

VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT
50 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
www.mountprospect.org

VILLAGE HALL HOURS
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday



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VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency 911
- Village Hall 392-6000
(includes Finance, Village Administration)
TDD 392-6064
- Village Clerk 818-5355
- Television Services 870-5685
- Community Development
 - Building Division 870-5675
 - Environmental Health 870-5668
 - Planning Division 818-5328
- Fire Dept. (non-emergency) 870-5666
- Human Services Dept. 870-5680
- Police Dept. (non-emergency) 870-5656
- Public Works Dept. 870-5640
- Water Billing 392-6000

All phone numbers in the Village News are
(847) area code unless otherwise noted.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Irvana K. Wilks

TRUSTEES

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Arlene A. Juracek	Steven S. Polit
A. John Korn	Michael A. Zadel

VILLAGE MANAGER

Michael E. Janonis

VILLAGE CLERK

M. Lisa Angell

Mount Prospect E-News

Sign up to receive the latest information
on community events, news and alerts at
www.mountprospect.org.

"Experience Mount Prospect" E-Newsletter
featuring shopping, dining and events
highlights in the community. Sign up today!

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EDITOR

Maura El Metennani,
Public Information Officer



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www.mountprospect.org

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL



Meet informally with the Village's Board of Trustees and
Department Directors about anything concerning Mount Prospect
that's on your mind. Coffee with Council is held on the second
Saturday of every month (unless there is a conflict with a holiday)
from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street.
For more information about Coffee with Council, please call the
Village Manager's Office at 392-6000, or visit the Village's web
site at www.mountprospect.org.

Celestial Celebration XVIII Shining Stars in Paradise

Saturday, February 5

Bristol Court, 828 E Rand Road

Cash Bar: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Dancing until Midnight Formal Event

Socialize, dine, dance and celebrate with the people that make Mount Prospect a
great community in which to live and work. The annual Shining Star Awards will
be presented to some of Mount Prospect's outstanding residents and workers.

Everyone is invited but attendance is limited so make your reservations early. The
cost of the evening is \$45 per person. Any questions call 506-4949. *No paper tickets
will be printed. Your attendance will be confirmed by mail or email.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

No. of people: _____ @ \$45 each. Total Enclosed: _____

Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to: Mount Prospect Special Events Commission
Mail to: Special Events, P.O. Box 69, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Names on placecards:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



MOUNT PROSPECT Village News

WINTER 2011

“Being sensitive to the plight of residents in this economy, the Board desired to bring forth a balanced budget without the use of reserves and with no increase in the total property tax levy. The final 2011 Budget accomplished this task.”



2011 Budget Outlook

Village Board Approves Balanced Budget

With revenue streams still well below historical trends preparation of the 2011 Budget was indeed a challenge for the Village Board and staff. Being sensitive to the plight of many of our residents in this struggling economy the Board desired to bring forth a balanced budget without the use of reserves and with **no increase in the total property tax levy**. The final 2011 Budget approved in December accomplished this task.

In balancing previous year’s budgets, the Village relied on cuts to non-personal expenses to a point where we are just able to provide for the equipment and materials necessary to deliver basic services, and respond adequately to unexpected emergencies. With an initial deficit of \$3 million in the General Fund for 2011 the Village had come to the point where significant reductions in staffing were unavoidable.

In addressing the deficit, it was necessary to develop a reasonable, rational and equitable expenditure reduction methodology in line with the directives from the Village Board. Allocation of the deficit to the departments was done relative to their overall share of the General Fund. After each applicable share was determined departments were charged with making the necessary cuts to their 2011 budget. Cuts were to come from either personnel or non-personnel accounts.

Obviously, the Police, Fire and Public Works departments make up the lion’s share of the General Fund and so their reduction targets were significant. Respectively, they account for 36%, 28% and 16% of the total. The remaining 20% is made up of Administration, Community Development, Finance and Human Services.

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News, Notes and Reminders



Holiday Light Recycling Program

The Village is accepting unused and non-working Holiday string lights and extension cords through a new recycling program. The materials in the string lights and extension cords will be reclaimed and reprocessed into new products. Most importantly they will be kept out of the landfill. Residents can drop off their unwanted Holiday string lights and extension cords at the Public Works Department located at 1700 West Central Road between the hours of 7:30AM and 5PM, Monday - Friday. The program begins November 8th with a tentative end date of February 11th. Call (847) 870-5640 for more information. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials.

Holiday Decoration Reminder

Keep your home safe! Village Code requires holiday decorations to be removed within 60 days of the holiday. Besides aesthetics, there's a safety value in removing these items. Remember, the lighting and electrical devices for outdoor displays are designed for temporary installation. Insulated wiring exposed to the wind, rain, sun, snow, and cold can wear and crack increasing the risk of an electrical short and a possible fire.

Celestial Celebration: Feb. 5

Each year, the Village honors our Shining Stars - the people that help to make our community a great place in which to live and work. They will be recognized at the 18th annual Celestial Celebration banquet to be held Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Bristol Court. Tickets are priced at \$45. This year's theme is: "Shining Stars in Paradise." See Page 16 for a reservation form.

Passport Services

The office of the Village Clerk is a Passport Acceptance Agency and is pleased to assist residents with the submittal of their passport application. Our staff can provide the necessary applications/forms and accept completed applications and documentation for submittal to the U. S. Department of State for processing. This service is available Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. - noon, Wednesdays, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. or by appointment 847.818.5355. Contact the Village Clerk's office or visit the National Passport Information Center at www.travel.state.gov for information.

Vehicle Stickers

The deadline for displaying the 2010-2011 vehicle stickers was April 30, 2010. The Police Department issues citations to drivers of locally registered vehicles if the 2010-2011 vehicle sticker is not displayed. Vehicle stickers purchased after April 30 are subject to a late payment penalty. The penalty does not apply to new residents/businesses or to those who have purchased replacement vehicles after May 1. In these situations, there is a 30-day grace period in which to purchase a sticker. Proof of move-in or vehicle purchase date is required to ensure that a penalty is not imposed. If you change vehicles during the year, call the Finance Department at 847-392-6000 for more information.

