as process many transactions online. For those needing service while these municipal buildings are closed, the public is encouraged to call, email or use the customer response portal (www.mountprospect.org/CRM) to report concerns or ask questions.

The Village has provided extensions to both businesses and residents regarding payments of both utility bills (water/sewer/refuse) and vehicle sticker renewals.

FOOD PANTRY/EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

We understand many in our community may have lost their jobs due the COVID-19 pandemic. The Village's food pantry remains open and offers pick up every other week at Village Hall and the Community Connection Center. Staff is prepared to screen new participants via phone. Learn more at www.mountprospect.org/foodpantry. Staff is pre-packing food and participants must call Human Services at 847-870-5680 or the Community Connections Center at 847-506-4930 to initiate a pick-up, which will be done by appointment only. Those whose health is compromised may be eligible to have their food delivered. Senior Citizens and other residents with special needs who have questions should call the Human Services Department at 847-870-5680.

- MORE -

DONATIONS/HOW TO HELP

Many residents want to know how they can help with food donations. Due to staffing conditions and the Governor's Stay at Home order, the Village has determined that limiting food donations at this time is the best course of action for the safety of both staff and residents. Residents who would like to assist the food pantry are asked to donate gift cards to local grocery stores in increments of \$15 and \$25. Donations can be deposited in the water bill depository outside of Village Hall, or mailed to the Human Services Department at Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Donations may also be made online through the Village website www.mountprospect.org/donation. The gift cards will be provided to residents using the food from the pantry so that they can also obtain needed perishable items to supplement the dried goods we provide. Over the past five days the Village has received more than \$1,300 in addition to the donation of gift cards to be provided to residents enrolled in the food pantry program.

Residents are also asking how they can help the community in other ways. The Village has set up a web page at www.mountprospect.org/HowToHelp. This site will provide information about how to help with donations for people who need financial assistance, donations of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) supplies, and a form for those who would like to get on the Village's volunteer list.

INFO FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses can find resources on a variety of COVID-19 relief programs offered at the state and federal level by visiting www.mountprospect.org/MPEI.

SUPPORT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Those that wish to support our local restaurants will discover an updated list of those offering pickup and delivery at www.mountprospect.org/takeout. Some restaurants have chosen to take advantage of the Village's temporary modifications to the liquor license restrictions, and now offer beer and wine to go.

UPDATES

The Village will continue to update residents as new information becomes available. Updates will be posted on the Village web site, www.mountprospect.org.

#####