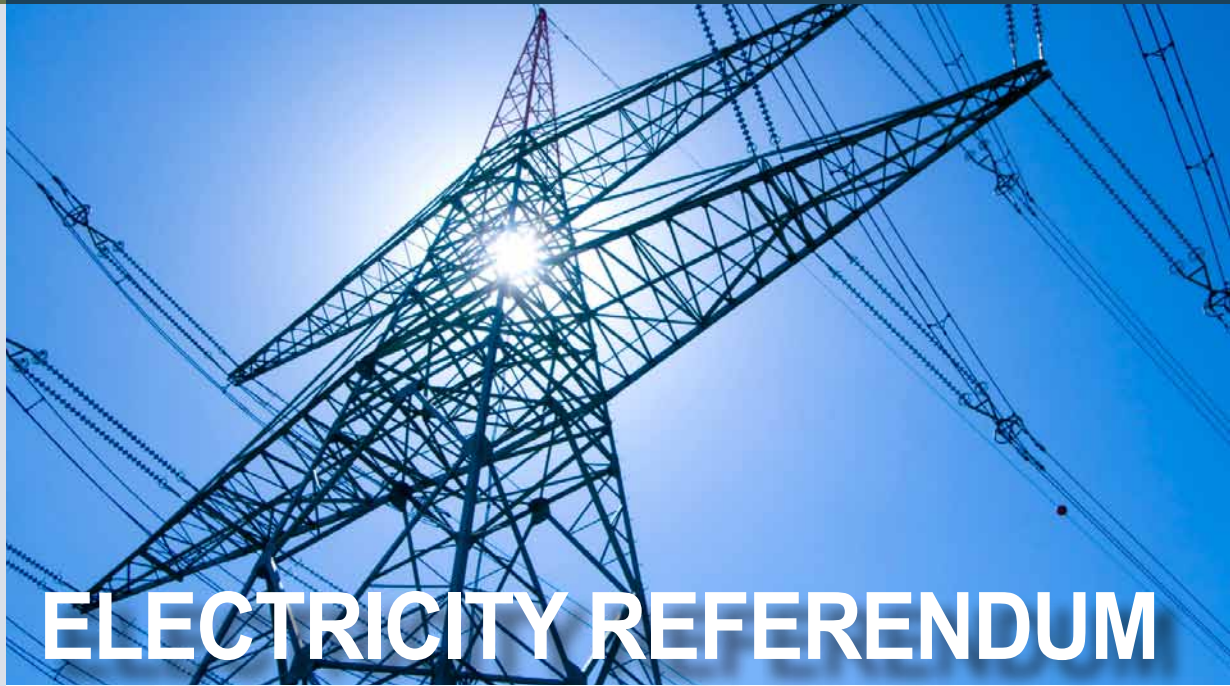




MOUNT PROSPECT Village News

WINTER 2012

Local governments now have the opportunity to seek competitive pricing for the provision of electricity to residents and small businesses.



ELECTRICITY REFERENDUM

Opportunity to Seek Lower Electric Bills for Residents

In 2010, the Illinois legislature gave municipalities a tool to help taxpayers save money. Local governments now have the opportunity to seek competitive pricing for the provision of electricity to residents and small businesses. In order to seek competitive prices for electrical services in one contract, the village needs approval from the residents through a referendum. The village board has placed the needed referendum regarding electrical services on the March 20 ballot.

The referendum asks citizens whether the village should have the authority to seek competitive pricing bids for electrical services under a single contract that would include residents and small businesses. It is hoped that by combining electrical service for all individual customers into a single bid, consumers will have lower electric bills and save money.

The referendum question reads as:

"Shall the village of Mount Prospect have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such a program?"

(Continued on Page 7)

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See insert for Community Preparedness Guide



News, Notes and Reminders

Celestial Celebration: Feb. 4

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 19th annual Celestial Celebration banquet to be held Saturday, February 4 at Bristol Court. Tickets are priced at \$45. This year's theme is: "Prom Night with the Stars." See Page 16 for a reservation form.

Vehicle Stickers

The deadline for displaying the 2011-2012 vehicle stickers was April 30, 2011. The Police Department issues citations to drivers of locally registered vehicles if the 2011-2012 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.

2012-2013 Vehicle Stickers

If you purchased a vehicle sticker in 2011, 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 13, 2012 you must come to Village Hall to pick up an application. If you have any questions, please call the Finance Department at 847/392-6000.

Overnight Parking

Citizens are reminded that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. All vehicles must be off the street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This allows the Police Department to quickly notice suspicious vehicles in your neighborhoods and allow our Public Works Department to remove snow from the streets in the most efficient manner. On the occasion that you have overnight guests or work being done on your driveway, permission to park on the street can be received by calling the Police Department Front Desk at 847/870-5656.

Pay utility bills and enter water meter readings online at www.mountprospect.org.

Water Rate Increase

The Village Board recently approved a 5.0% increase to water and sewer utility rates. The current combined rate for water and sewer is \$6.69. Effective with all billings after January 1, 2012, the new combined rate will be \$7.02. A Mount Prospect household that uses 15,000 gallons of water over a two-month period, their bimonthly water and sewer usage fee would be \$115.30, an increase of \$4.95. This includes the \$5 monthly sewer construction charge. There was no change in this sewer construction flat fee. For more information please contact the Water Billing Department at 847/392-6000.

Direct Bill Refuse Charge Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2012, residents will see a \$25 increase in the annual charge for refuse collection. For residents receiving Village water and sewer service, the bi-monthly charge will increase from \$12.50 to \$16.67. Billing to residents receiving water and sewer service from Illinois American Water will now be billed \$25.00 quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Sister Cities French Trivia Night

Q: What statue sitting in NY Harbor was donated to the U.S. by the French? If you answered the Statue of Liberty, you are ready for the Sister Cities French Trivia Night Party! Join us on February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street in the Community Center. Bring a friend, some snacks & beverages (you can bring a bottle of wine for the "wine table") and join us for a celebration of Mount Prospect's French-American connection. A \$10 donation at the door is appreciated. For more information, call 847/392-6000 or go to mountprospect.org/sistercities.



What's missing from Mount Prospect? YOU!

Have you ever thought about starting your own boutique or café? Join us to learn more about Mount Prospect's business incentives at the "Entrepreneur's Cafe," Tuesday, January 24, 9:00 a.m. at *Canta Napoli Restaurant, 90 E. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect.*

Ever thought of opening your own business?

Join us for the:
Entrepreneur's Cafe
January 24
9:00 a.m.

The Village of Mount Prospect is seeking new businesses - with a focus on retail and restaurants. If you have ever considered starting or expanding a business, what would you say if the Village of Mount Prospect offered to help you? Here are just a few of the innovative economic development benefits you can expect.

- **New Programs for 2012** that offer potential business owners support through education, outreach and mentoring
- **Financial incentives** for downtown locations: \$10,000 for retail and \$25,000 for restaurants for façade improvement and interior build-out (project must meet program guidelines)
- **Favorable demographics:** 54,000 plus residents; household incomes of \$100,000+ for one third of the population

At the *Entrepreneur's Cafe* on January 24, you can meet representatives from the Small Business Development Center, Mount Prospect Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants Association and Village of Mount Prospect who will be available to help you navigate the process or starting a new business.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Clare O'Shea at 847/818-5312 or coshea@mountprospect.org. We look forward to seeing you!