2011-2012 Vehicle Stickers

If you purchased a vehicle sticker in 2010, you should be receiving a renewal notice in the mail during the first week of February. If you recently moved to the Village or if you do not receive your renewal notice by February 11, 2011 you must come to Village Hall to pick up an application. If you have any questions, please call the Finance Department at 392-6000.

Mount Prospect Crime Stoppers

Mount Prospect Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of citizens of Mount Prospect. Crime Stoppers is funded entirely through donations from the public. All contributions are tax-deductible. Anyone wishing to make a donation, and help our community in our fight against crime, can mail contributions to Crime Stoppers of Mount Prospect, Inc., c/o Mount Prospect State Bank, 20 E. Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Water Rate Increase

The Village Board recently approved a 4.0% increase to water and sewer utility rates. The current combined rate for water and sewer is \$6.44. Effective with all billings after January 1, 2011, the new combined rate will be \$6.69. For example, a Mount Prospect household that uses 15,000 gallons of water over a two-month period, the bimonthly water and sewer usage fee would be \$110.35, an increase of \$3.75. This includes the \$5 monthly sewer construction charge. There was no change in the sewer construction flat fee. For more information please contact the Water Billing Department at 847-392-6000.

Pay Village Utility Bills Online or Through Direct Debit

The Village offers several different payment options for your Water/Sewer and Refuse utility bill. In addition to coming into Village Hall or mailing in your payment, you can opt to pay online through the Village's website or direct debit of your checking account.

The online payment option, or E-Pay, is an easy to use process that allows for payment of the utility bills using a credit or debit card. E-Pay is secure and available 24 hours a day for your convenience. A minimal convenience fee applies. If you prefer direct debit, funds for payment on your utility account will be withdrawn on the due date, thus avoiding late fees. There is no fee for using this service. Authorization forms are available on our website at www.mountprospect.org. Utility customers may elect to end participation in the direct debit program at any time.

If you have any questions concerning either of these two programs, please contact Utility Billing at 847-392-6000.

Submit Your Water Meter Reading on the Web!

Mount Prospect is pleased to provide another option for residents serviced by Village water to submit their water meter reads. In addition to submitting your reads on the bill payment stub, phone, fax or e-mail, you can now submit electronically on the website www.mountprospect.org/watermeter. If you have any questions, please call 847-392-6000.



Energy Efficiency Resources

The Village of Mount Prospect's Energy Efficiency Home Weatherization Rebate Program has been a complete success! Made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), the program provided 50% matching rebates to eligible homeowners for performing certain energy efficient upgrades to their homes up to a maximum rebate of \$1,500. In total, 72 homeowners received rebates resulting in \$327,000 worth of energy efficiency improvements (includes \$90,000 in rebates). Projects included installing attic insulation (19 homes), wall insulation (3), and Energy STAR rated products such as furnaces (21), air conditioners (15), windows (24), and doors (10). The program also assisted 5 homeowners in performing home energy audits. Combined, the improvements saved rebate recipients nearly \$5,000 annually off their energy bills and created jobs within the local area (approximately 1,187 contractor hours).

The success of the program has been a clear indication of the community's willingness to invest in energy efficiency. While this program has ended, there may still be other federal, state, non-profit, and utility incentives that homeowners and businesses can use to become more energy efficient. The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE), located at www.dsireusa.org, is a great web site to find a list of incentives in the local area. Below is a summary of some of the more popular 2010 incentive programs. If you are interested in one of the programs, please go to their website to determine whether they are still effective.

72 homeowners received rebates resulting in \$327,000 worth of energy efficiency improvements

Federal

- Residential Energy Property Tax Credit (www.energystar.gov): The Residential Energy Property Tax Credit is for homeowners who make energy efficient improvements to their existing homes. The credit permits up to 30 % of the cost of all qualifying improvements and raises the maximum credit limit to \$1,500 for improvements placed into service in 2009 and 2010.
- Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit (www.energystar.gov): The Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit is for homeowners who install renewable energy systems in their existing homes. Eligible systems include solar water heaters, solar panels, wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps. The credit permits up to 30 % of the cost of all qualifying improvements, with varying limits on the maximum credit.
- Plug-In/Electric Vehicles Tax Credit (fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxcenter.shtml): The Plug-In/Electric Vehicles Tax Credit is for a taxpayer that purchases a plug-in or electric vehicle. The tax credit ranges from \$2,500-\$7,500 depending on battery capacity and other requirements.

State of Illinois

- Solar and Wind Energy Rebate (www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling): The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity provides a rebate up to 30% of eligible costs with a maximum of \$50,000 to homeowners, businesses, public sector and non-profit entities who install small-scale solar and wind energy systems.

Non-Profit Organizations

- Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA): CEDA's Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) provides energy audits and other energy efficiency repairs (insulation, window repairs, furnace and boiler improvements) to qualifying, low-income residents. To learn more, go to www.cedaorg.net.
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation: The Illinois Clean Energy Foundation provides energy efficiency incentives to public agencies, schools, and non-profits. To learn more, go to www.illinoiscleanenergy.org.

Utilities/Other

Electric Utility: Commonwealth Edison, the community's electric utility, offers a host of residential and business energy efficiency incentive programs. To learn more, go to www.comed.com and click on the "Home Savings" or "Business Savings" tab.

Gas Utility: Nicor Gas, the community's gas utility, also offers energy efficiency incentives to both residential and business customers. To learn more, go to www.nicorgasrebates.com and click on the "Residential Customer" or "Business Customer" tab.

Manufacturer Rebates: Many manufacturers are currently providing significant rebates on HVAC or other energy efficiency products.

The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) www.dsireusa.org, is a great web site to find a list of incentives in the local area.

Mark Your Calendar for these Community Events/Programs



2010 Skating Party

River Trails Park District www.rtpd.org

Family Winterfest
Saturday, January 15
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Woodland Trails Park

Got cabin fever? Enjoy some FREE outdoor fun! Put on your snowsuits, hats & gloves & come on over from some OUTSIDE fun. Perfect for the entire family.

