



Mount Prospect

Village Newsletter

Winter 2008

Snow Sculpting Competition Returns to Mount Prospect

Event to be held at Randhurst, February 8 - 10

Watch professional teams from Wisconsin, Illinois - even Holland - sculpt ten foot tall snow statues along Elmhurst Road at Randhurst Mall Shopping Center! Carving starts Wednesday, February 6 and concludes on Sunday, February 10. The hours are 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Vendors will be on hand with hot chocolate and warm cashews. The event is fun for the whole family.

Teams start with a 2 ½ ton block of snow. Equipped with hatchets, shovels and scaffolding, they have four days to create their masterpieces - all competing for a \$1,500 grand prize. You can vote for your favorite piece on Saturday, February 9, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. An award ceremony will be held inside Randhurst Mall on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Local high schools also compete, and there will be preschool demonstrations. The event is sponsored by Snow Visions, a not for profit organization. For more information, visit the web site: www.SnowVisions.com.



Be Prepared for Emergencies

Many of us were taken by surprise this past summer when the Village was struck by severe storms and flooding. It did provide us with the opportunity to better prepare ourselves if a similar incident were to occur. Remember, the things we take for granted - electricity, phones, cable etc. may not be available. What would you do differently? Here are some tips on how you can plan ahead. Discuss these ideas with your family, then prepare an emergency plan. Post the plan where everyone will see it - on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

Emergency Checklist:

- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend, relative or family member to call if separated during a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- Teach children your out-of-state contact's phone number.
- Pick two emergency meeting places.
 - 1) A place near your home in case of a fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

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The Mount Prospect Newsletter is published by the Village as a public information service for residents.

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*Newsletter Editor:
Maura El Metennani, Public Information Officer*

Village Hall

Village Hall hours are: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Village Hall is located at 50 S. Emerson Street, on the northwest corner of Emerson Street and Busse Avenue.

Web Site: www.mountprospect.org

E-Mail the Village at pio@mountprospect.org.

Village Board Meetings

Village Board meetings are held in the Village Board Room of the Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Committee of the Whole (COW)

Committee of the Whole meetings are held in the Village Board Room of the Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street. Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings are held by the Village Board on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

MPTV - Channel 17

Village Board meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings are cable cast on MPTV - Channel 17. Consult your program schedule listings.



Village Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Village Hall	392-6000
TDD	392-6064
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
Crime Line.....	870-5649
Crime Prevention	870-5650
Records	870-5655
Public Works Dept.	870-5640
Water Billing	392-6000

TDD numbers are for hearing-impaired callers only who must use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD or TTY).

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

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.

Upcoming Coffee with Council Dates:

January 12

February 9

March 8

www.mountprospect.org



Check out our exciting "Experience Mount Prospect" web site for news on shopping, dining and events.

You can be in the know on the best places to go and things to do!

News, Notes & Reminders

Vehicle Stickers

The deadline for displaying 2007-2008 vehicle stickers was April 30, 2007. The Police Department issues citations to drivers of locally registered vehicles if the 2007-2008 vehicle stickers are not displayed. Vehicle stickers purchased after April 30 are subject to a late payment penalty. The penalty does not apply if you either moved into the Village or purchased the vehicle within 30 days of the date the vehicle sticker is purchased. Proof of your relocation or vehicle purchase is required to receive the waiver of the penalty.

2008-2009 Vehicle Stickers

If you purchased a vehicle sticker in 2007, you should be receiving a renewal notice in the mail during the first week of February. If you have recently moved to the Village or if you do not receive your renewal notice by February 11, 2008 you must come to Village Hall to pick up an application. If you have any questions, please call the Finance Department at 392-6000.

Shake, Rattle and Roll

Celestial Celebration - February 2

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 15th annual Celestial Celebration banquet to be held Saturday, February 2, 2008 at Bristol Court. Tickets are priced at \$35. This year's slogan is: "Shake Rattle and Roll with the Stars," featuring 1950s theme. See Page 16 for a ticket order form



Remove Holiday Decorations

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.