Primary Election - March 20

Offices to be Nominated at the Primary Election & Elected at the General Election:

- United States President
- Representatives in Congress
- State Senators
- Representatives in the General Assembly
- Clerk of the Circuit Court, Recorder of Deeds and State's Attorney
- Judges at all levels of the state judicial system
- Convention delegates
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioners
- Vacancies - State Supreme Court Judges, State Appellate Court Judges and Cook County Circuit Court Judges and Subcircuit Judges



Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote in the March Primary Election you must be registered to vote by February 21, 2012*. If you have moved since the last election you need to re-register. 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.

Voter registration is available in the Village Clerk's Office at Village Hall, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

** High School Students - If you are 18 or will be 18 by March 20, be sure to register to vote and be a part of the electoral process.*

Information on grace period voter registration and voting, absentee voting, early voting dates and locations go to the Cook County Clerk's Office website. www.voterinfont.com. or call the Mount Prospect Village Clerk's office at 847.818.5333.



Prospect Ave. - Before

Prospect Ave. - After



Improvements in Lighting Technology Save Village Energy

Lighting technology has rapidly evolved over the last decade, with shifts from incandescent light bulbs and high pressure sodium lamps towards compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs). These new lighting technologies, in conjunction with the widespread replacement of T-12 fluorescent lamps with more energy efficient lighting such as T5/T8 fluorescent lamps and fixtures, are saving energy and reducing carbon emissions. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that switching to LED lighting technology alone over the next two decades "could save the country \$120 billion in energy costs over that period, reduce the electricity consumption for lighting by one-fourth, and avoid 246 million metric tons of carbon emissions."

With funding support from the DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and a State of Illinois Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program grant, the Village recently installed 24 LED pedestrian and 25 street light fixtures on Prospect Avenue. The lighting project, designed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) and installed by Hecker & Company, Inc., took six months to complete. The project is expected to save the Village approximately \$10,000 a year in energy costs, as well as reduce maintenance costs due to the lighting's longer life cycle. Within the next year, the Public Works Department also plans to retrofit light fixtures at Kensington Business Center with new LED light fixtures using the same grant funding support.

During the same time period as the Prospect Avenue light project, the Public Works Department hired All Tech Energy to upgrade all the indoor lighting at the Village's Public Safety building with new energy efficient lighting. Again, the Village leveraged grant funding; this time from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and the State of Illinois Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program. Thanks to the grant funding, the Village only needed to invest 19% of the \$82,494 total project cost. The upgrades are expected to significantly reduce energy usage and require less maintenance. In addition to these benefits, employees have noted that the lighting is cleaner, whiter, and brighter; making it easier for them to perform their duties.

If you want to learn more about energy efficient lighting technology and steps you can take to save energy, go to www.energystar.gov or www.energysavers.gov/your_home/lighting_daylighting.

Mark Your Calendar for these Community Events/Programs

Mount Prospect Public Library

www.mpppl.org

Harper College Information Night: Back to School 101 for Adult Learners

Monday, January 9, 4 - 7 p.m.

Are you considering starting or returning to college? Changing careers? Meet with Harper College representatives to learn about both credit and noncredit programs, how to have a successful college experience, and how to achieve your educational goals. Don't be intimidated. Harper's representatives will work with you one-on-one to help you get started. It's not too late; spring registration is underway. No appointment necessary. Drop in anytime between 4 and 7 p.m.

Getting to "You're Hired" Workshop

Monday, January 30, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This full-day workshop, presented by Illinois workNet, will focus on effective techniques for getting a job in today's market. You will then learn how to prepare for the interview, review common interview questions, and learn effective ways to answer them. Registration is required. To sign up, visit www.mpppl.org, call 847/253-5675, or stop by the Library.

Develop Your Computer Skills

The Library offers computer classes on a wide range of topics, starting with the basics of using a computer and searching the Internet to Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. New classes are offered monthly and fill quickly. Stop in to pick up the current schedule and register for an upcoming class.

Mount Prospect Historical Society

www.mtphist.org

Skating Party Presidents Day – February 20, 2012

The Mount Prospect Historical Society and the Mt. Prospect Park District will be hosting a Skating Party to preserve local history with music by a DJ at the Central Community Center (CCC), located at 1000 W. Central Rd., on Monday, February 20, from noon to 5 p.m. \$5 admission, all the proceeds will go towards the many MPHS educational programs.

New Exhibit -Growing Up in Mount Prospect

The exhibit features the population boom of the 1950s and '60s and contains a number of artifacts and photos related to this important period in the history of the community. MPHS Museum Intern Eileen O'Keefe serves as curator of the exhibit. Tours are available Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. There is a suggested admission donation of \$2 per person. For more information, contact the Society at 847/392-9006 or e-mail info@mtphistory.org.

River Trails Park District

www.rtpd.org

3rd Annual Snow Day!

Saturday, January 14, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Woodland Trails Park - Outside! FREE!!

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

Trails Fitness Club

1500 E Euclid Ave- Mt. Prospect

Fitness Specials! January Corporate Special...\$50 off a 1 year company membership. February King & Queen of Hearts...all couples receive 20% off a couple membership. March Spring Break Fever! One month membership for just 12 bucks!

Rob Roy Golf Course

505 E Camp McDonald Rd, Prospect Heights

It's never too early to sign up a league! Openings Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.. Guaranteed weekly tee times. You choose your league's start & end date. Special league deals at the Woodland Trails Driving Range. Openings for 2012. Call Gary 847/463-3721.

Mt. Prospect Park District

www.mppd.org

Fitness Membership Sale

Mt. Prospect Park District's annual one-year fitness membership super sale is on through January 16, 2012. Save \$50 on any one-year fitness or all-facility membership PLUS save \$20 on a fitness evaluation or massage.

Mt. Prospect Community Band Spring Concert - March 16

The Mt. Prospect Community Band proudly presents its Spring Concert, "The Wearing of the Green", on Friday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater of the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd, Arlington Hts. This program will feature the rich and varied music of the Emerald Isles - and on March 16, everyone will be Irish - and we hope you can join us.

Veterans Memorial

Buy a brick at the Veterans Memorial at Lions Park as a unique holiday gift for someone special. Plans are in place to construct a lasting and beautiful tribute to U.S. veterans and current military personnel. The design will integrate the current band shell into a serene and dignified setting worthy of those who will be commemorated. A limited number of bricks and commemorative benches will be available for purchase. For additional information, see the Park District Winter brochure (page 57), visit our website www.mppd.org/veteransmemorial to download a brochure/order form or call 847/255-5380.

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, 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 17.5% of the Village's total revenues expected for 2011. 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 \$115,500 (approximate market value of \$350,000) will pay the Village about \$908 in property taxes as a result of the final 2010 levy (payable in 2011). Of this amount, \$414 is for police and fire protection, \$280 is for funding public safety pensions (police and fire), \$107 is for refuse disposal, and \$107 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.