- See the beautiful huskies as they pull the dog sleds
- Adults...try cross country skiing
- Snow shoeing for all ages
- Ice &/or snow painting
- Snow castle making
- Broomball games
- Hot chocolate and cookies
- Bring your sleds!

(If Mother Nature does not cooperate, event may be cancelled.)



Mount Prospect Historical Society www.mtphist.org

Presidents Day Skating Party – Feb. 21

The Mount Prospect Historical Society and the Mt. Prospect Park District are hosting a Skating Party with music, a DJ and food at the Central Community Center, located at 1000 W. Central Rd., on Monday, February 21, from noon to 5 p.m. There is a \$5 admission charge. In line skates can be rented at the facility (or you can bring your own with Park District's inspection). All the proceeds will go towards MPHS educational programs. For more information call 847/392-9006

Mount Prospect Public Library www.mpppl.org

Expanding Your World

The Library can help you explore new hobbies, new languages, and new authors! It's all at your fingertips – www.mpppl.org.

- Our online Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center in the Research & Reference section of our website gives you access to hundreds of illustrated articles and short videos about almost every hobby, craft, or activity you can imagine.
- Mango is an online language-learning system, also in the Research & Reference section, that can help you learn languages like Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese, Greek, Italian, Russian, and more.
- Check It Out! is a Books, Movies, & Music blog with quick summaries of books that might interest you. You can even subscribe to it through RSS feed.

Mt. Prospect Park District

www.mppd.org

2011 Youth Baseball and Softball Registration

Registration for 2011 youth baseball and softball will be held at RecPlex, 420 W. Dempster, on Saturday, January 15, 9am – 3pm, Tuesday, January 18 6:30pm - 9pm, Saturday, January 22 9am – 3pm. \$25.00 late fee will apply after January 22

Summer Adult Softball Registration

Openings are available for Men's 16-inch and 14-inch co-rec softball leagues. Register in person only at RecPlex on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Registration after February 5 will be accepted at RecPlex during regular business hours until all leagues are filled.

Mt. Prospect Community Band Concert

The Mt. Prospect Community Band under the direction of Ralph Wilder will present its Spring Concert entitled "Kings and Things" on Sunday, March 20 at 2pm at the Forest View Educational Center. Tickets will be sold in advance beginning Feb. 1 at RecPlex for \$7, and will be \$9 at the door the day of the concert.



Across the Board

Since the last publication of the Mount Prospect Newsletter, the Village Board of Trustees has enacted the following ordinances from September 7, 2010 through November 16, 2010:

5814 amends Chapter 8 entitled "Village Government: Miscellaneous Provisions" of the Village Code, to comply with Public Act 96-904; political signs on residential property;

5815 amends Chapter 8 entitled "Village Government: Miscellaneous Provisions" of the Village Code regarding election procedures; codifies the Village of Mount Prospect Election Model;

5816 amends Chapter 21 (Building Code) and Appendix A, Division to establish regulations for demolition and structures and site restoration activities;

5817 authorizes the sale of certain personal property owned by the Village of Mount Prospect;

5818 grants a variation for exterior side yard setback for property located at 1 South William Street;

5819 amends Chapters 8 and 16, and Divisions II and III of the Village Code regarding mobilization, notice and trees and shrubs; to regulate removal of Emerald Ash Borer trees;

5820 grants a conditional use permit (drive through lanes) for property located at 950 East Rand Road, Chase Bank;

5821 amendments to the conditional use found in the Randhurst Village Commercial Planned Unit Development (ORD 5705) to grant certain variations (Light Fixtures and Fence Height) an amendment to Special Use for signage for property located at 999 North Elmhurst Road.

Budget Update (continued from Page 1)

In the face of such a large deficit, no department was spared from staff reductions. A total of 31 positions, approximately 10 percent of the Village workforce, were eliminated through these cuts. While this will necessarily result in a decrease in service levels in a number of areas, the overall goal was to maintain as many core services as possible. Before any decisions were made to reduce staff in a particular area, Department Heads reviewed operations so as to minimize the impact to core services. In addition, considerable deliberation took place in three Committee of the Whole meetings with the Village Board and four meetings with the Finance Commission to discuss the impact from the proposed cuts. Understanding the importance village residents and business community places on emergency response services (police and fire) the Village Board is committed to giving priority to public safety budgets when there is a turnaround in the economy.

Total expenditures approved for 2011 are \$82,619,424. In summary, the total Budget, as presented, calls for a 6.9%

decrease in expenditures from the amended 2010 Budget. The Village's Operating Budget will see a decrease of \$3.4 million, or 5.6% from the preceding year. The Capital Budget will see a decrease of \$3.3 million, or 31.2% due to completion of Phase I construction projects while the Debt Service, Pension and Internal Services budgets collectively are expected to increase by 3.4%.

While extremely difficult to consider, we do believe that the structural changes made to expenditures through staff reductions place the Village on sound financial footing moving forward. Difficult decisions regarding the allocation of limited resources will be a constant challenge in years to come. Urban and societal issues will increasingly place more demands on our service delivery system. Where these challenges will require our undivided and constant attention, we face the tasks at hand confident in the knowledge that Mount Prospect's underlying financial condition remains solid and the community's collective will to prosper is unflinching.

To be eligible to vote in the April 5th Consolidated Election you must be registered to vote by, March 8th.

Voter registration is available at:

Village Hall

50 South Emerson Street
Village Clerk's Office – 3rd floor
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mount Prospect Public Library

10 South Emerson Street
Registration Desk
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday : 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday : 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Voter registration requirements:

- United States Citizen
- At least 18 years of age by Election Day
- A resident of your precinct for at least 30 days prior to an election.
- You must present two forms of identification with at least one showing your current address.

For additional voter registration/election information, please visit the Cook County Elections website at www.voterinfonet.com, or call 312.603.0906.

*Your registration is permanent unless you move or change your name.

If you have moved you must transfer your registration by registering.

