



Village News

WINTER 2013

“During the evening, something magical always happens. We are humbled by stories of unselfish acts of kindness and generosity.”

Mayor Irvana Wilks



Join us on Feb. 1 for the 20th Celestial Celebration

Socialize, dine, dance and celebrate with the people that make Mount Prospect a great community in which to live and work. The 20th Annual Celestial Celebration Shining Star Awards will be held on February 1, 2013 at Victoria in the Park Banquets, 1700 South Elmhurst Road in Mount Prospect. A “Shining Star” is a person or organization who routinely steps outside of their own obligations to family, job, or community. The entire community is invited and encouraged to attend. The cost of the evening is \$45 (formal attire is optional) which includes dinner, dancing, live entertainment, silent auction and a truly heartwarming evening.

Online reservations are now available at www.mountprospect.org/celestialtickets For more information call 847/392-6000 or go to www.mountprospect.org. If you love Mount Prospect, you’ll love this event!!

This tradition started when the Village celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Following that event, a group of citizens approached the Village leadership encouraging them to continue the event in some fashion. Thus under the leadership of Mayor Gerald Farley, the Special Events Commission was formed, charged with coordinating social events that would bring Village residents together in enjoyable settings.

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News, Notes and Reminders

Water Rate Increase

The Village Board recently approved a 9.5% increase to water and sewer utility rates. The larger than usual increase to the water rate is necessary to cover the higher cost expected for water purchases. The City of Chicago, which provides water to the Village through the Joint Action Water Agency, has scheduled a series of excessively large rate hikes. A 25% rate increase took effect on January 1, 2012. Hikes of 15% are planned for each of the next three years. The rate increase planned for the village is primarily to cover the higher cost of water. The current combined rate for water and sewer is \$7.69. Effective with all billings after January 1, 2013, the new combined rate will be \$8.42. A Mount Prospect household typically uses 8,000 gallons of water over a one-month period. Based on this estimate their monthly water and sewer usage fee would be \$67.36, an increase of \$5.84. 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.

Remove Holiday Decorations

Keep your home safe! Village Code requires holiday decorations 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.

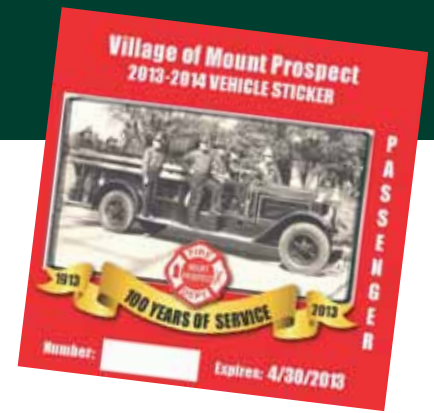


Energy Impact Illinois

For a limited time, the U.S. Department of Energy and local utilities and non-profits are together offering a cost-saving program called Energy Impact Illinois to all Chicagoland homeowners to make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient. To determine your home's needs, the program is offering a home energy assessment for \$49 to Nicor customers, and an instant rebate of 70% (up to \$1750 off) on insulating and air sealing (the most cost- and energy-effective improvements). Energy Impact Illinois is also providing access to low-interest loans (free first-year interest on loans greater than \$2500) for boilers, furnaces, windows or other energy efficiency improvements. To apply for the Energy Impact Illinois Program or for more information, call 1-855-9-IMPACT or visit energyimpactillinois.org.

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 January 18 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.



Vehicle Stickers

The deadline for displaying the 2012-2013 vehicle stickers was April 30, 2012. The Police Department issues citations to drivers of locally registered vehicles if the 2012-2013 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.

2013-2014 Vehicle Stickers

If you purchased a vehicle sticker in 2012, you should be receiving a renewal notice in the mail during the first week of February 2013. If you recently moved to the Village or if you do not receive your renewal notice by February 11, 2013 please come to Village Hall to pick up a renewal application. If you have any questions, please call the Finance Department at 392-6000.

Thank you for Caring and Sharing

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 2012. 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.

2013 Consolidated Election Tuesday, April 9, 2013

The 2013 Consolidated Election is quickly approaching ...are you registered to vote? To be eligible to vote in the April 9 Consolidated Election you must be registered to vote by March 12. If you have moved since the last election you need to re-register.



Voter registration is available at the Mount Prospect Village Hall and Mount Prospect Public Library. For hours and info, see the web site.

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.

Election information including voter registration, grace period registration/voting and early/mail in voting and precinct location, is available on the Cook County Clerk's website: cookcountyclerk.com or by phone @ 312/603-0906; or the Village of Mount Prospect website, www.mountprospect.org, or by phone @ 847/818-5355.

