



Village of Mount Prospect **Press Release**

Village Launches Alfresco Dining Pilot Program on Prospect Avenue

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CONTACT: Jason Shallcross, Director of Community & Economic Development
jshallcross@mountprospect.org

The Village of Mount Prospect has officially launched expanded outdoor café dining, referred to as “alfresco dining,” as a pilot program on Prospect Avenue. This initiative features protected outdoor dining spaces in front of Lady Dahlia Tequila Bar and Patina Wine Bar, aimed at enhancing the open-air dining experience for residents and visitors while prioritizing safe pedestrian access in the Prospect Avenue District.

“Prospect Avenue comes alive with alfresco dining at Lady Dahlia and Patina Wine Bar, offering a perfect blend of local cuisine and outdoor ambiance,” says Jason Shallcross, Director of Community & Economic Development. “Nestled in the heart of downtown Mount Prospect, this dining experience promises to charm both locals and visitors alike with its vibrant flavors and welcoming atmosphere.”

The alfresco dining pilot program temporarily transforms six on-street parking spaces into lively outdoor dining areas, offering a unique and inviting atmosphere. The dining areas are protected by concrete barriers and feature planter boxes, umbrellas, and decorative lighting. Both Lady Dahlia Tequila Bar and Patina Wine Bar are enthusiastic participants, eager to provide their patrons with an enhanced dining experience in downtown Mount Prospect.

“The Village recently expanded outdoor dining areas for Mia’s Cantina and the future Whiskey Hill Brewing Company,” stated Village Manager Michael Cassady. “This pilot offers similar alfresco dining space for our two newest restaurants located mid-block on Prospect Avenue, without impeding safe pedestrian access on the sidewalk.”

To help address concerns raised by local merchants and nearby residents regarding parking availability, the Village striped approximately 90 new parallel parking stalls along Prospect Avenue west of Pine Street. This addition offsets the temporary loss of the six parking spaces being used for the pilot and creates even more parking options for downtown visitors. A future valet parking pilot will be considered for the 2025 season if parking demands warrant. There are currently approximately 400 public parking spaces proximate for the Prospect Avenue District west of Main Street.

This initiative is part of the Village's broader efforts to attract new dining and entertainment businesses and create new activity in downtown Mount Prospect. By offering additional outdoor dining options, the Village aims to draw more visitors, boost visibility for local businesses, and provide an even more pleasant community space for all to enjoy. The Village Board ranked the creation of an alfresco dining plan as a high priority in the 2024-25 Strategic Plan.

After the outdoor dining season concludes in October, the Village will evaluate the success of the program and determine if it should return in 2025. The Village also plans to complete an engineering study for future streetscape, pedestrian, biking, and parking improvements on Prospect Avenue as part of the 2025 Community Investment Plan.

For more information about the alfresco dining program, contact Jason Shallcross, Director of Community & Economic Development, at jshallcross@mountprospect.org or 847-818-5307.

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