Voters who legally change their name, but not their address, do not have to re-register; you can vote after updating your information at the polls.





Building Division Inspections

Aluminum Wiring Safety

Village of Mount Prospect recommends that all homeowners and property owners check all wiring, including branch circuits, to assure safe and secure operating conditions. In particular, aluminum wiring should be regularly evaluated by Licensed and Qualified Electricians to make sure all connections and electrical devices are operating correctly and safe. Please see the Building Division section of the website for additional Consumer Product Safety Commission Technical Bulletin advice on repairing aluminum wiring.

Reminder for Landlords

Mount Prospect requires all residential rental properties to maintain a minimum of 68 degrees Fahrenheit from September 15 through June 1. If you are unable to resolve a heating problem after contacting your landlord, please call the Environmental Health Division at 847-870-5668 and an inspector will work to remedy the problem as soon as possible.



The Building Division has remained extremely busy and we continue to book 48-72 hours out for inspections.



If your project requires an inspection, we encourage you to schedule your inspection as far in advance as possible. We make every effort to accommodate requests for inspections within 48 hours but the current demand for inspections continues to be very high. Please have your permit number, address and a contact phone number when you call to schedule your inspection. Inspections can be scheduled by calling the Building Division at 847-870-5675.

Holds Placed on Real Estate Transfer Stamps

The Village can place holds on Real Estate Transfer Stamps for a variety of reasons including open or incomplete Building Permits. The Building Division will place a hold on a property that has a permit that has not passed a final inspection, obtained a certificate of completion or a certificate of occupancy. This is done to ensure the safety of our residents. In light of the current economy, we will work with a buyer to remedy any outstanding issues. Potential buyers are encouraged to complete a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request through the clerk's office to see if there are open permits or other items that may delay the sale of a property.

Economic Development Update

Northwest Community Hospital

Northwest Community Hospital will soon begin the interior build out of their facility at 199 W. Rand Road. This structure, which was initially constructed for Alexian Brothers Hospital, has been vacant for over 3 years due to changes in the hospitals' strategic plans. They will build out the facility in 3 phases and expect to occupy the first phase by April.



Randhurst Village

The project remains on schedule with a planned grand opening set for April 22, 2011 for the AMC Theater and other shops. Three new restaurants have signed on to be part of the project. Pei Wei, Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza and the Billy Goat Tavern will all be opening in the spring of 2011. Letters of Intent are in the hands of several prospective tenants for the main street storefronts.

New Eateries

New restaurants will be opening in early 2011 in the former Artemis (NW corner of Golf Rd. and Busse Rd.) and Michael's (downtown) restaurant locations. A wood burning rotisserie and barbeque restaurant (name TBD) will occupy the former Artemis facility. The new owner is currently undertaking a significant renovation of the interior and exterior of the building and installing a new outdoor dining venue on the site. Emerson's Ale House will be opening in the downtown and will offer steaks, chops and burgers in a sports bar venue.

Where Do Property Taxes Go?

The Village of Mount Prospect provides a complete range of services for its residents and business community. They include police and fire protection, emergency ambulance service, street and highway maintenance, health and social services, refuse disposal, public improvements, planning and zoning, engineering and inspection, water and sewer utility service and general administrative services.

To pay for all this, the Village obtains revenues from a number of sources, including property taxes. Property taxes accounted for 17.0% of the Village's total revenues expected for 2010. Sales tax, service charges, licenses, fees, state income and motor fuel taxes, and several other revenues sources make up the balance. The Village uses the money it receives from property taxes for four basic purposes: police and fire protection, public safety pensions, refuse disposal and public improvements.

The owner of a residential property in Mount Prospect having an equalized assessed value of \$113,000 (approximate market value of \$350,000) will pay the Village about \$854 in property taxes as a result of the final 2009 levy (payable in 2010). Of this amount, \$453 is for police and fire protection, \$214 is for funding public safety pensions (police and fire) pensions, \$102 is for refuse disposal, and \$85 is for public improvements. This estimate assumes only the standard homeowner exemption when determining taxable value. Homeowners may also be eligible for the senior citizen exemption, senior freeze or other property tax exemption offered by the Cook County Assessor's Office. These programs work to provide further relief to the annual tax bill.

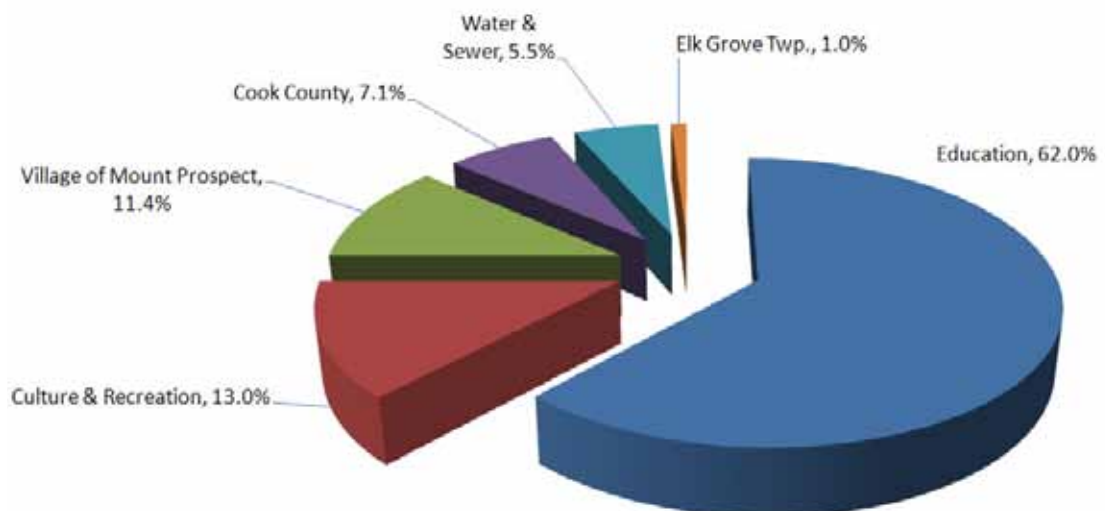
Other Taxing Districts. Within and including the Village of Mount Prospect, there are 34 separate and independent taxing districts. They include the Mount Prospect Public Library, Cook County governments, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, six (6) public school districts, five (5) park districts, and fourteen (14) other tax districts, plus Elk Grove and Wheeling townships.