Federal and State Elected Officials

Know your elected officials. Name, district and contact information is available on the Village's web site, www.mountprospect.org or call the Village Clerk's Office at 847.818.5355.



Celestial Celebration - 20 Years

Celestial Celebration - Continued from Page 1

According to former Mayor Farley, "Lil Floros, a columnist at the time for the Daily Herald suggested the annual event recognize individuals groups and businesses who work diligently in one fashion or another to make Mount Prospect the delightful community it is," Farley said.

Lil and her husband Leo were appointed to serve as co-chairs of the Special Events Commission and served in that capacity for many years. They were followed by Gerald "Skip" Farley, Tom Zander and Dawn Fletcher Collins. The Commission is currently co-chaired by Teresa Van Opdorp and Fred Steinmiller.

"To invite each and every citizen of the Village to a large and grand "thank you" party where all could say 'thank you' to individuals, groups and businesses who go above and beyond the efforts of an ordinary citizen of the Village to make Mount Prospect the wonderful and caring community it is, should be, and is, gratifying to all concerned," said former Mayor Gerald "Skip" Farley. "My hope is that future citizens of the Village will continue this tradition another 20 years and longer."

Mayor Irvana Wilks also enjoys the tradition and what it means to Mount Prospect. "During the evening, something magical always happens. We dress for a grand party, but then we listen to the stories of those whom we have come to honor. We are humbled by their unselfish acts of kindness and generosity. We leave awed and inspired to be better people. We have now honored hundreds over the last twenty years. It is a testament to Mount Prospect that each year there are new nominees," she said.



2013 Shining Star Award Winners

- Beautify Mount Prospect Award** - Rainbow Hospice
- Good-Better-Best Neighbor Award**- Roger Kruse
- Unsung Hero Award** - Betty Barten
- Best Business Partner Award**- Mount Prospect Child Care
- Home Town Award** - Tom Zoumaras
- There Ought to Be More People Like This Award**- Karen Enzenbacher
- Champion for Youth Award**- Tina Kozil
- Volunteer's Volunteer Award**- Carol Tortorello
- Rising Star Award** - Carolyn Fujara
- Youth Service Award** - Jill Galyon
- Open Arms Award** - Stephanie Johanson and Jodi Bechtold
- Star Spangled Award** - Bob Fey

Mark Your Calendar for these Community Events/Programs



Mount Prospect Public Library www.mpppl.org

New Year New You at the Library

Registration is required for Library programs. To sign up, visit www.mpppl.org, call 847/253-5675, or stop by the Library.

- **Decluttering Your Home One Room at a Time** - January 8, 7:30-9 p.m.
- **Healthy Eating on a Dime: Eat Well for Less!** - January 15, 7:30-9 p.m.
- **We (Heart) Reading: Winter Reading Program** - February 1-28

Develop Your Computer Skills

The Library offers computer classes on a wide range of topics. New classes are offered monthly, stop in to pick up the current schedule.

Mount Prospect Historical Society www.mtphist.org

Skating Party Presidents Day – February 18

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 18, 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).

Mt. Prospect Park District www.mppd.org

We Specialize in New Year's Resolutions

Make good on that New Year's resolution to tone up and trim down and let Mt. Prospect Park District help. Take advantage of our annual fitness membership sale and save \$50 on one-year fitness center memberships through January 14, 2013. Check out our many fitness classes or swim laps at RecPlex's indoor pool. There's no end to the ways we can help you get back or stay in shape.

Youth Baseball and Softball

Registration for youth baseball and softball leagues will be held at RecPlex on the following dates: Saturday, January 12 9am-3pm; Tuesday, January 15 6:30-9pm and Saturday, January 19 9am-3pm. Must register in person.

Permanent Tee Times at Mt. Prospect Golf Club

Registration for permanent tee times begins January 14. Teams holding a weekend permanent tee time for the 2012 season will have the chance to renew the same time for the 2013 season. Renewing teams must consist of at least three of the four team members as the previous season. Permanent tee times will begin April 6 and end September 1. For additional information, call 847-259-4200.

RecPlex Winter Health Fair - Jan. 25

Northwest Community Healthcare will be on site at RecPlex to perform a variety of blood tests including a complete blood profile, prostate cancer blood test, thyroid profile and vitamin D testing. Results are confidential and will be mailed to you. This program is not insurance or Medicare reimbursable. Fees vary and appointments are available between 6:45 and 8:30am. Must pre-register at RecPlex prior to January 22.

Mt. Prospect Community Band Concert

Join the Mt. Prospect Community Band for a concert on Sunday, March 10 at 3pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 100 S. School Street. Tickets are \$7 and will be available for purchase at RecPlex beginning February 4.

Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce

www.mountprospectchamber.org

Dynamic Year Luncheon - January 10 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In January, the Chamber is hosting its annual membership luncheon, "The Dynamic Year Luncheon" at Victoria in the Park Banquets. This year, the Chamber's goal is to maximize attendance. Bring a friend, co-worker, and business associate to help them learn about this great organization and help kick-off a new year! For reservations please call 847/398-6616 or go to www.mountprospectchamber.org.

Mount Prospect Trivia Night III! February 22. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Games begin at 7:30 p.m.

Saint Paul Lutheran School, 18 S. School Street. \$20 per person, team table 8-10 people. Bring your own food/snacks/beverages - no on-site sales of any food or beverages. Be creative and have fun choosing your team name/theme and costumes!

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 22.0% of the Village's total revenues expected for 2012. 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 \$103,500 (approximate market value of \$350,000) will pay the Village about \$917 in property taxes as a result of the final 2011 levy (payable in 2012). Of this amount, \$436 is for police and fire protection, \$272 is for funding public safety pensions (police and fire) pensions, \$106 is for refuse disposal, and \$103 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.

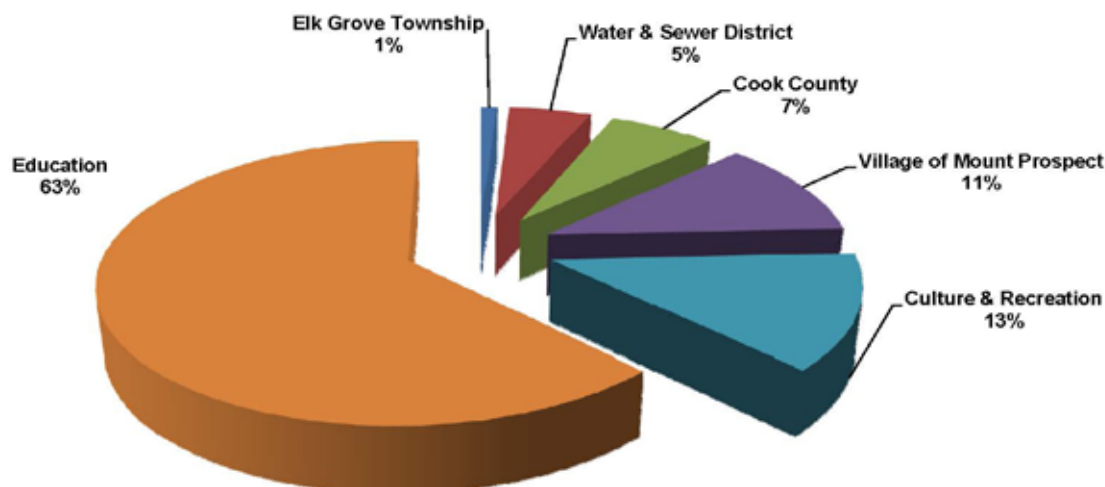
With the exception of the Village and Public Library, the taxing districts in Mount Prospect do not share common boundaries. As such, not all of the 34 tax levies appear on every tax bill for a Mount Prospect resident or business. Typically, there are 16 or 17 districts on each individual tax bill.

Village's Share.

The chart below shows the breakdown of property taxes for the Village of Mount Prospect in Elk Grove Township from the 2011 tax bill (payable in 2012). The Village is to receive \$15.9 million or 11.4% 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 2011 Property Taxes (Example of resident who lives in Elk Grove Township)



**Leaky roof. . .
Bad Plumbing. . .
Old Windows. . .**

Can't Afford Replacement? Maybe We Can Help.

Mount Prospect has loan and grant programs available to assist homeowners with performing energy efficient improvements to their property. Loans are available to low and moderate-income Mount Prospect residents who have owned and occupied their home for a minimum of one year and can be used to correct housing code violations, increase energy efficiency, make improvements for disabled persons, and more. The Village's Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program provides an interest-free loan up to \$25,000 for repairs. The loan is repaid to the Village upon the sale or change in title of the property. The Home Weatherization Grant Program provides a \$1,500 matching grant assistance for similar projects. The following are some common questions regarding these programs:

Where does the money come from?

The Rehabilitation Loan and Grant Programs are funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

How do I know if my income qualifies?

The Village uses the Adjusted Gross Income from the previous year's Federal Tax Form. HUD's income limits, which are based on the total income of all people living in the home, change on an annual basis. The 2012 household income limit for one person is \$42,500, 2 persons \$48,550, 3 persons \$54,600, 4 persons \$60,650. See our website for a complete list for households in excess of four persons.