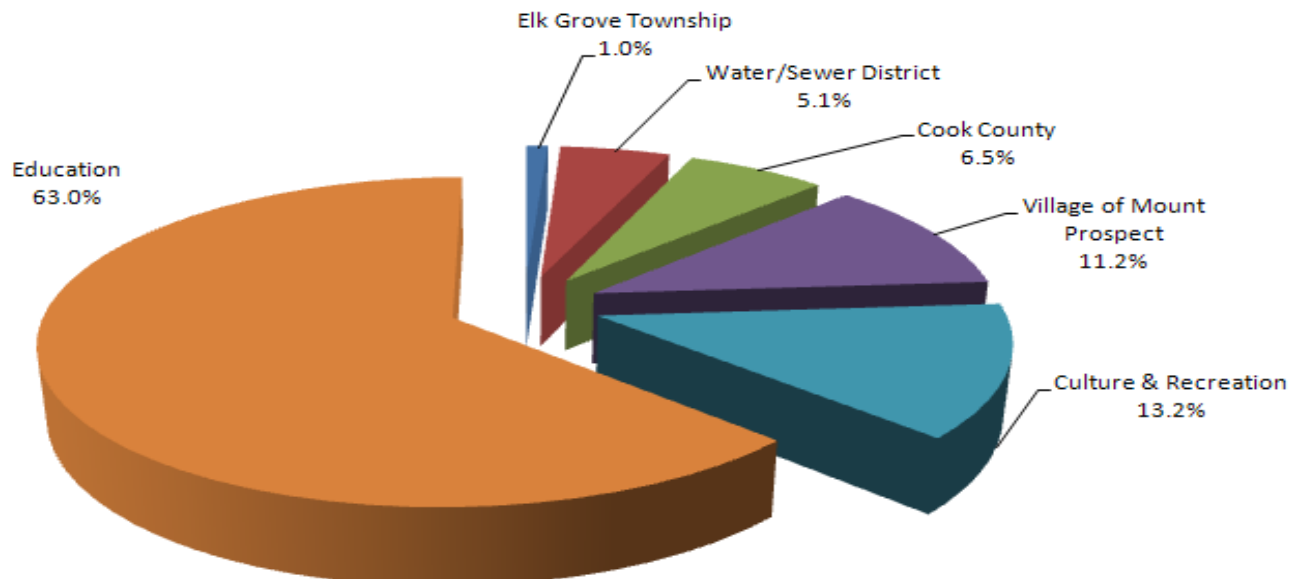
With the exception of the Village and Public Library, the taxing districts in Mount Prospect do not share common boundaries. As such, not all of the 34 tax levies appear on every tax bill for a Mount Prospect resident or business. Typically, there are 16 or 17 districts on each individual tax bill.

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 2010 tax bill (payable in 2011). The Village is to receive \$15.2 million or 11.2% of the total. The percentages vary depending on the area of the Village and the taxing districts included.

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 2010 Property Taxes (Example of resident who lives in Elk Grove Township)





Protecting Your Investment

Aluminum Wiring Safety

The Village recommends that 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 information.

Thinking About a Building Project?

Refreshing your bathroom? Updating your kitchen? Adding on to the house? Building a new house? The Building Division offers FREE pre-submittal meetings. These meetings are meant to ease you through the application process, explain the requirements of what the Village is looking for, and make your permit review process go smoothly and quickly! To schedule a pre-submittal meeting for your project, please contact the Permit Coordinator at 847/818-5396.

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 real estate transfer stamp.

The Importance of Building Permits and Inspections

People sometimes ask why it is important to get building permits for construction work, but avoiding permits can create life safety hazards and even affect the value of your property. Frequently, we hear concerns about the Village requiring permits for items such as water heaters, furnaces, air conditioners, and generators. While it may seem tedious, the Village specifically requires permits on any project that involves gas, electricity, and/or water for our resident's safety. Final inspections are performed to ensure that your contractor performed the work and/or installed your new mechanicals correctly.

Most importantly, inspections are conducted to protect life safety; however, permits and inspections are also important in protecting the value of your investment. For instance, if you install a gas fireplace without a mechanical permit and your house burns down because of faulty installation, your insurance may not cover the damage.

When it comes time to sell your home, permits and inspections can help validate the value of your home. Many times appraisers ask for verification that the improvements were, in fact, done with permit. If the sellers cannot substantiate that the work was done with permits, the appraiser might not give full value for the improvements. If the house doesn't appraise for the sale price, your sale could be in jeopardy.

If you have questions regarding work requiring permits, please do not hesitate to call us at 847/870-5675 or email us at building@mountprospect.org

Current Plat of Survey Required

The Building Division will require an accurate Plat of Survey to process a variety of permits. The purpose in requiring the Plat of Survey is to ensure the work is occurring on the applicant's property and to review zoning conformance; including the land use and density of the project, setbacks from the property line, and lot coverage. Calculating lot coverage is important because the more impervious the surface, more water is displaced into the stormwater maintenance system, contributing to flooding in high rain events.

Property owners should receive a Plat of Survey at the time they purchase a property. If you do not have a copy of your Plat, a good place to start may be the financial institution that holds your mortgage. If you are unable to locate a copy of your Plat, you will need to consider having a new Plat made. Your Plat is the legal document that shows exactly what land you own. It should also accurately reflect the structures and impervious surface on your lot. If you need to have a Plat made of your property, there are several local surveyors listed in the yellow pages.

If an application is made for a building permit and the applicant is seeking permission to replace an item already on the survey, a new plat of survey will not be required; the applicant will sign an affidavit that the survey being used accurately reflects existing conditions. For property alterations not built at the time the survey was taken, a plat of survey no older than 1 year is required; again, the applicant will sign an affidavit that the survey being used accurately reflects conditions.

Questions may be directed to the Permit Coordinator at 847/818-5396.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Referendum on Electric Rates

How can the Village purchase electricity on behalf of residents and small businesses at potentially lower cost?

Under a recent state law, Villages are now able to receive bids from suppliers on behalf of the entire community under single contract. There is potential that the Village could work with additional surrounding communities to increase the bulk pricing opportunity for bidding purposes. If the rates are lower than ComEd's all residential and small business accounts in the Village limits would purchase electricity from the new supplier saving residents and businesses on their electric bills.

Why is there a referendum?

Under the state law, voters must approve a referendum granting the Village the authority to seek electric service bids for residents and small businesses under single contract.

What does the referendum ask?

The referendum asks Mount Prospect voters if the Village should have the authority to seek competitive pricing bids for electric service under a single contract. Specifically it states:

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ARRANGE FOR THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR ITS RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL RETAIL CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE NOT OPTED OUT OF SUCH A PROGRAM?"

Why is the Village asking for this authority?

The Village is attempting to save residents and businesses money by taking advantage of this state law. The Village receives no financial benefit from the bidding process. However, if the process results in lower electricity costs, residents and businesses would benefit.

What happens if the voters approved a referendum?

If the voters approve, the Village would begin the process of developing bid documents and seeking bids from electric suppliers. If the resulting prices are lower than the current prices from ComEd, the Village Board would accept the best bid. Since electric rates would be lower, residents and business electric bills would go down.

What if I do not want to participate?

You are under no obligation to change electric suppliers. Each electric customer would be contacted by the selected new electricity supplier. Any customer may "opt out" of the program and stay with your current electric supplier.

What if prices from the bids are higher than ComEd's prices?

The Village Board would not accept any bids that are higher and your account would stay with ComEd.

What rate savings can be expected?

It is too early to predict the level of savings as electric suppliers have yet to price residential and small business accounts under single bid contract and rates fluctuate significantly over time. It is hoped that the bulk pricing will result in savings over a multi-year period.

If power is purchased from another supplier who would residents call for outages?

By law, ComEd would continue to handle all service issues including emergency repairs, billing questions, and outage reporting.

Would I get a separate bill from the new supplier?

You would still be a customer of ComEd's delivery system, but you would purchase power from another supplier. The Village would have the option of continuing to use ComEd for all monthly billings through a single bill covering ComEd and the new electricity supplier.

Can the public have input into the bids?

Yes, the Village will hold a minimum of two public hearings to give residents the opportunity to provide input on the plan.

If the referendum passes, is the Village obligated to switch suppliers?

No. The referendum only gives the Village the right to seek competitive bids. If the bids do not come back lower, no change will be made.

Will the Village provide the public with comparison information on the new proposed rates compared to the current ComEd rates?

Yes. Prior to accepting any bids the Village will provide the public with this information.

When would be the first bid take place if the voters vote "yes"?