With the exception of the Village and Public Library, the taxing districts in Mount Prospect do not share common boundaries. As such, not all of the 34 tax levies appear on every tax bill for a Mount Prospect resident or business. Typically, there are 16 or 17 districts on each individual tax bill.

Village's Share. The pie chart below shows the breakdown of property taxes for the Village of Mount Prospect in Elk Grove Township from the 2009 tax bill (payable in 2010). The Village is to receive \$15.2 million or 11.4% of the total. The percentages vary depending on the area of the Village and the taxing districts included.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees have made a determined effort to keep property taxes as low as possible while enabling the Village to provide a wide range of high quality services. In that effort, the 2010 tax levy (payable in 2011) reflects a zero percent (0%) increase from the 2009 amount presented here. For more information on property taxes and the Village budget, visit the web site at www.mountprospect.org, or contact the Finance Department at 847-392-6000.

Distribution of 2009 Property Taxes (Example of resident who lives in Elk Grove Township)





Winter Fireplace Safety



Help Keep Hydrants Clear

Every winter fire hydrants become buried by the snow. This creates a situation where it becomes difficult for the fire department to locate and use the hydrants.

You can help the fire department by ensuring the hydrant near your home or business is kept free from snow on all sides. Please keep a clear path from the street to the hydrant as well.

Space Heater Safety

With proper use, portable heaters provide warmth and comfort but they need space around them. Keep anything combustible at least three feet from a space heater. Never use any kind of space heater as a drying rack.

A kerosene space heater might reduce your heating bill, but it can be dangerous if not used correctly. Be sure the space heater is used in a well-ventilated area. For fuel, use K-1 kerosene only. Do not use gasoline, camp stove fuel, or any other flammable liquid. Store kerosene outdoors in approved containers, and refuel the heater outdoors.

Safety Tips

- Buy a space heater equipped with a guard around the flame or heating coil to keep children, pets, and combustibles from the heat source.
- When selecting a heater, make sure a nationally recognized testing laboratory has approved it. (It will bear a label indicating approval.)
- Never leave a space heater on overnight.
- Always place a space heater on a flat, level surface.
- Do not use an extension cord to power the space heater.

For more information, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 818-5253.

Proper maintenance of a chimney reduces the buildup of creosote, a black tarry substance that can block passageways or ignite. Begin with carefully selecting the kind of wood you will burn. The harder the wood, the smaller the creosote release into the chimney. Then curing that wood becomes important. Wood that is allowed to cure for three to six months after cutting and splitting will yield more heat and less creosote.

Maintaining proper flue temperatures is also a part of good chimney maintenance. Creosote condenses on to cold chimneys while properly heated chimneys will trap much less. So burn an open fire until good flue temperatures are achieved, then make sure the fire burns hot enough to maintain those temperatures.

Clean Chimney at Least Once a Year

Any chimney should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year. Chimneys that get a lot of use will require more frequent cleaning. Remember, soot and creosote buildup in the chimney is what flue fires are made of. Keep it clean, and you have protected yourself from this danger.

Carefully Inspect the Flue

As part of the chimney-cleaning process and following any chimney fire, the flue should be carefully inspected inside and out. Specialized equipment is now available which permits detailed internal inspection of the entire flue. The yellow pages list a number of companies (under "Chimney Cleaning") that are equipped to provide this inspection.

Fireplace safety tips:

- Keep flammable and combustible articles a safe distance from the open fire.
- Never burn paper or rags. If you use artificial logs, burn only one at a time.
- Do not burn charcoal in your fireplace at any time.
- Always use a fireplace screen in front of your fireplace.
- Do not leave your house or go to bed with the fireplace still burning.
- Put ashes in a metal container when you clean your fireplace.
- Make certain your smoke detectors are working.
- Make certain that children are always supervised when the fireplace is lit.

If you follow the above suggestions, you should have a safe and cozy time in front of your fireplace all during the cold weather season.

**See the Web Site for Tips on
Using Portable Generators**

Drive Safe Near Schools

School districts throughout Mount Prospect invest heavily in security hardware, video cameras and hall monitors in an attempt to keep your children safe. Staff receives training in conducting lock down drills and how to identify and report suspicious vehicles or persons in and around the schools. However, the greatest threat to your child's well-being and safety is a parent dropping off and picking up their child.



Every parent who drops off or picks up a child at school knows the streets and neighborhoods surrounding schools get very congested during these times. Parents sometimes park blocking driveways preventing homeowners access to their property. Cars regularly park in fire lanes and crosswalks. The most dangerous incidents occur when parents double or triple park in the street and then call out to their children who dart out between parked cars to get to the waiting parent. Adult volunteers are verbally abused daily when they ask parents to comply with the safety rules. The Mount Prospect Police are asking parents to schedule after school events and appointments accordingly so that you have the time to park safely and drive away from the school at a safe speed. If we all obey the traffic and parking laws and follow the school's pickup and drop off procedures, we can prevent the injury or death of a child.

Cook County Sheriff Law Enforcement Award of Merit



On November 9, Mount Prospect Police Detective Mark Recker received the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit.

Pictured left to right: Detective Recker and Chief of Police, John Dahlberg.

Crime Prevention Unit Temporarily Unstaffed

Due to economic reductions within the Police Department, the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) will be non-operational for the foreseeable future. Programs and services historically offered by CPU will be discontinued effective January 1st, 2011.

General questions regarding Police Department operations or individual citizen concerns may continue to be phoned in to Mrs. Cindy Rumore, Secretary to the Deputy Chief of Field Operations, at (847) 870-5650.