For more details and application materials, visit our website at www.mountprospect.org and click on "Community Development Block Grant" in the quick link drop-down menu.

Downtown Planning Process Continues

The Village of Mount Prospect, the Lakota Group and The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) are continuing the Downtown Implementation planning process to complete an assessment of downtown Mount Prospect. The overall purpose of the plan is to determine how the downtown area can continue to transform itself and improve in the years to come. The study is intended to reevaluate the area and provide a detailed implementation strategy to support the future success of downtown Mount Prospect.



Over thirty residents attended the first Community Workshop held on September 14, 2012. Additionally eighty residents participated in a survey which was provided online. The Village thanks everyone for their participation! Your feedback will help develop the vision for the future of the downtown area.

A second Community Workshop is expected to be held near the beginning of February, 2013 (date TBD). Residents and business owners are welcome to attend this and future open house discussions as the process moves forward.

The latest news and information about the Downtown Implementation Plan, including the dates for future Community Workshops, is available at www.thelakotagroup.com/mountprospect or by contacting the Village's Long Range Planner, Nellie Beckner, at 847-818-5312.

Apartment Heat - 68 Degrees

During the winter months the heat in apartments is required to be kept at a minimum of 68 degrees throughout the day and night. If your apartment is below 68 degrees, contact your landlord to correct the problem. To prevent fires and deadly build-up of carbon monoxide do not use the stove or a space heater to heat the apartment.



To prevent heating problems and help the heating system warm your apartment efficiently and evenly, keep furniture away from heat registers, close all windows completely, and seal openings, such as air conditioner sleeves, weather-tight. To prevent the build-up of frost on drapes and window curtains, all curtains and drapes should have space between them and the wall and opened as needed to prevent frost build-up. If your windows remain drafty after closing completely or frost builds up regardless of your efforts to move the drapes and curtains, the windows may need weather stripping or repairs. Contact your landlord for repairs. If the landlord does not make repairs or adjust the heat, call the Community Development Department at 847-870-5668.

Protecting Your Investment: 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.

Every year, the Mount Prospect Fire Department is called out on carbon monoxide alarms at single family homes. The deadly gas is commonly found leaking from water heaters, or other mechanical appliances installed without a permit. The improper installation of these appliances did not allow for sufficient ventilation of the poisonous gas and causes a potentially deadly situation for the homeowners; something that an inspector would have recognized during inspection and ordered the contractor to remedy immediately.

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.

The Building Division is here to protect the citizens and ensure the safety of the properties in the Village. 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



Holdings 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.

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.

Thinking About a Building Project? Free Pre-Submittal Meeting Helps You Get Started!

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! We are happy to meet with you for any size project; however a Presubmittal meeting is required for larger projects such as remodels, additions, or new construction. To schedule a pre-submittal meeting for your project, please contact the Permit Coordinator at 847-818-5396.

Emerald Ash Borer Continues to Ravage Ash Trees

2012 Review

Village arborists continued to find Emerald Ash Borer throughout Mount Prospect in 2012. Unfortunately ash tree losses continued to grow exponentially throughout the year. More than 600 infested parkway ashes were removed in 2012, up from 171 trees in 2011 and 23 trees in 2010.

Property owners are still asked to report to Public Works any ash trees showing EAB symptoms. The most common symptoms 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, especially on upper limbs. (Photos of these symptoms can be seen at www.mountprospect.org).



Management Strategies

The Village began preparing for EAB shortly after it was first identified in Michigan in 2002. Mount Prospect's Village Board adopted an EAB management plan in 2009. The plan utilizes a number of strategies. Prior to any known infestation in Mount Prospect, the Village completed an ash reduction program to remove and replace poor quality parkway ashes as well as those in poor growing sites. Preventive insecticidal treatments were also begun on select trees. Once EAB was found in the Village in late 2010, the focus shifted to removing and replacing infested trees. Presently Village arborists are constantly on the lookout for EAB symptoms as they carry out their daily duties. In addition, a thorough tree by tree survey is now conducted each winter. In this survey every parkway ash tree in neighborhoods due for cyclic pruning the following year is closely inspected before pruning begins, and infested trees are scheduled for removal. In this way the Village does not waste money pruning trees that are already infested.

Additionally, Village code requires prompt removal of infested private property ash trees, at the property owners' expense. Removal of these trees may be delayed if the tree is being actively treated with an approved EAB insecticide and does not pose a threat to users of the public right-of-way.

In addition to removing/replacing infested parkway ashes, the Village continues to preventively treat with insecticide approximately 800 parkway ash trees throughout Mount Prospect. Trees in the treatment group were chosen based on species, size, condition, and health; the group is primarily composed of white and blue ash trees in good condition and larger than 7" in trunk diameter. Smaller ash trees were left out of the treatment group because they can more easily be replaced without significant loss of canopy. Green ashes were not included because of their higher likelihood of branch failure, as well as their greater susceptibility to EAB infestation.