Primary Election February 5: Are You Registered to Vote?

For details on the February 5 Primary Election including polling place and candidates and offices up for election, please visit the Cook County Clerk's Office web site, www.voterinfonet.com.



Voter registration is available at Village Hall and at the Mount Prospect Public Library. To be eligible to vote in the February Primary Election you must be registered to vote by January 8. (If you have moved or changed your name since the last election you need to re-register.) Check the Village's web site at www.mountprospect.org for voter registration information and eligibility. Call the Village Clerk's office at 818-5333 for further information.

Pay Village Utility Bills Online!

The Village is pleased to announce a new service that allows residents and business owners to pay their Village utility bills (water and refuse) online at the Village's web site, www.mountprospect.org (for a minimal fee). The Village will continue to review the E-Pay program to ensure it continues to meet the needs of its users. For more information, contact the Finance Department at 392-6000 or email us at OnlinePayments@mountprospect.org.

Water Rate Increase

The Village Board recently approved a 5% increase to water and sewer utility rates. The current combined rate for water and sewer is \$5.68. Effective with all billings after January 1, 2008, the new combined rate will be \$5.96. For 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 \$99.40, an increase of \$4.20. This includes the \$5 monthly sewer construction charge. There was no change in this sewer construction flat fee. For more information, contact the Water Billing Department at 392-6000.



Carol - Best Wishes on Your Retirement!

Deputy Finance Director, Carol Widmer is retiring in January after almost 22 years of service to the Village. Carol began her career as Village Accountant in February 1986 and was soon promoted to Accounting Supervisor. In December, 1989 Carol was promoted to her current position as Deputy Finance Director. During her time with the Village she has served four Directors. Her contributions to the department and to the Village are greatly appreciated and she will surely be missed. Future plans include spending time at her winter vacation home in Florida and travel. We wish Carol and her husband Tom a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement!



Upcoming Events



Mount Prospect Public Library

847/253-5675
www.mpppl.org

Tuesday Nights at MPPL

What are your plans for next Tuesday? Why not try one of the Library's Tuesday night programs? This winter we are covering a wide range of topics including Make Over Your Diet 2008, Preschool/Childcare Information Night, and The Procrastinating Child: Parenting Strategies That Work. We will even be commemorating the King's birthday - the King of Rock 'n Roll, that is - Elvis!

The Great Reading Race: February 1 - 29

Take the challenge and join us for Mount Prospect's month long reading marathon during the Library's Winter Reading program. When the temperature drops, we know you enjoy curling up with a cup of hot chocolate and a good book. Let us know what you are reading and you can enter a drawing for weekly prizes and a final, grand prize. We'll keep track of the numbers and let you know how many books Mount Prospect residents read in just 29 days.

Most Library programs require registration. To sign-up, visit www.mpppl.org/events, call 847/253-5675, or stop by the Library.



Mount Prospect Historical Society

847/392-9006
www.mtphist.org

Presidents Day Skating Party: Feb. 18

Join us for a roller skating party while also helping the Historical Society and its work to preserve local history and such local landmarks as the Central School. The party will run from noon to 5 p.m. at the Central Community Center, 1000 W. Central Rd. Admission is \$5 per person.

History on Wheels 2008 Calendar

Now available - 2008 Historical Society Calendar featuring images of historic cars from the past. Available at the Mount Prospect Historical Society Museum and other locations for only \$10.

The Central School is Rolling Along!

The community of Mount Prospect has come together to save the Central School. Over 650 different families, businesses and organizations have contributed and we now have enough money to move the building. To learn more about the progress of the project or to learn how you can join the team, visit www.yourcentralschool.org.



Mt. Prospect Park District

847/255-5380
www.mppd.org

Mt. Prospect Community Band Spring Concert

The Mt. Prospect Community Band will present its first concert of the season on Sunday, March 9 at Prospect High School. Advance tickets are \$7 each and will be available at RecPlex beginning February 18. At the door tickets will run \$9 per person. Mark your calendars to enjoy the melodious strains of our own community band under the direction of Ralph Wilder.