Being a "Nosy" Neighbor

When people hear someone say they have a "nosy" neighbor, it is usually thought of as a bad thing. A simple internet search on the topic resulted in hundreds of thousands of hits on how to get rid of one, but not many praising them for watching out for everyone. But is having a "nosy" neighbor all that bad? Often times we fall into the routine of our own lives and do not pay a whole lot of attention to what is going on around us. With the majority of residential burglaries taking place during the daytime while most people are out of their homes, we need to rely on those neighbors to watch out for us. Our neighborhoods could benefit from everyone being a little more nosy and calling 911 whenever they see or hear any suspicious people or activity.

Honey, "Where's my Car?"

During the winter months many citizens start their vehicles and let the engines run while sitting in the driveways or parking lots unattended. Last year several cars were stolen or taken for a joyride by an unlicensed juvenile who later was involved in an accident. This behavior is not only dangerous but also illegal regardless if the car is locked or not. You can also be held responsible in civil court for damages or injuries if your car is taken and involved in an accident. The bottom line is, never leave your car running unattended.



Winter Tips

Mailbox Policy and Damage

Mailboxes physically hit by a Village snowplow or truck, will be replaced by the Village at no charge. The Village will not replace mailboxes that are hit by snow thrown from snow plowing operations and damaged. The Village will provide a temporary mailbox until weather permits the resident to make the repairs in the spring. The only mailboxes considered for reimbursement must be installed per Village ordinance, which can be found on the Village Website at www.mountprospect.org. If your mailbox is damaged during snow plowing operations, please contact the Public Works Department at 847/870-5640.



Snow Parking Reminder

After a minimum 2-inch snowfall, parking isn't permitted on any Village street for at least 24 hours. This ordinance supersedes any overnight parking permission that previously may have been granted. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed by the Village to allow for snow removal crews to plow the streets. The cost of the towing will be borne by the vehicle owners. It is each vehicle owner's responsibility to monitor the weather conditions and to avoid problems if a 2-inch or greater snowfall occurs, regardless of the time of day.

For more information about requesting temporary permission, to park overnight on Village streets, call the Police Department at 847/870-5656.



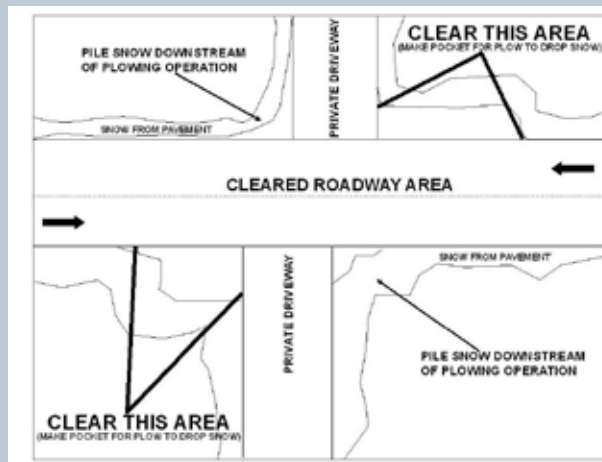
Snow Shoveling

Please remember that it is hazardous to shovel, plow, or blow snow onto any public street. All shoveled, plowed, or blown snow should be piled in your yard or parkway. Please follow the suggestion below to minimize windrows in your driveway opening.

Shovel the snow to the side, in the direction of traffic, and clear a pocket of snow on the opposite side of your driveway.

The accumulated snow in the plow will dump into the pocket and NOT in your driveway.

This simple procedure will minimize the amount of residual snow being plowed from the street into your driveway.



When will my street be plowed?

Since all streets can't be plowed at the same time after a snowfall, there is a priority system.

1. Principal intersections are plowed and salted first.
2. Primary collector streets are then plowed enough to allow two-way traffic to pass safely. Cul-de-sacs are plowed after a 2- inch accumulation of snow.
3. Feeder streets and dead ends are plowed last.
4. When all roads have been opened, repeat passes will be made to clear them curb-to-curb, and intersections also will be cleared completely.



Invasive Tree Pest Update: Emerald Ash Borer Found in Mount Prospect

Last September the Village of Mount Prospect joined the ever-growing list of communities where EAB has been found in northeastern Illinois. The Village has long been preparing for the arrival, consistently using all methods available to detect the invasive pests. The initial find was in a small group of ash trees at Henry and Albert Street. Village arborists originally identified the trees as being symptomatic of EAB and a later inspection found larval galleries, larvae and D-shaped exit holes.

The trees originally found to be infested were immediately removed at Village expense, and an inspection of the surrounding areas was performed to look for additional infestations. The additional inspections resulted in eleven more infested ash trees being removed. By November, additional infested trees had also been found near Camp McDonald/Mandel and near Central Road/Busse Road. The Village will continue to monitor suspect parkway ash trees and perform inspections on private ash trees at residents' request. Parkway trees found to be infested in the future will be removed by the Village while owners of infested ashes on private property will be required to promptly remove them at their own expense.

The Village has also continued its parkway ash tree reduction plan, removing poor quality ash trees, focusing on trees that have had high incidences of hangers/broken branches. Approximately 150 parkway ash trees were removed in 2010 for ash reduction. Although there are no immediate replacement plans due to the poor economy, sites that have an adequate planting location will be maintained on a list by the Village. The Village will be applying for some recently announced federal grants that may be used for tree planting. In the meantime, residents who wish to plant a replacement at their own cost are encouraged to contact Public Works to obtain a parkway tree planting permit package.

With EAB officially found in the Village, the Village recommends that owners of private property ash trees either budget for removing/replacing the trees within the next ten years, or begin preventive insecticide treatments next spring. Private ash owners should weigh the cost of treatment over a number of years versus removing the tree and replacing with a suitable replacement tree. The Village website www.mountprospect.org contains an EAB section on treatment options; this is a good source of information for those considering treatment of a private ash tree. There are also additional links pertaining to treatment methods, options and results.



Gypsy Moth Scouting Continues

Village arborists continued to monitor gypsy moth levels throughout Mount Prospect in 2010. The number of trees treated in the spring was up from years past, but moth trapping levels were down over the summer. Additional egg mass scouting throughout the coming winter will help clarify what the Forestry Division expects to find as far as Gypsy Moth populations in 2011.