Insecticide Treatment Options

In 2012 the Village Board agreed to formalize a permit process that allows property owners to treat parkway ash trees in front of their homes, at the property owner's expense. Property owners wanting to treat a parkway ash tree must first contact Public Works to obtain a free treatment permit.

The Village urges property owners wishing to treat ash trees, either public or private, to start the treatment process as soon as possible. Treating a tree before it becomes heavily infested greatly increases the likelihood that the insecticide will be effective in prolonging the tree's life. It is generally thought that treatments will have to be continued for the life of the tree as EAB will more than likely remain a constant pest in Illinois. Most products currently being used require application every year or every other year. Treatments can generally be done anytime during the growing season, but individual product labels should be referenced for optimum timing. A number of products are available and a certified arborist can assist you with available treatment options. Some products are even available for homeowners to apply themselves to smaller trees, but trees larger than 15" in trunk diameter should be treated by a contractor. Additional details about treatment options are also available on the Village website.

Reforestation Efforts



The Village has attempted to maintain its parkway tree planting efforts by taking advantage of grants over the past two years. In 2012 a grant received through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, as well as Community Development Block grant funds, allowed the planting of many new 1 ½" diameter trees. Additionally, many Mount Prospect residents contributed their own funds to upgrade to 2 ½" diameter replacement trees. In 2012 nearly 800 new parkway trees, of many diversified species, were planted Village-wide.

As of this writing in November 2012, it is unknown if additional grant funds will be available in 2013. The Village's full cost planting program will definitely continue in both Spring and Fall. On this program property owners can take advantage of the Village's contract pricing for 2 ½" diameter parkway trees, which includes planting and a one year guarantee. Interested parties should contact Public Works by March 1 for ordering information for Spring planting.

Property owners can also beautify Village parkways by planting trees on their own, but only with an approved Village permit. Planting permits are available through the Public Works Department at no cost. All Village code requirements must be met, including having a suitable planting site, planting a minimum 1 ½" diameter tree, and choosing a species approved in the Village Code. Note that "suitable planting site" means that certain minimum conditions are met, such as spacing between trees and required distances from driveways, utilities etc.

Finally, the Village also continues to encourage property owners to plant diversified tree species on their private properties throughout Mount Prospect. The Village website offers species selection ideas; look for Increasing Tree Diversity in the Urban Landscape under the Forestry/Grounds tab.

Gypsy Moth Populations Moth Populations Appear to be Very Low

The Village's arborists had a little good news in summer 2012, as they encountered very little tree damage due to Gypsy Moth. As of this writing, in November 2012, it appears the Gypsy Moth population in Mount Prospect is significantly down from what it was several years ago. Unless staff finds significant Gypsy Moth egg masses this winter, the Village may not need to apply any treatments for this pest in 2013.



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. Mailboxes that are damaged by snow thrown from snow plowing operations are the responsibility of the homeowner to repair, but the repair costs are eligible for reimbursement by the Village. To be eligible for reimbursement the mailbox must be installed per Village code. Please visit the Village website at www.mountprospect.org to view mailbox installation guidelines. The Village will provide a temporary mailbox until weather allows for repairs to be made. Most importantly, if your mailbox is damaged during snow plowing operations, please contact the Public Works Department before making any repairs.



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.

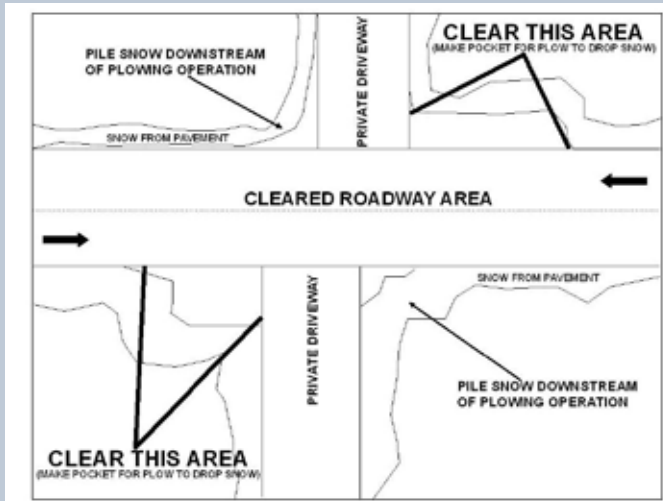
For more information about requesting temporary permission, to park overnight on Village streets, call the Police Department at 847/870-5656.