Most likely May or June of 2012.

Electricity Referendum

(continued from Page 1)

Voter approval of the referendum is the first step in the process of trying to achieve better customer pricing for residents and businesses. If voters approve the referendum, village would take the following steps: (1) the village would hold two public meetings; (2) it must develop a governance plan; (3) it must solicit competitive pricing bids; and, (4) if the bids reflect lower prices than the current ComEd pricing at the time, the Village Board would approve agreements that would initiate the program for residents and businesses through reduced electric bills.

It should be noted that if voters approve the referendum, residents will still have the choice to "opt out" of any negotiated program the village establishes. In other words, an approval vote does not require voters to make any changes in their electrical service provider; however, in order to stay with your existing provider the customer would have to "opt out" during a defined enrollment window.

Additional information will be provided on the village website at www.mountprospect.org plus you can review the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on this page for further clarification.



Help Keep Hydrants Clear

Fireplace Maintenance

Proper maintenance of a chimney reduces the buildup of creosote, a black tarry substance that can block passageways or ignite. Maintaining proper flue temperatures is also a part of good chimney maintenance. Chimneys should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year.

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.

Is Your Address Visible?

Emergency responders can be delayed in responding to calls for assistance if they can't see your address.

- Use numbers (123) instead of spelling out the address (One Two Three).
- Make sure the numbers are placed in an area illuminated at night, or leave a porch light on to assist in finding your home.

Take a minute to check your home's address number to see it is adequately displayed and visible from the street.

Fire hydrants in the winter months can easily become lost or frozen when buried in the snow which could hinder fire department access in the event of an emergency.

You can help the fire department by ensuring the fire hydrant near your home or business is kept free from snow at all times. Please keep a clear path to the street as well as three feet of clearance around the hydrant.



Businesses that have a private hydrant are required to have a "hydrant flag" or hydrant marker indicating the location of these hydrants.

The Mount Prospect Fire Department sincerely appreciates your efforts to assist us. If you have any questions, please contact the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Bureau at 847/818-5253.

Portable Generator Safety Tips

Portable generators are useful for temporary or remote electric power. Primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fire. Improper placement of portable generators in crawl spaces, basements, attached garages, or within close proximity to the home may result in injury or death. The U.S. Fire Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Council (CPSC) offer the following life-saving tips.

- Only use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. NEVER use generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Keep the generator dry. Use on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet (known as back-feeding). This practice can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformers.
- If you must connect a generator to house wiring, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

For more information on how you can help prevent fire and fire deaths, please contact the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Bureau at 847/818-5253.

**See the Web Site for
Space Heater Safety Tips**

Beware of Phone Scams

Recently, the police department has been receiving increased complaints from residents being scammed out of money via telephone scams. Here a few of the most common phone scams being used:



1. "Prize Distribution Centers" calling to claim you are the winner in a sweepstakes or lottery. Of course you are not the only "winner" in the lottery and tens of thousands of people received the same call. The goal is to entice you to make a relatively small payment (shipping and handling fee or sales tax) promising that a much bigger prize will be sent your way. Once the payment is sent, you will most likely never hear from the company again.
2. Individuals targeting senior citizens claiming they are a family member (most commonly a grandchild) in crisis. The caller may even know the alleged family member's name and will claim they are falsely being detained (in a foreign jail, customs, etc.) and need money sent immediately to bond them out. This scam can be discovered simply by asking the caller a few follow up questions only the alleged family member would know the answers to.
3. Fake bank alert scams involve the caller claiming to be from your bank or credit card company and advising there are problems with your account. The caller may give some or all of your personal information to you and have you verify your account information for them. Once the caller has this information, he or she is able to commit identity theft, charge existing credit cards, open new credit card, checking, or savings accounts, or take out loans in your name. To combat this scam, NEVER give out personal information (social security numbers, account numbers, Personal Identification Numbers) over the phone unless you initiate the call or, better yet, go to the bank in person.

The sad truth is, everyone is susceptible to phone scams. However, if you stay alert and realize that you are in control of your phone conversations, the chance of being a victim is greatly reduced. If you do fall victim or receive a suspicious phone call, call the Mount Prospect Police Department at 847/870-5656.

Mount Prospect's Newest Police Officer Graduates from the Police Academy



Officer David Carlson returned to join the ranks of the Mount Prospect Police Department after successfully graduating from the University of Illinois Police Training Institute on December 22, 2011.

The Police Training Institute's Basic Law Enforcement course is a twelve week program that meets the minimum training requirements of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board for all police officers in the State of Illinois. After completing an 18 week long field training program, Officer Carlson will assume solo patrol duties with the Mount Prospect Police Department.

The Mount Prospect Police Department welcomes Officer David Carlson and congratulates him on his successful completion of the police academy.

Traffic Enforcement

The Mount Prospect Police Department will be conducting the enforcement "Street of the Week" program where officers concentrate their efforts on particular roadways for a one week period. The following is the list of dates and roadways for the "Street of the Week" program:

December 26th – January 1st
Elmhurst Rd. / Main St. (RT 83)

January 2nd – January 8th
Central Rd.

January 9th – January 15th
Rand Rd. (RT 12)

January 16th – January 22nd
Lincoln St.

January 23rd – January 29th
Northwest Hwy. (RT 14)

January 30th – February 5th
Golf Rd. (RT 58)

February 6th – February 12th
Burning Bush Ln.

February 13th – February 19th
Busse Rd.

February 20th – February 26th
Wolf Rd.

February 27th – March 4th
Euclid Ave.





New Electronics Waste Ban

Holiday Light Recycling Program

The Village is accepting unused and non-working Holiday string lights and extension cords. 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 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday. The program begins on November 1st and will end on February 29, 2012. 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.

Recently the State of Illinois became the 16th state to adopt an electronics recycling law known as the Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313). This legislation bans certain electronic items, mainly computers and televisions, from Illinois landfills starting January 1, 2012.

To assist residents with collecting old electronics and to ensure environmentally safe recycling of these materials, the Village in association with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) has developed the Electronics Recycling Drop-off Program to collect electronics on an ongoing basis.

Each location will accept items from all SWANCC residents. Please note that only the acceptable items will be allowed at the drop-off locations.

Weekly Drop-off Locations

Collection locations will be closed on national holidays.

Glenview Transfer Station

1151 N River Road
Across from the Maryville Academy
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Please note that the transfer station will be closed following a holiday.

Winnetka

Public Works
1390 Willow Road
Tuesdays: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursdays: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Hoffman Estates (April -November)

Village Hall
1900 Hassel Road
Mondays: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesdays: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

One-day Drop-Off Locations

One day collections are held at various SWANCC communities throughout the year please visit www.swancc.org for a current collection schedule.

Beginning, January 1, 2012, the Village's waste hauler, ARC Disposal & Recycling, will no longer pick up the following electronics at the curb:

- Televisions
- Monitors
- Printers
- Computers (including tablet computers)
- Electronic Keyboards
- Facsimile Machines
- Videocassette Recorders
- Portable Digital Music Players
- Digital Video Disc Players
- Video Game Consoles
- Small Scale Servers
- Scanners
- Electronic Mice
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- Digital Video Disc Recorders



Invasive Tree Pest Update: Emerald Ash Borer Finds Increasing

Village arborists continued to find Emerald Ash Borer throughout Mount Prospect in 2011. They are still asking residents to report to Public Works any ash trees showing EAB symptoms. The most common of these are branch dieback, bark splits, suckering and D-shaped emergence holes. Also, in late Winter/early Spring before infested ashes leaf out, woodpecker damage often becomes fairly evident.