Calling All Musicians!

Now in its 30th year under the sponsorship of the Mt. Prospect Park District, the community band invites anyone with musical experience to join in bringing music to our residents. There are no auditions for membership. All we ask is for your time and enthusiasm. Music and percussion equipment is provided. Practices begin January 7. Call 640-1000 ext. 229 for more information.



River Trails Park District

847/255-1200
www.rtpd.org

Adult Trips

- The Goodbye Girl - January 10
- Adler Planetarium - January 30
- Chicago Auto Show - February 8
- Death Trap at the Metropolis - February 14
- Grand Victoria Casino - February 27
- When Irish Cows Are Smiling - March 12
- Chicago Flower & Garden Show - March 14
- Sweet Charity - March 20

**Pre-registration required for all trips. Please call 255.1200 for more information.*

Lunch with the Bunny: March 8

Here comes Peter Cottontail...he'll stop by River Trails Rob Roy Clubhouse 11:30a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Stop by the Weiss Center to register.

Doggy Easter Egg Hunt - March 15

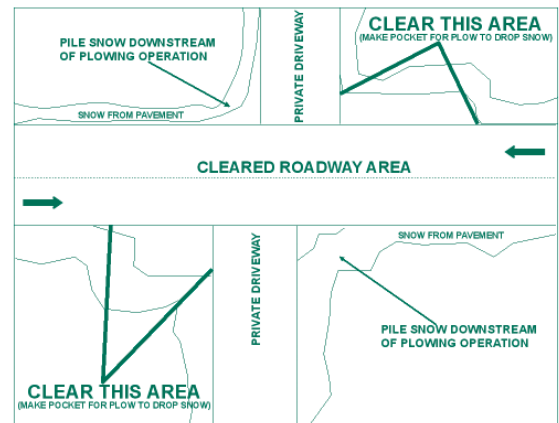
An event for your furry little canines! Eggs with treats will be scattered in the park for your good sniffing pups to hunt down. All dogs must be leashed & escorted by an adult. Meet at the gazebo at Woodland Trails Park. Registration deadline March 7.

Winter Tips and Reminders

Snow Shoveling Tips

Remember, it is hazardous and illegal to shovel or blow snow into any public street once the street has been plowed. Snow should be piled in your yard or parkway. One way to assure that minimal snow will be piled in your driveway entrance is to follow the diagram to the right.

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.



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.
3. Feeder streets, cul-de-sacs and dead ends, in that order, are plowed last.

When all roads have been opened, repeat passes will be made to clear them curb-to-curb, and intersections also will be cleared completely. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at 870-5640.



Snow Parking Ban Reminder

After a minimum 2-inch snowfall, parking is not 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 870-5656.

Winter Driving Tips

- Make sure your car is in good shape (good running condition). Any small problems that you had in the summer will become worse in the winter.
- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape and the windshield washer reservoir is full.
- Make sure that your tires have good tread and the air in the tires is properly inflated to the correct pressure and consider using winter tires.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- If you have a cellular phone carry it with you to use if you get stuck or need help. If you don't have a cellular telephone contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 870-5650 to inquire about obtaining a free 911 cellular telephone.
- Clear snow and ice off the entire car, not just a peephole in the windshield, which is illegal. All windows should be cleared, along with your headlights, taillights and outside mirrors.
- Do everything slowly. Accelerate slowly, turn slowly and brake slowly. Leave plenty of distance between cars.
- Have an emergency winter kit in your car if you get stuck. A shovel, sand or ice melt, gloves, heavy winter clothing, and a blanket are just some of the items you will want to have with you.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Where Do Property Taxes Go?

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

To pay for all of this, the Village obtains revenues from a number of sources, including property taxes which account for about 15.9% of the Village's total budget of \$87.5 million (2008). Sales tax, service charges, licenses, fees, state income tax and motor fuel rebates, and several other revenue sources make up the balance.

The Village uses the money it receives from property taxes for three basic purposes: public safety, refuse disposal, and public improvements.