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.



Solid Waste Notes

Holiday Light and Extension Cord Recycling Program

Did you purchase a new set of Holiday lights this year, and don't know what to do with your old lights? Do you have a set of Holiday lights or extension cord that you can't get to work? Don't throw them in the garbage. You can recycle them free of charge.

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 7:30AM and 5PM, Monday - Friday. The program started November 1st with a tentative end date of February 28th. Call (847) 870-5640 for more information.

The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials.



Caring for your Vehicle and the Environment

Proper car care and maintenance is a very important part of efforts to protect the local environment. Many vehicle fluids can be hazardous to waterways. Whatever is dumped into storm drains or onto pavement will wind up in local creeks and, ultimately, in the Des Plaines River.

If you change your own oil, it is very important that it is disposed of properly. Put the used oil in a sturdy container, label it, and take it to a local oil recycling location. Call Public Works (847/870-5640) for a current list of oil recycling stations.

Antifreeze is also dangerous to the environment. It contains ingredients that are poisonous to people, fish, and wildlife. It should be treated in the same manner as waste oil. In the case of a spill involving any of these types of materials, use kitty litter, sawdust, cornmeal, or special oil absorbent products to absorb the spill. Sweep up the absorbent after a few hours. For more information about household hazardous collection events, visit the Village website.

Holiday Collection Schedule 2013

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

- New Years Day 2013
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Christmas Tree Collection

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Village's Christmas tree composting program. Christmas trees will be collected by the refuse hauler at no additional cost on your regular refuse collection day; no stickers required.

Christmas trees set out for composting must be free of all decorative debris. Please remove all decorative items from the tree including:

- Lights
- Tinsel
- Ornaments/bulbs
- Strings/wires

Please do not cut or trim trees for collection, place trees at the curb whole. Trees may be placed at the curb prior to December 31 and after January 11, but these trees will be collected as regular refuse and will not be composted. Wreaths will also be collected at no additional cost on your regular refuse collection day, but are considered refuse due to the metal frame. Please place your wreath in your green refuse cart for disposal. In addition, artificial wreaths are not recyclable. Artificial wreaths should be placed in the green refuse cart for disposal not the blue recycling cart.





Fire Department Gives Back

Fireplace Safety

In 2012, the Mount Prospect Fire Department responded to two home fireplace fires. To help reduce the risk of fireplace fires, the Fire Department recommends that residents follow these guidelines for proper use and maintenance:

Keep Fireplaces Clean

- Have your chimney thoroughly cleaned and inspected at least once a year. Make sure that the flue is carefully inspected both inside and out.
- Burn only hard woods as they contain smaller amounts of creosote, a black tarry substance that can block passageways and/or easily ignite.
- Put cool ashes in a metal container when you clean out your fireplace.

Safely Burn Fuel

- Never leave a fire in your fireplace unattended.
- Burn only seasoned firewood.
- Never burn paper, charcoal or rags.
- When using artificial logs, burn only one at a time.

Protect Your Home

- Keep flammable and combustible articles at least three feet away from the open fire.
- Make certain that your smoke detectors are working.
- Always use a fireplace screen in front of your fireplace.
- Supervise children at all times when using your fireplace.

Contact the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Bureau at (847) 818-5253 with any questions.

Finding ways to give back to the community, and the greater Chicagoland area, was a priority for the Fire Department in 2012:

- On July 11, Fire Department personnel partnered with a local non-profit organization, Operation North Pole, to participate in the "Meals from the Heart" program at the Ronald McDonald House located at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. Employees prepared a "good old fashioned barbeque" for the families staying at the house.
- In late July, The Mount Prospect Fire Fighters Union Local 4119 raised \$4,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- The Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer walk came through Mount Prospect on August 11 and the Fire Department personnel in pink t-shirts joined the entire community in cheering them on.
- In August, the Mount Prospect Fire Fighters Union Local 4119 donated nine backpacks filled with school supplies to the Village's school supply drive for local families struggling financially.
- On August 24, the Fire Department delivered over \$6,000 worth of paper goods and household products to the Ronald McDonald House at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. Donations came from Fire Department employees and a local company, Multi-Pak Solutions.
- On October 27, the Fire Department sponsored a food drive for the Village's Emergency Food Pantry. Fire Department personnel accepted donations outside of Costco and Jewel at Randhurst Village. The department collected over \$16,000 worth of food, toiletries, diapers, and cash and gift card donations.
- In December, the Fire Department partnered with the Human Services and Police Departments for the Village's annual toy drive for underprivileged families. Fire Department employees also took up a collection internally to purchase gifts for two children participating in Operations North Pole's "fantasy trip to the north pole" event.