In 2010 the Village treated known infestations on both public and private trees, using a contractor to remove egg masses and treat for larvae infestations. Treatments for treating Gypsy Moths in 2011 will depend on the availability of funds.

Residents can assist by inspecting their property for the presence of Gypsy Moth egg masses. Egg masses can range in size but are generally 1"-2" long by 1" wide, are tan in color and consist of hairs from the female moth. They can be found not only on trees but on any stationary outdoor object or surface. Any egg masses that are found should be destroyed by removing and soaking them in soapy water for a minimum of two days.

The Village can send a free homeowner's guide to residents concerned about gypsy moth. The guide covers some methods homeowners can use to control the pest on individual trees. It also covers insecticide treatments for high populations. Note that if using an insecticide for control, a professional licensed arborist should be consulted. The Gypsy Moth guide can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department at 847/870-5640.

Movement of Firewood Spreads Invasive Pests

Residents can help prevent the spread and introduction of pests by not moving tree debris or firewood from where it originated. For residents who use firewood, the Village encourages you to burn all of the wood before April. For future firewood purchases, ask for the source. Ideally, use firewood from locally grown trees. If the wood may have crossed state lines, look for a USDA shield on the packaging to insure that it has been properly inspected.



Solid Waste News & Notes



BASIC SERVICES

Unlimited Recycling of Acceptable Items:

Newspaper, Mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass food and beverage containers, steel/tin/bi-metal containers, empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil/formed foil and plastic containers identified as a #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, or #7 plastic and wax/polycoated "gable-topped" beverage containers such as milk cartons, juice drink boxes, whipping cream cartons and fabric softener refills. Formed polystyrene and packing peanuts are not collected in the recycling program. Corrugated cardboard of any size will be collected; boxes must be flattened.

Unlimited Brush Collection

[First full week of April through December 15]

Residents may set out an unlimited number of properly prepared bundles of brush. Properly prepared brush bundles will be collected at no cost; no sticker is required.

Tree limbs/branches are not to exceed 3.5" in diameter, 5' in length or 50 pounds in weight and must be secured with a biodegradable material.

Bulk Items

Bulk items are collected weekly with refuse on the same day as the residents regularly schedule pick up day. Collection is provided at no additional charge and there is no limit on the number of items a resident may set out as long as it appears on the following list:

- Carpet - rolls not to exceed 6'
- Furniture
- Microwave ovens
- Mattresses/boxsprings
- Large toys
- Plumbing fixtures
- Bicycles
- Swing Sets (5' lengths)
- Snow blowers/shovels
- Barbecue grills
- Lawn care equipment

**When you and your
neighbors recycle,
we will make a difference.**

**If you are not buying recycled,
you are not recycling.**

- Buy only products that use less packaging.
- Buy concentrates and larger sizes.
- Buy products that are reusable.

USER FEE SERVICES

The following services are available at an additional fee paid by the resident on your regular refuse collection day.

Containerized Yard Material

[First full week of April through December 15]

Residential Appliances

Residents are responsible for the proper disposal of residential appliances. Call the Public Works Department at 847/870-5640 for information on disposal options. Please do not set your appliance at the curb without making proper arrangements. Appliances and other refuse set at the curb prior to 4:30 p.m. the day before a resident's designated collection day is a violation of Village ordinance and a discourtesy to neighbors.

SOLID WASTE BOOKLET

All residents should have a copy of the Solid Waste booklet distributed by the Village. The brochure details specific guidelines and restrictions that apply to both Basic and User Fee Services. Should you have any questions after reviewing this document or do not have the booklet call Public Works at 847/870-5640 or check the web site, www.mountprospect.org.

2011 Holiday Collection Schedule

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

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day (Falls on a Sunday, no garbage collection the following Monday)

Exception: New Year's Day (Falls on a Saturday, no affect on the collection schedule)

If a holiday falls on a weekday and your regularly scheduled pickup is on that day or after, your pickup will be delayed by one (1) day. Friday pickups will be done on Saturday.

Social Services Assistance Available

Human Services Department Social Workers are available to assist residents with a variety of social service needs. Through Case Management, the Social Worker may coordinate programs offered by the department and/or other social services agencies to ensure the client is tapping into all the available services and not overusing the system. The Social Worker may provide Advocacy by using knowledge of the social services system to cut through the frustrating red tape. Practical Assistance with paper work is available whereby the Social Worker may assist residents with completing applications for many local, State and Federal economic programs, such as Circuit Breaker Grants, Public Aid, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Access to Care, Veterans Administration and other assistance programs. Through Information and Referral, residents are provided with access to information in many areas such as housing, legal advice, financial assistance, etc. To access these and any other department programs, please call the department at 847/870-5680.

Nursing/Health

Health Screenings

The nurse sees patients for blood pressure screening and monitoring, medication review, diabetic testing, injections, and diet counseling, every Monday morning between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon at the Community Center. Individual appointments can be scheduled



with the nurse when special assistance is needed. These may include physical assessments, dressing changes, caregiver counseling and referrals, specialized diet counseling, doctor referrals, etc.

Cholesterol Screenings

Cholesterol screening is done by appointment on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Human Services Department. A twelve-hour fast is required for the most accurate results. The screening measures total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, cholesterol/HDL ratio, and triglycerides at a cost of \$20.00. The nurse will discuss the test results with you immediately.

Call Check Program

The Call Check Program provides support for residents in the form of telephone reassurance, advocacy, and referrals to appropriate parties. It is intended for frail individuals who do not have the physical or mental resources; or family available, to provide such support.

This program will go into effect in times of extreme weather conditions, including heat indexes of over 105 degrees; a combination of extreme cold and ice; extreme temperatures and power outages; heavy winds and power outages. Note: Conditions must be widespread so that the Village is aware of the problem. Under this program, when Village of Mount Prospect staff feels that the weather conditions warrant it, Human Services personnel will contact participants of the Call Check Program.