Parkway trees that have been found to be infested with EAB are removed by the Village's contractor. Fortunately, Public Works received a \$30,000 grant in 2011 to replace parkway ashes removed through 3/31/2011, with a diversified mix of new tree species. The Village is optimistic that a similar grant may be available for 2012. If awarded, the grant funds will be used to replace additional removed ashes.

The Village's arborists continue to routinely monitor all parkway ash trees, and to perform inspections on private ash trees by request. Note that Village code requires private infested ash trees to be promptly removed at the owner's expense.

Now that EAB is firmly entrenched in our area, Village arborists recommend that private ash owners either budget for removing/replacing their trees within the next ten years, or begin insecticide treatments this spring. Private ash owners should weigh the cost of treatment over a number of years versus removing the tree and planting a suitable replacement. Also note that the Village will issue permits to any residents interested in paying to preventively treat their healthy parkway ashes as well.

An EAB update is planned for a "Committee of the Whole" meeting of the Village Board, likely in January or February 2012. At that time, the Village will also announce the date of a property owners' seminar where various EAB treatment options will be discussed. Please check www.mountprospect.org for additional EAB information.

Gypsy Moth Levels Continuing to Decrease

Gypsy Moths were first found on Mount Prospect's trees in 2008, and "finds" increased substantially in 2009 and 2010. For the first time, in 2011, the number of egg mass and caterpillar finds decreased. Additionally, fewer male moths were found in the Village's Gypsy moth traps.

As caterpillars, these insects consume massive volumes of leaves. Though oak leaves are their preferred food, they will feed on more than 500 types of trees and shrubs. Fortunately, most healthy deciduous plants are not killed from losing all their leaves one time, though evergreen plants do not recover from complete defoliation.

Public Works arborists are hopeful that this decline is the result of the Village's control efforts thus far. They note also that natural causes such as weather and insect diseases tend to eventually limit Gypsy Moth populations after they've built up to damaging levels. Forestry/Grounds personnel will once again be checking over the winter for Gypsy Moth egg masses on both public and private trees, concentrating on areas that have been most heavily populated in the past.

Residents can assist by looking for Gypsy Moth egg masses before hatching begins in April. These are tan, hairy and generally 1-2" long by 1" wide. They can be found not only on trees but on any stationary outdoor object. Egg masses should be destroyed by removing and soaking them in soapy water for a minimum of two days. Upon request the Village will send a free Gypsy Moth homeowner's guide to residents (call Public Works at 847/870-5640).

Movement of Firewood Spreads Invasive Pests

For residents who use firewood, the Village encourages you to burn all of the wood before April. Gypsy Moth, EAB and other invasive pests are easily spread by firewood movement. If you purchase firewood to heat your home, make sure it comes from a vendor certified by the Illinois Department of Agriculture or has a compliance label from the USDA. Also, make sure any tree care companies you hire to work on your private ash trees can produce a signed Illinois Department of Agriculture "EAB Compliance Agreement."



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.

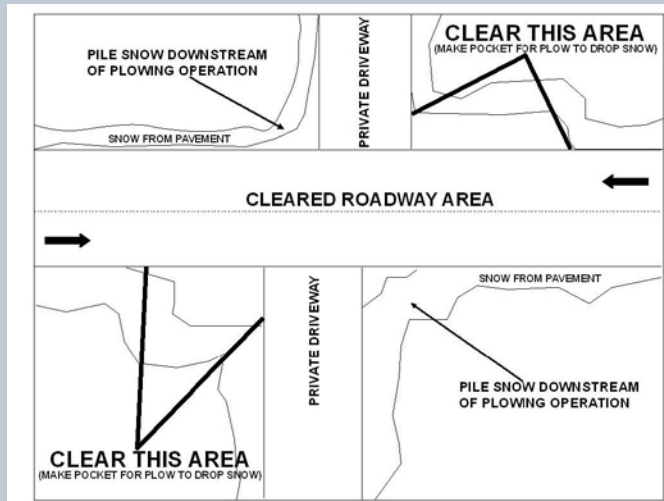
For more information about requesting temporary permission, to park overnight on Village streets, call the Police Department at 847/870-5656.



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.



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.

Advance Directives

Human Services Department staff can help you and your family with the following services/forms:

- 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 Advance Directives
- Durable Power of Attorney for Property and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Will - enables Illinois adults to legally authorize, in advance, the withholding of life-sustaining procedures should they become terminally ill or injured.

Power of Attorney forms and/or Living Will forms are available at the Village of Mount Prospect Human Services Department at no cost. Call today to schedule an appointment.

Nursing/Health Services

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.



Holiday Thank You

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 240 needy families for the Holiday Season in 2011. 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.



Community Connections Center

1711 W Algonquin Road, 847/506-4930

The Mount Prospect Human Services Department offers the same quality social services to all residents at the Community Connections Center. The Center's evening hours allow residents the expanded opportunity to obtain information and referral, linkage to community resources, access to the Village food pantry, financial assistance, case management, and short-term counseling.

The Center's partner agencies provide important safety, health and educational programs. The monthly calendar of events is available at www.mountprospect.org under the Human Services Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS at the Center:

• Voter Registration

The League of Women Voters is holding a Voter Registration Drive at the Community Connections Center Saturday, January 14th from noon until 3:00 p.m. New U.S. citizens, youth who are U.S. citizens and turn 18 years old by voting day and voters who recently moved into the area are encouraged to register at the Center. Please bring two identification cards with you that day; at least one piece of identification must have your current address. Call 847/506-4930 with questions.

• Health Screenings

The Village Nurse offers blood pressure screenings and diabetes check at the Center the 4th Thursday of the month.

• Information for Your Health

Northwest Community Hospital's "Health Promoters" share health information in Spanish. Breastfeeding was recently introduced into the program's list of classes. Research indicates the incidence of obesity in children is reduced with breastfed children.



Income Tax Assistance for Seniors

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 one being January 22, 2012 and the spring class will be March 28, 2012. Classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and are located in the Village Hall first floor 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 if you hope to avoid bad weather or conflicts with travel plans. Call 847/870-5680 to register.

Secretary of State Mobile Unit

The Secretary of State Mobile unit will be coming to the Village Hall on Thursday, March 8, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The following are some of the services that will be offered.

- Renewal/Correction of Drivers License
- New/Renewal/Correction of State ID
- License Plate Stickers
- Motor Voter Registration with renewal of DL/ID
- Organ Donor Registration with renewal of DL/ID
- Seniors Age 65 and up - No charge for State ID
- Seniors Age 75 and up - Need to visit DMV to renew Drivers License.

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 2011 income must schedule an appointment for this assistance.

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:

- 21,780 for a one-person household
- \$29,420 for a two-person household
- \$37,060 for a three-person or more household

For individuals/couples who are above those income levels, but are below the following income will still qualify for a cash grant, a discount on their State of Illinois license plate, and be able to receive the Seniors Ride for Free card for the trains and buses:

- \$27,610 for a one-person household
- \$36,633 for a two-person household

Please call the Human Services Department at 847/870-5680, for assistance and/or the application.



Financial Planning Classes

A new series of classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons, February 1, 8, 22, & 29, 2012 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 Room, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A fee of \$20 per person or \$25 per couple (living at the same address) must be paid prior to the first class. Checks are to be made out to the Village of Mount Prospect. You may pay by mail or in person at the Village Hall Human Services Department, 50 S. Emerson Street, 2nd floor, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Please call 847/870-5680 for more information.