CALLING ALL KIDS! HELP KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW!

Help the Mount Prospect Fire Department locate fire hydrants. When it snows, clear a fire hydrant near your house so firefighters can easily locate it if needed. Clear an area at least three feet around the fire hydrant and, if possible, make a path from the hydrant to the street.

E-mail a picture of you and your cleared hydrant to bloomis@mountprospect.org to be entered into a drawing to win a Fire Truck Ride to School! Make sure to include your name, address, and telephone number with your picture. Two winners will be announced in late April.

**** BONUS:** You can enter multiple times (but only once for each snowstorm)!



Unlocked Vehicles an Open Invitation For Criminals

Car burglaries are very difficult cases to solve as there is usually very little physical evidence left behind after one has occurred. Recently, 58% of thefts from vehicles in Mount Prospect have been occurring due to vehicles being left UNLOCKED. In order to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a car burglary we are providing some easy tips to follow:

- Always close your windows and lock your doors. An open window or unlocked door is an invitation to a criminal.
- Remove loose valuables from your vehicle. A car burglar loves to see items that can be grabbed easily and carried away without much effort. G.P.S. devices and radar detectors are popular items for car thieves. Also remove any accessories for your valuables as well.
- If you must leave valuables in your car place them out of sight in the trunk or under the seats.
- Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report suspicious persons seen wandering around in parking lots or driveways or looking into cars as they walk by (your call can be anonymous).
- Park in well lit area. While parking in an isolated spot may reduce the risk of a door ding, a criminal looks for cars parked out of the way in order to help ensure less attention is drawn to them.
- Turning on outside driveway and porch lights are still the cheapest form of security.

These simple steps should be used whenever you park your car, whether you are just "running in for a minute" or parking for the evening. If you would like any more information on car burglaries or other police matters, please contact the Field Operations Division at 847-870-5650 or email us at crimeprevention@mountprospect.org.

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. 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.



Traffic Enforcement - "Street of the Week"

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 31st – January 6th Elmhurst Rd. / Main St. (RT 83)
- January 7th – January 13th Central Rd.
- January 14th – January 20th Rand Rd. (RT 12)
- January 21st – January 27th Lincoln St.
- January 28th – February 3rd Northwest Hwy. (RT 14)
- February 4th – February 10th Golf Rd. (RT 58)
- February 11th – February 17th Burning Bush Ln.
- February 18th – February 24th Busse Rd.
- February 25th – March 3rd Wolf Rd.
- March 4th – March 10th Euclid Ave.

Winter Driving Tips

With winter upon us, it is important we remember safe winter driving tips. Even experienced drivers can find their nerves and skills tested by the winter road conditions in the Chicagoland area. Here are some tips to help you drive safely as the weather turns cold and nasty ...

- Keep your vehicle properly maintained. A properly functioning vehicle is key to surviving winter driving.
- Be prepared for the unexpected emergency and always carry a First Aid kit, ice scraper, snow brush, matches, candles, flashlight, warning triangles, or flares, bag of sand, blanket, gloves, emergency HELP sign, and cell phone (if you have one) in your vehicle.
- Watch for hazardous road conditions. Take extra care when driving on icy roads and watch out for hard to see patches of ice (black ice), especially in shady spots and over bridges.
- Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles.
- Use your headlights during overcast and gloomy fall days.
- Remove all snow and ice from all windows of your vehicle before starting your drive.
- Keep your windshield washer reservoir full to help keep your windshield clear.
- Finally, SLOW DOWN! Most car accidents are caused by excessive speed.





Tax Preparation Assistance For Seniors

Community Connections Center

1711 W Algonquin Road, 847/506-4930

Open House – January 18

The Community Connections Center's expansion is complete! Please join us on Friday, January 18th to celebrate our expansion. Experience a sample of the services, programs and activities offered by Human Services, the Police Department and the South Branch Mount Prospect Public Library at the Center. The event begins at 2:00 and ends at 7:00 p.m.

Childhood Obesity Prevention Classes

The Village Nurse will be providing an educational program in Spanish at the Center on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 4:45 pm beginning January 8, 2013 and continuing on for 8 weeks. The program is intended for families with an overweight child who are ready to make healthy lifestyle changes. Parent and child participation is required. Children must be enrolled in grade school and be 8-14 years old to participate. Registration is required by calling the Center at 847-506-4930.

Health Screening Clinic

The Village Nurse offers blood pressure, cholesterol, fasting blood sugar screenings at the Center the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month. There is a \$1 fee for blood sugar testing and a \$4 fee for cholesterol testing.