The Village offers another program, the Lifeline Program, which provides vital information to the emergency medical team when the resident cannot speak. For details, contact the Human Services Department at 847/870-5680.

Thank You for Caring

Thanks to the generosity of Village residents, employees, local businesses, churches, schools and civic organizations, the Human Services department was able to provide assistance to a large number of needy residents, again in 2010. Recipients were given several bags of groceries, a turkey or ham, and a gift certificate for perishable foods. This year the need was greater than ever before. Thank you all.

Personal Information Form

The Human Services Department has a form for you to fill out and keep on hand with all of your pertinent information. In case of an emergency, this form would save your family countless hours of searching for your Insurance Company names, doctor names, bank names and account numbers, etc. This form is not just for senior citizens; it would come in handy for any-one. Stop by the Human Services Department to pick one up.

Advance Directives

Durable Power of Attorney for Property and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care:

Illinois law allows an individual to authorize another person to handle personal and business affairs in the event he or she is unable, due to absence, illness or disability, to make health care decisions. Also if the individual wishes to be an organ donor, he or she can so indicate on this form.

A Living Will enables Illinois adults to legally authorize, in advance, the withholding of life-sustaining procedures should they become terminally ill or injured. The living will is prepared while the individual is able to make independent decisions, thereby removing a heavy burden from the family and other loved ones. Power of Attorney forms and/or Living Will forms are available at the Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department at no cost.





Senior News

Community Connections Center 1711 W Algonquin Road, 847-506-4930

The Community Connections Center is sinking its roots deeper and wider into the south side of Mount Prospect as it forms collaborative relationships with its partner agencies and other organizations.

The Mt. Prospect Public Library's south branch continues to provide a full range of library services. In 2011 they will continue to provide computer training classes in Spanish and hold children story times on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

The Community Outreach Police Liaison will continue to offer periodic presentations on gangs, drugs and alcohol. He serves as a liaison with the Hispanic community and the Police Department on all police-related concerns.

In January, February and March 2011 the Center will have a series of presentations including classes on parenting, self-defense, and English as a second language (ESL). Other opportunities for ESL classes are being offered at Robert Frost elementary school and Rolling Meadows High School.

Presentations on health issues of critical importance to the Hispanic community will be given to various organizations throughout the community. Parent education workshops and programs which prepare parents and kids for kindergarten will be held at the Center. Another program which will help grade school children prepare for high school will be offered as well. All of these programs are sponsored by the Partner Agencies of the Center. The Partners are Northwest Community Hospital, Consolidated School District 59 and District 214 Continuing Education.

For more information about these programs, please call the Center at 847/ 506-4930.



Staff at the Library South Branch, located in the Community Connections Center

Income Tax Time is Here

Free Income Tax assistance will be available for seniors over the age of sixty. Trained volunteer counselors will assist in preparing Federal and State tax forms. Appointments must be made in advance by calling the Human Services Department at 847-870-5680. Tax preparers are trained to complete standard forms, individuals with very technical tax situations are advised to seek the services of a professional preparer.



Special Note: No Illinois Cares RX applications (formerly known as the Circuit Breaker Grant program) will be completed at the time Income Taxes are prepared. Human Services staff members will complete them, and are able in most cases to file them with the State by computer, thus shortening the time the State takes to process them. Those individuals who need help in completing their application for the Illinois Cares RX Program based on their 2010 income must schedule an appointment for this assistance. This separate appointment may be arranged at the same time the Income Tax appointment is scheduled.

IL Circuit Breaker and IL Cares Rx Program

The State of Illinois offers Assistance to individuals who are sixty-five years of age and older or disabled citizens who pay taxes or rent. Illinois residents who qualify may receive a cash grant, a discount on their State of Illinois license plates and/or help with their prescription drug costs.

Income guidelines to receive all of the above benefits are:

- \$27,610 for a one-person household
- \$36,633 for a two-person household
- \$45,657 for a three-person or more household

If you do not pay rent or real estate taxes, you can still receive assistance with your prescription coverage.

If you are interested in this program, call the Human Services Department at 847/870-5680. Although the deadline for filing your application for the 2010 Circuit Breaker/ IL Cares Rx Program is December 31, 2011, you may want to do this at "Income Tax time" since the same papers are needed for both.

Financial Planning Classes

A new series of classes will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning January 18 for 4 weeks, for pre-retirees and retirees. The topics include Retirement Planning, Fixed Income (CD's, Bonds, etc.) Annuities and Insurance, Stocks, and Mutual Funds. Classes will be held at the Village of Mount Prospect, 50 S. Emerson Street, 1st floor Community Center, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge; however, advanced registration is requested. There must be a minimum of ten people registered to hold the class. Please call 847-870-5680 to reserve a space.

Driver Refresher Classes

The Secretary of State sponsors Rules of the Road driver refresher classes for senior citizens who need to renew their driver's license. It is designed to reinforce knowledge of rules of the road and cover any changes in the driving laws. Classes are held every other month, with the next sessions scheduled for January 26 and March 23. Classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and are located in the Village Hall Community Center, 50 S. Emerson Street. You do not need to wait until your license expiration date; you may take the test ahead of time. Call 847/870-5680 to register.

Business Page



Ribbon Cuttings/Grand Openings



Corelink Data Center
800 E. Business Center Drive
(312) 957-7409

<http://www.corelink.com>



Carson Pirie Scott
999 N. Elmhurst Road
847/392-2000

<http://www.carsons.com>



Edible Arrangements
1730 W Golf Rd
(847) 357-1930

www.ediblearrangements.com



Bar Louie
200 E Rand Road
847/394-3456

www.barlouieamerica.com

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EXPERIENCE MOUNT PROSPECT

www.experiencemountprospect.org

Experience Mount Prospect is a shop local program designed to generate interest in the benefits shopping locally has on our community.

Visit our web site, www.experiencemountprospect.org to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter! The first 200 new subscribers will receive a \$10 gift card to a Mount Prospect restaurant.

Looking for the new business listing? You can download it from the web site, www.mountprospect.org.