The owner of a residential property in Mount Prospect having an equalized assessed value of \$90,975 (approximate market value of \$350,000) will pay the Village about \$721 in property taxes from the 2007 levy. Of that, \$400 was used for police and fire protection, \$143 for public safety pensions, \$107 for refuse disposal, and \$71 for public improvements.

Other Taxing Districts

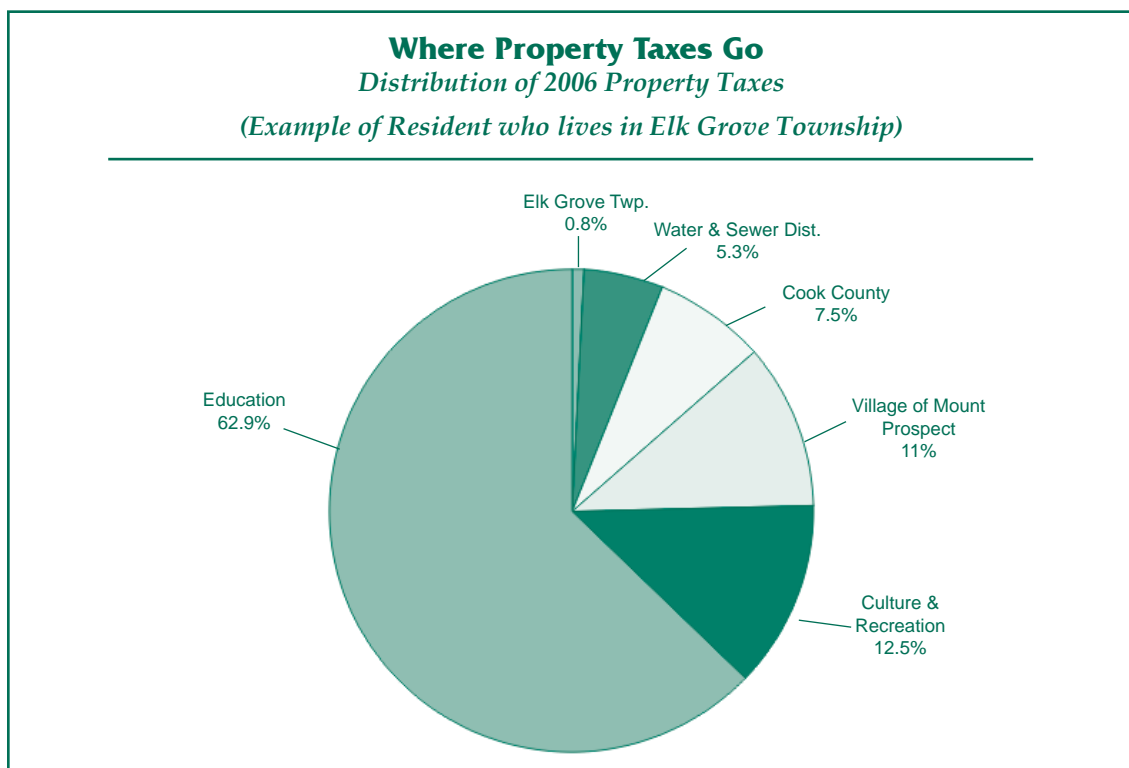
Within and including the Village of Mount Prospect, there are 34 separate and independent taxing districts. They include the Mount Prospect Public Library, Cook County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, 6 public school districts, 5 park districts, and 14 other tax districts, plus Elk Grove,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

With the exception of the Village and Public Library, the taxing districts in Mount Prospect do not share common boundaries. Thus, not all of the 34 tax levies appear on every tax bill here. 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 2006 tax bill (payable in 2007). The Village is to receive just over \$13.5 million or about 11% of the total. The percentages vary depending on the area of the Village and the tax districts included.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees have made a determined effort to keep property taxes as low as possible while enabling the Village to provide a wide range of high quality services. For more information on property taxes and the Village budget, visit the web site at www.mountprospect.org, or contact the Finance Department at 392-6000.