Conversations with Language Learners

Are your Spanish speaking skills rusty? Do you want to practice your English speaking skills? Our 'Conversations with Language Learners' gives participants the opportunity to exchange languages. This is an informal approach to learning, and is made possible by volunteers. To register or volunteer, please call the Community Connections Center at (847) 506-4930.

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.



Senior Exemption and Senior Tax Freeze Applications for Real Estate Taxes

Homeowners who are over 65 years of age and have a household income of less than \$55,000 must file a Senior Tax Freeze Exemption application. The application requires income information and your signature to be notarized. If your income is over \$55,000 you still qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption and that application must be filled out and sent in EVERY YEAR. The applications are usually sent out to homes that have applied for the exemptions(s) in past years. If you do not receive your application in the mail by March 1st, contact our office or your township assessor's office to have one mailed out to you. Human Service staff is available to assist with the forms and/or notary services by appointment. Applications for the exemptions should be filled out, signed and mailed in as soon as possible in order to have the exemption applied to your second installment of your real estate taxes.

To qualify for the taxable year 2012, you must meet all of the requirements above and Use the property as a principal place of residence on January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012, be liable for the payments, and own the property, or have a legal, equitable or leasehold interest in the property on January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2012.

Financial Planning Class

Retirement is an incredible time of your life! However, it can last 20 or more years, so it is important to consider if your income will last as long as your retirement. Come to our Financial Planning Class that will focus on generating retirement income using bonds and annuities. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, February 5th and 12th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Village Hall first floor Community Center, 50 S. Emerson Street. Call 847/870-5680 to register.



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 23, 2013 and the spring class will be March 27, 2013. 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.

Business News

Economic Development Update

Randhurst Village – Four new tenants will be joining in the mix at Randhurst Village in early 2013. *Parmida Homes* is occupying the retail space next to the Hampton Inn and Suites. Parmida features distinctive home furniture, décor, bath & body collections, candles & home fragrances, as well as many more timeless gifts & accents. *GNC*, a nutritional supplement retailer, will be locating next to Panera Bread along Elmhurst Road. In addition, *Eggsperience* and *Earth and Ocean* will expand Randhurst Village’s dining options. Eggsperience, which will be located between Tony Sacco’s and the Billy Goat Restaurant, serves breakfast treats such as wholegrain pancakes and tasty benedicts as well as a full lunch menu. Earth and Ocean will create a city style and vibe with a broadened “New American” menu (see below).

Mount Prospect Plaza – Staples, Michaels and Garden Fresh will be replaced by Aldi’s, Ross Dress for Less and LA Fitness throughout the first half of the year. LA Fitness is proposing to demolish the former Garden Fresh store and construct a state-of-the-art fitness establishment in its place.

Chick-Fil-A – Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, a national fast food chain that is renowned for their chicken sandwiches will be located across from Randhurst Village with frontages on Elmhurst Road and Rand Road. Construction on the new facility is underway and is expected to be completed by March.



Introducing... E+O Food and Drink @ Randhurst Village - (Opening Early 2013)

“The founding chef of Sunda and two other alums of the “new Asian” restaurant are teaming up again to launch a new dining destination in the revamped Randhurst Village in Mount Prospect. Earth & Ocean, opening February 2013, will be the beginning of the E&O Food & Drink restaurant project, with chef Rodelio Aglibot, Aeron Lancero and Paul Lee at the helm.” chicagobusiness.com

The name refers to a casual establishment, a place for everyday eating and drinking, in an inviting and unpretentious atmosphere. The focus will be on New American cuisine - a reference to the melting pot our country has become - sushi, pasta, Asian, Mediterranean and even Indian flavors are used in everyday cooking. New American cuisine still embraces comfort food, yet looks to present them in an updated form with locally sourced foods with natural and organic origins.

Ribbon Cuttings/Grand Openings



Randhurst Village www.randhurstvillage.com

50th Anniversary and Dedication Ceremony

Mayor Irvana Wilks joined Diane Hahnfeld Hecht and other special guests at the 50th Anniversary Celebration and Dedication Ceremony for Randhurst Village in October. Ms. Hecht was the original ribbon cutter when Randhurst Mall first opened in 1962. She was the granddaughter of the Burmeisters – their family farm was on the land that Randhurst was built upon.



Mount Prospect State Bank www.mpsb.gsb.com/

Mount Prospect State Bank celebrated the grand opening of its new location at 299 W. Central Road with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Mayor Wilks joined Bank President John Eilering and other bank officials for the festivities.

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



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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 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.

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*** ECRWSS***

POSTAL PATRON

MOUNT PROSPECT, IL 60056



Celestial Celebration

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 847/337-7923. Reservations can also be made online at www.mountprospect.org/celestialtickets. 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.