Business News

New Businesses



Wet Seal
4 Randhurst Village Drive
847/870-7810 www.wetseal.com



Vista Linda Vision Center
111 W. Prospect Avenue
847/253-2100 www.vistalindaeyes.com



Crave Pizza
106 W Northwest Hwy.
(224) 735-3973

Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce

website www.mountprospectchamber.org
847/398-6616
events@mountprospect.com

2012 DYNAMIC YEAR LUNCHEON

Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce and American Chartered Bank invite all businesses and community members to

2012 Dynamic Year Luncheon

Thursday, January 12

\$30 per person

11:30 am Registration/Networking, 12:00 noon Luncheon

Victoria in the Park, 1700 S. Elmhurst Road

2011 Business Awards

Please bring donation for the Mount Prospect Food Pantry

MOUNT PROSPECT TRIVIA NIGHT

Sponsored by Village Bank & Trust, Picket Fence Realty, Mount Prospect Junior Woman's Club and B & E Accounting Services

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 7:00 PM

\$15 per person

Saint Paul Lutheran School,

18 S. School Street, just south of Central Road

Bring your own apps/snacks to picnic at your own table - soda/water/beer/wine for sale.

Be creative and have fun choosing your team name/costumes and theme!

Raffle and prizes for best costume and winners of categories

Travelling Team Trophy for TRIVIA NIGHT CHAMPION !!!



SHOP LOCAL

Experience Mount Prospect features the latest news, events, retail and dining values.

Don't miss out - sign up for our e-newsletter today!



Follow us on Twitter - Friend us on Facebook
[exmp60056](https://twitter.com/exmp60056)

www.experiencemountprospect.org

VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT

50 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
www.mountprospect.org

VILLAGE HALL HOURS

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

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 are 847/area code unless otherwise noted.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Irvana K. Wilks

TRUSTEES

Paul Wm. Hoefert	John J. Matuszak
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.

NO PARKING ON VILLAGE STREETS

2:00 A.M. TO 6:00 A.M.

The **MOUNT PROSPECT VILLAGE NEWS** is published by the Village as a public information service for residents. This publication may not be reproduced as a whole or in part by electronic, photographic, print, or any other means without prior written permission by the Mount Prospect Village Manager.

EDITOR

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pio@mountprospect.org

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Celestial Celebration XOXO Prom Night with the Stars

*Saturday, February 4, 2012
Bristol Court, 828 F. 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. Feel free to dress as you did to attend your high school prom - just for fun, add your prom picture to our collage at the dance!

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 phone 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

Please include with your order the names of all attendees (for nametags)

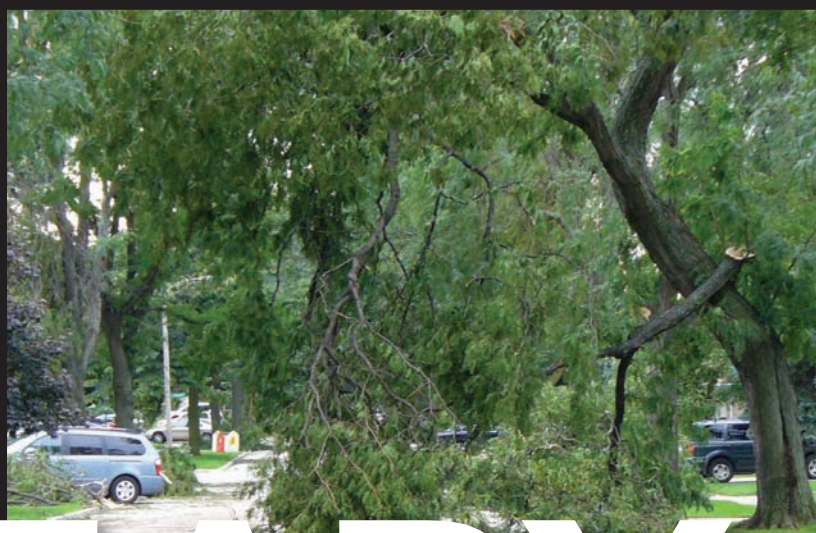
COFFEE WITH COUNCIL



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.



BE INFORMED



BE READY

BE INFORMED

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM REGISTER YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TODAY!

The Village of Mount Prospect uses an Emergency Alert System to provide residents and businesses with information about local emergencies. Emergency Alert messages are automatically sent to all listed phone numbers in the Village, but what happens if you are not at home or if the power is out?

By registering your contact information with our database you can have messages sent to your cell phone, work phone or e-mail address to ensure you receive this important information.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE AN EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGE?

- Listen to the entire message so you don't miss any important information.
- Confirm that you received the message (if asked).
- Call the Village's hotline at (847) 870-6622 if you do miss a message or want to hear it again.

Register your contact information with the Emergency Alert System today at www.mountprospect.org/emergencyalert.



Get Connected

RESIDENT HOTLINE (847) 870-6622

The Village's resident hotline is a great source of information during local emergencies. Residents can call the hotline to listen to pre-recorded messages with general emergency information. Residents that miss any Emergency Alert messages, or wish to hear them again, can also call the hotline.



CABLE TV MPTV Channel 17

If your cable is working during an emergency tune to MPTV for information updates. The Village can transmit information to residents via live voice announcements on cable channel 17 and can post emergency information slides on MPTV's electronic bulletin board. Stay tuned!



WEBSITE www.mountprospect.org

The Village's website is always a great place to go for information. During emergencies the Village will post pertinent information and/or instructions for residents and businesses to the website at www.mountprospect.org. Make sure and check the website often for the latest updates!



FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Check the Village's Facebook and Twitter pages for regular updates during local emergencies.



Facebook: [facebook/mountprospectIL](https://www.facebook.com/mountprospectIL)



Twitter: [MountProspect](https://twitter.com/MountProspect)