VILLAGE CLERK

ACROSS THE BOARD

Since the last publication of the Mount Prospect Newsletter, the Village Board of Trustees has enacted the following ordinances from August 22, 2007 through November 6, 2007:

5648 amends Appendix A-Division II, Section 8.1102, "Imposition of Tax" of the Village Code to increase the Village's Home Rule sales tax rate effective January 1, 2008;

5649 amends Appendix A-Division II, Section 8.1202, "Imposition of Tax" of the Village Code to increase the Village's Home Rule sales tax rate effective January 1, 2008;

5650 amends Subsection J, entitled "Sidewalk Signs" of Section 7.325, entitled "Special Signs," by deleting 11, "Expiration of this Subsection" to remove Sunset Clause for Downtown Sidewalk Signs;

5651 amend Chapter 13 (Alcoholic Liquors) of the Village Code by adding (1) Class "S" liquor license for Blues Bar, 2 West Busse Avenue;

5652 grants a Conditional Use permit to allow for operation of an animal hospital, 418-420 West Northwest Highway;

5653 amends Chapter 18 (Traffic) of the Village Code to approve two (2) hour parking restrictions in the Lofts-Emerson-Nakanishi, "Center" parking lot;

5654 amends Section 14.702, entitled "Permitted Uses" of Chapter 14 (Zoning) of the Village Code to include municipal buildings and facilities as a permitted use in the Conservation/ Recreation (CR) District.

TELEVISION SERVICES

What Does Digital Television Mean To You?

You hear a lot in the media today about the age of digital television - but what does that mean? Here are some common misconceptions and facts to help you understand what the impact the coming changes in television mean to you.

Misconception 1: Digital Television is High Definition Television.

Not everything delivered via a digital signal is High Definition. Unless you have a flat panel television, you are watching a digitally delivered signal on an analog television set.

Misconception 2: Broadcasters will stop transmitting analog signals in 2009, and I will need to replace all of the TV sets in my house.

Although broadcasters will stop transmitting analog television signals in February of 2009, it does not mean you need to replace your TV sets. This February date only affects people who receive local television programming via an antenna. If you get your television programming via cable or satellite dish this does not affect you. Those choosing to receive local television programming via an antenna will be able to purchase a DTV (Digital Television) converter box that will decode the digital signal into analog.



The federal government has promised to give vouchers for the purchase of DTV converter boxes. In time the price of digital televisions will drop to the point where most people will be able to afford to replace their old analog TVs the same way people in the 1960's replaced their black and white TVs with color.

Misconception 3: If I convert my cable package to digital, I need to get a cable

box for every TV in the house.

If you convert to a digital package you need a cable box in order to see all the digital channels, video on demand, and the interactive menu. If you need to have those features on every TV in the house, then it is true, you need a box for every TV. However, if you don't need all the digital features on every TV in the house, the same cable you had hooked up to your TVs before you changed to a digital package will still view the expanded basic analog signal.

Stay tuned

We will continue to discuss the changes that occur as the United States continues to change from analog to digital television. For questions or concerns, call the Television Services Division at 870-5685.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Identifying Available Sites

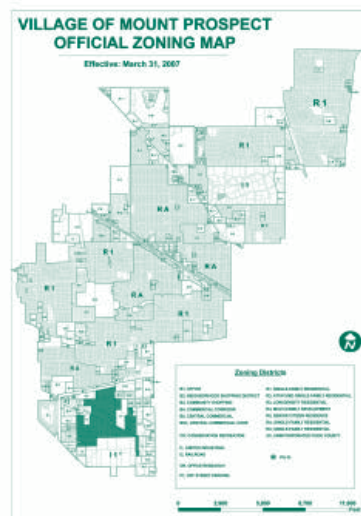
To aid expanding businesses and potential new businesses seeking to locate in the Village, the Community Development Department maintains a database of available commercial and industrial properties. Listings are posted on our web site, www.mountprospect.org.