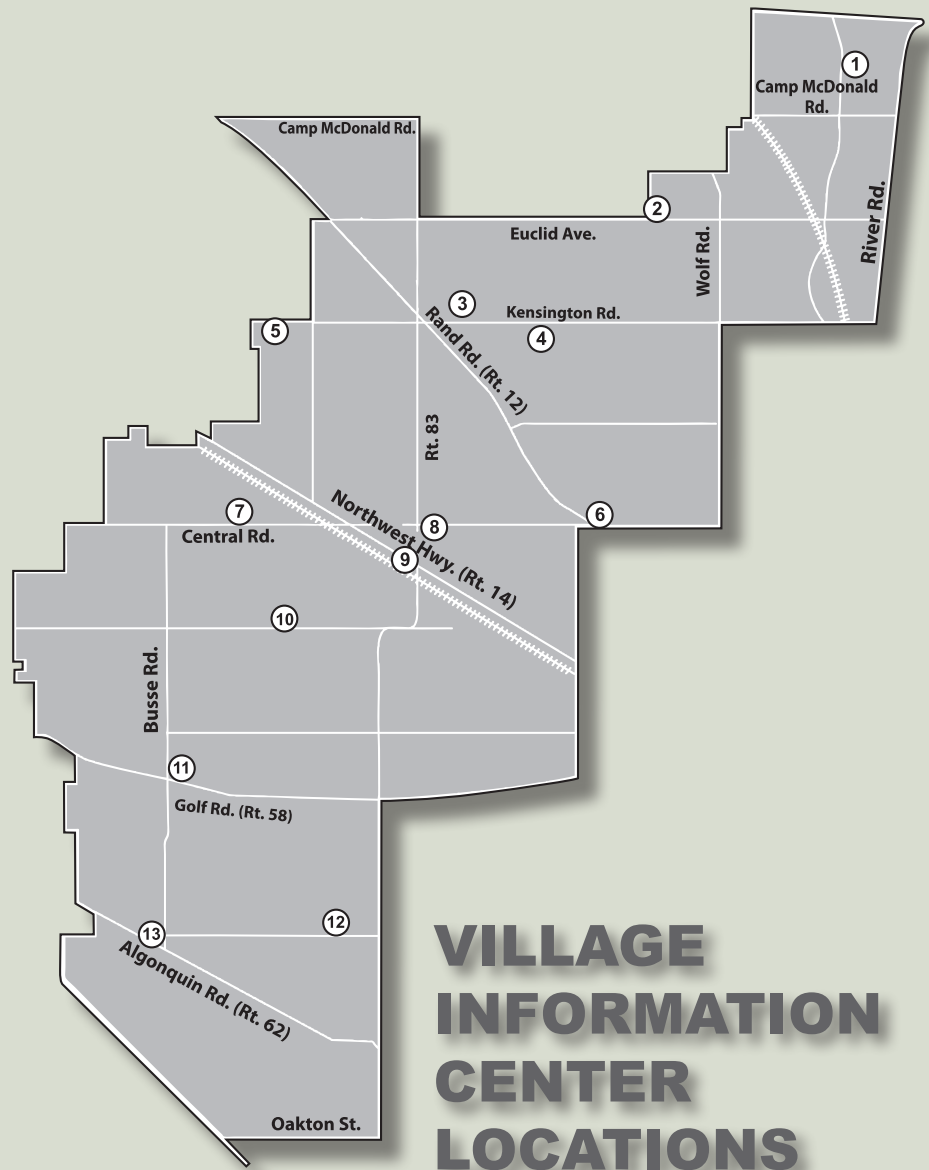


VILLAGE INFORMATION CENTERS (Green Boxes)

The Village has numerous ways to communicate with residents on a daily basis, but what happens when they don't work during a local disaster? How will you get information from the Village if your power goes out or your internet and cable aren't working?

We can't always rely on technology in an emergency, so we need to make low-tech communication a priority as well. The Village has installed thirteen Village Information Centers (green boxes) throughout the community where residents can go during emergencies for information bulletins containing the most up to date information. Information Centers are also stocked year-round with a variety of flyers and pamphlets relating to emergency preparedness and local events.

Make sure you know where the Village Information Centers are in your part of town and check them often for the latest information when disaster strikes!



VILLAGE INFORMATION CENTER LOCATIONS

1. **Robert Frost School**
School District 21
(1805 Aspen Dr.)
2. **Weiss Center**
River Trails Park District
(1500 E. Euclid Ave.)
3. **Costco**
Randhurst
(999 N. Elmhurst Rd.)
4. **Kensington Business Center**
(Business Center Dr. & Wheeling Rd.)
5. **Prospect High School**
School District 214
(801 W. Kensington Rd.)
6. **Garden Fresh**
(Mount Prospect Plaza)
7. **Central Community Center**
Mt. Prospect Park District
(1000 W. Central Rd.)
8. **Village Hall/Library**
(Emerson St.)
9. **Train Station**
(Northwest Hwy. & Rte. 83)
10. **Lincoln Middle School**
School District 57
(700 W. Lincoln St.)
11. **Fire Station 12**
(1601 W. Golf Rd.)
12. **Rec Plex**
Mt. Prospect Park Dist.
(420 W. Dempster St.)
13. **Community Connections Center**
(1711 W. Algonquin Rd.)

BE READY

3 Days, 3 Ways



BUILD A KIT



MAKE A PLAN



GET INVOLVED

BUILD A KIT

One of the most basic ways you and your family can be ready for local disasters is by building emergency supply kits. These kits, filled with certain essential items, will give your family the ability to be self-sufficient during all types of emergency situations.

Basic Emergency Supply Kit

Every family needs to have a basic emergency supply kit filled with all of the items necessary to care for their basic needs for a minimum of three (3) days. Make building your kit a family activity and when complete make sure and store it in a place where everyone can access it. In the event

that you have to evacuate, make sure your kit is also portable.

Every family is different and your kit will be too. There are, however, a few items that every kit should have:

- Water (1 gallon of water per day per person with enough for at least 3 days)
- Non-perishable food (enough for at least 3 days)
- Battery-powered radio
- NOAA weather radio
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes or hand sanitizer (alcohol based)
- Wrench and/or pliers needed to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Cell phone with a car or solar charger
- Family specific items (i.e. prescriptions medications, infant formula and diapers, clothing, important documents)

Remember that this list covers just the bare minimum. For a list of additional items you should consider including, go to ready.gov and click on "Get a Kit."

Car Kit

Every family should also build a car kit for everyday road emergencies, and evacuation scenarios. A basic car kit should include the following:

- Jumper Cables
- Road flares
- Food (i.e. granola bars or energy bars)
- Local maps
- Extra clothing and sturdy shoes (seasonal)
- Rain gear
- Gloves
- Blankets
- Duct tape
- Small tarp
- Basic tools and small shovel
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Battery-powered radio
- Emergency contact list



MAKE A PLAN

Every family needs to have a plan for dealing with local emergencies. Do you know what types of emergencies to plan for? Has your family discussed what to do if your house catches on fire or a tornado warning occurs? Take some time to learn about what emergencies you need to plan for in Mount Prospect and how to create Family Communication and Emergency Action plans. Then get your whole family involved in developing a plan to ensure you're prepared for the next emergency.

Family Communication Plan

Every family's emergency plan should start with information on communication. If your family isn't all together when an emergency occurs how will you get in touch with each other? Do your kids have your work numbers written down somewhere and do you know the number for your child's school? Do you have important phone numbers in one location such as your doctor, pharmacist, and insurance company? Making sure that all of this information is centralized and that every family member has access to it is a must!

To print out a Family Communication Plan template that you can use to write out your plan go to www.mountprospect.org/ema.

Family Emergency Action Plan

Once your communication plan is complete it's time to develop an Emergency Action Plan. This plan should focus on two primary scenarios: (1) an emergency that requires you to stay put (called sheltering-in-place), and (2) an emergency that forces you to evacuate and relocate.

Your Emergency Action Plan should account for small and large incidents and should be written down and discussed as a family.

BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

Every business needs to have an emergency plan – and practice it regularly! Your plan should address not only what to do in the midst of an emergency, but also how you plan on staying in business following a disaster.

Visit ready.gov/business, for resources to help you develop an emergency plan for your business.



GET INVOLVED

Get involved and you can help make a difference when it matters most! During and immediately following a local emergency first responders and other Village personnel won't be able to provide residents with all of the services you have come to expect. For all but the most life threatening situations you may be forced, during a disaster, to rely solely on yourselves and your neighbors. So get involved! Learn how to be better prepared and volunteer to help your community in its time of need.

Training Opportunities:

Citizen Emergency Preparedness Training

Sign up for Citizen Emergency Preparedness Training to learn the basics of emergency preparedness for you and your family. Classes meet once a week for seven (7) weeks and cover topics like basic first aid, search and rescue, severe weather, and how to build an emergency kit, to make sure you and your family are prepared for the next local disaster.

Residents that complete this course also have the option of becoming a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (page 6). Classes are offered every fall so stay tuned to the website and future newsletters for dates and times.

CPR Training

Sign-up for CPR training and you could save someone's life! The Fire Department regularly offers American Heart Association classes including Healthcare Provider, Heartsaver, and Family and Friends CPR. For details on class dates, times, and fees contact Eric Mertes at emertes@mountprospect.org or call (847) 870-5656 ext. 5114.

LEAP into Preparedness

Join the Fire Department and Community Emergency Response Team on February 29th (leap day) for a fun-filled night of family emergency preparedness activities. You and your family can "leap into preparedness" as you play games and win prizes designed to make you better prepared for local emergencies. The event will take place from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Mount Prospect Fire Station #14, located at 2000 E. Kensington Road. To register, send an e-mail to nnelson@mountprospect.org or call (847) 818-5253. Hope to see you there!

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SEVERE

Get Involved ... continued from page 5

Volunteer Opportunities:

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Join the Mount Prospect Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and volunteer your time during local emergencies both big and small. Residents that complete the Citizen Emergency Preparedness Training are eligible to become a member of CERT and assist the Village with projects that enhance public safety, help first responders at emergency incidents, and provide assistance during large scale events. CERT members meet once a month and participate in continuing education and training throughout the year.

CERT has historically been limited to 20 volunteers, but is looking to expand! The team is looking to double its membership and create specialized groups trained to assist in a number of field and office tasks. If you are interested in learning more about the Mount Prospect CERT contact Jim Miller at jmiller@mountprospect.org or call (847) 818-5253.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Join the Mount Prospect Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and give back to your community in times of need. The Village is always looking for licensed medical professionals willing to volunteer their medical assistance during local emergencies. Some of the tasks volunteers may be asked to complete include assisting emergency response teams, setting-up and managing emergency shelters, providing care to individuals with non-serious injuries, and facilitating patient transfers.

If you are interested in learning more about the Mount Prospect MRC contact Nancy Morgan at nmorgan@mountprospect.org or call (847) 870-5680.

VILLAGE WARNING SIRENS

Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the Village to notify the public of tornado warnings. Warning sirens are activated by the Village's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, according to information issued by both the National Weather Service and a private weather service. The primary purpose of warning sirens is to notify individuals who are outdoors at the time of a threat of a probable or imminent tornado. Warning sirens are not designed to penetrate the walls of homes and businesses, which means you may not always hear them inside your home. For that reason, it is important to have a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio as part of your emergency preparedness plan.

What should you do when you hear the warning sirens activate?

If indoors at the time of activation:

1. Seek shelter immediately in the lowest level of your house, preferably in an interior room away from doors and windows.
2. Tune into radio or television stations for the latest information.
3. Remain in your place of shelter until the threat has passed.

If outdoors at the time of activation:

1. Seek shelter indoors, but not in a car or mobile home.
2. If there are no safe options indoors, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head.

Do not call 9-1-1 when the warning sirens are activated unless you have an actual emergency. Calling 9-1-1 may tie up the dispatch center's resources when true emergencies may be occurring.

NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

Do you and your family have a plan to stay informed about severe weather alerts? How will you find out about impending weather in the middle of the night or when the power goes out? The answer is a weather radio!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends every home have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio so families can monitor severe weather and other dangerous storms. Weather radios transmit forecasts and severe weather warnings and watches from the National Weather Service (NWS) 24 hours a day. The NOAA radio network broadcasts information about thunderstorms, tornado warnings, floods, winter storms, and other severe weather. The best part is that a good weather radio can be tuned to the station closest to your home so you only get the alerts for your area!

WEATHER

Weather radios are available for purchase in many electronic and big box stores and range in cost from \$20 to \$200.

For more information about weather radios go to www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

General awareness is the key to dealing with severe weather. You can be better prepared just by monitoring local weather reports to determine when you need to take certain precautions. Monitoring the weather has never been easier thanks to a variety of tools available, including the internet, television, mobile applications, and weather radios, that can help keep you up to date. Check out the following websites where you can monitor the weather and/or sign-up to receive weather alerts:

www.weather.gov
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com
www.accuweather.com
www.weatherbug.com

FLOODING

Flood Insurance Riders

Have you considered how you will pay for home repairs or replace your belongings following a flood?

Many people don't realize that standard homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damage. Check your homeowner's policy to make sure you know what is and is not covered. Then talk to your insurance agent about adding a flood insurance rider to your homeowner's policy. A flood insurance rider can protect you and your family from tens of thousands of dollars worth of damage that can result from just a few inches of water in your home.

Flooding and Electrical Hazards

Do you know what types of electrical hazards exist when your basement

floods? The Village reminds residents that they need to be aware of the possibility of electrical equipment becoming energized when it comes into contact with water. Basement flooding has the potential to create a serious electrocution hazard for you and your family so here are some important safety measures to keep in mind:

- Call 9-1-1 if your basement has flooded and you see or smell smoke.
- Do not step into a flooded basement, or other area of your home, if water is or might be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Do not attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you have to stand in water to do so. If you cannot safely reach your breaker box, call ComEd to shut off power at the meter.
- Do not use electrical appliances or touch wires, switches, or fuses, if you are wet or standing in water.

My basement has flooded! How should I pump it out?

Residents with water in their basement need to be extremely careful when pumping them out. Pumping the water out too quickly could cause structural damage and cause basement walls to collapse. Water must be drained slowly to equalize the pressure in your basement.

FEMA recommends that residents use the following procedures when pumping out their basement:

1. Start pumping when water is no longer covering the ground outside your house.
2. Pump out only one foot of water to start. Mark the water level and wait overnight.
3. Check the water level the next day. If the water level went back up (covered your mark) it is still too early to drain your basement. Wait another 24 hours, then pump out one foot of water again and check the level the next day.



4. Once the water level in your basement stops covering your mark, pump out between two (2) and three (3) feet and wait overnight again.
5. Repeat step 4 daily until all of the water is out of your basement.

Please note that the Village does not have pumps or extra resources to assist residents whose basements have flooded.

For more information about basement flooding go to www.fema.gov/hazard/midwestfloods.shtm.



Caution: Driving through Standing Water

When street flooding occurs even a few inches of standing water can be potentially dangerous for drivers. Residents need to be cautious when driving following severe storms, keeping an eye out for street flooding. Residents should avoid, whenever possible, driving through standing water of **any** depth.

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SEVERE WEATHER

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POWER OUTAGES

Always Call ComEd to Report Power Outages

If you lose power to your home you should always call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661) to report the outage. Reporting your outage ensures that ComEd has the most up to date information for restoring power to your area.



Generators and Generator Safety

Do you and your family have a plan for power outages? Have you thought about what you will do if you lose power for three days or a week? Have you considered purchasing a portable generator? A portable generator can keep some lights and a few essential appliances running in your home, making the situation more comfortable for your family.

While generators are great tools, they can also be hazardous when not used properly. The following tips will help ensure the safety of you and your family when using a portable generator.

Portable Generator Safety Tips

- Always use generators outside, away from doors, windows, and vents. NEVER use generators inside your home, garage, basement, crawl space, or any other enclosed area.

- Plug all appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet (known as back-feeding). This practice can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If you must connect a generator to house wiring, make sure to have a qualified electrician install the appropriate equipment.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Communication during Power Outages

There are many ways the Village can provide information to and communicate with residents under normal circumstances. But what happens when the power goes out? When you lose power you oftentimes also lose your ability to use your home phone, cable, and internet.

There are still ways you can stay informed and be ready.

1. Register your cell phone number with the Emergency Alert System.
2. Use your cell phone to call the Village Hotline at (847) 870-6622 and listen to emergency updates.
3. Find a Village Information Center and pick-up an emergency update bulletin (page 3).

Electrical Service Damage: Do you know who is responsible?

Following recent storms many residents became frustrated when power had been restored to their neighborhood, but their home was still without power. What many residents did not realize was that damage sustained to their home's electric service was their responsibility to have repaired before ComEd could reconnect and reenergize their power. Do you know which parts of your home's electric service are owned by ComEd and which parts you own?

Check the Villages's website for diagrams and information on "who owns what" when it comes to your electric service.

For more information contact the Village's Building Division at (847) 870-5675 or go to www.comed.com.



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