If you own a business in town and need to expand, or seek to bring your business to Mount Prospect, contact the Community Development Department for help locating a site. If you own commercial property in the Village, we will list your available sites. Real estate brokers are encouraged to send their real estate flyers, advertising commercial and industrial property. For more information, or to send your information, contact Ellen Divita at 818-5288 or edivita@mountprospect.org.



Zoning Code Update

The Planning Division is reviewing and making updates to the Village Zoning Code. The Zoning code regulates the type and intensity of development on individual land parcels within the Village. For example, each zoning district contains a listing of uses which are allowed by "right" and those that could be allowed with "conditional use" approval. The zoning code contains "bulk regulations" for each zoning class. These set the setbacks which must be maintained from property lines for construction of any building, as well as height and lot coverage. The Village pays strict attention to lot coverage because impervious surfaces contribute to flooding when water cannot percolate back into the soil.



Community Development Block Grants

Contractors Sought for CDBG Rehab Projects

The Village is seeking qualified contractors from all trades to participate in their housing rehab programs. Each year, the Village improves at least 12 homes and employs contractors. All projects have an open house for the contractors to bid on the rehab specifications and are subject to the competitive bidding process. For more information about the programs or how to become involved, contact Janet Saewert at 818-5313.



2008 CDBG Action Plan Submitted to HUD

The Village has submitted their 2008 Action Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2008 Action Plan is a document that discusses how federal block grant funds are allocated to the community. In 2008, the Village has proposed more infrastructure improvements, home repair programs, and public service programs. Questions may be directed to Neighborhood Planner Janet Saewert at 818-5313.

Keep your Pets at Home

Did you know that the Village of Mount Prospect Code Sec. 20.101 prohibits stray animals, including cats? Regulations are in place because stray animals can cause problems—they are a potential danger to children, traffic hazard, litter in neighbor's yards and flower beds.

Penalties for letting your animal stray include court fines up to \$500 per day per violation and possible impoundment.

Also, please remember that:

- No animal is permitted to run stray.
- Dogs must be leashed or enclosed by an adequate fence.
- Animals must not disturb the peace.
- When walking your dog you must remove its defecation.
- Your property must be kept clean and sanitary, with no animal waste.
- No more than a total of three dogs and/or cats are permitted.
- Dogs and cats must wear a collar with current proof of rabies vaccination.



PUBLIC WORKS

Gearing Up for Spring Tree Planting

It won't be long before the Cost-Share Tree Planting Program will start up again for Spring 2008. The Public Works Department is hoping there will be many planting requests this upcoming season, because trees provide so many long-term benefits to Mount Prospect. The Village lost over 300 trees due to the August 23, 2007 wind storm. In addition to the trees lost in the storm, the Village's losses due to diseases such as Dutch Elm Disease and Elm Yellows have increased in recent years. Because of this, the Village Board has increased the amount of money that will be available for planting trees in 2008.

"Besides their obvious beauty, well-maintained trees have been proven in numerous studies to provide overlooked community benefits, such as increased property values, reduction of stormwater runoff and pollution, and even increased mental well-being for citizens," states Forestry/Grounds Superintendent Sandy Clark.

Cost-share trees may be planted on publicly owned parkways in Mount Prospect wherever there is adequate room and proper growing conditions, as defined by Village Code. The amount of room required varies by tree species; minimum spacing between trees ranges from 20 to 40 feet.



Interested property owners should contact the Public Works Department at 870-5640 no later than February 29. Public Works staff will then inspect the proposed planting site and, if adequate, the property owner will receive a list of species and ordering information. Species selection and payment will be due no later than March 17.

As in the past, the 2008 program will offer citizens a list of roughly 8 to 10 tree species, all selected for their suitability as parkway trees. "We look at many factors when we make these selections," said Clark. "Although an attractive form is important, we also look at characteristics like hardiness, tolerance of urban growing conditions like pollution and soil compaction, and disease/insect resistance." Planting for diversity, a long time goal of the Public Works Department has become even more important with the recent find of Emerald Ash Borer in Illinois. A healthy and diverse urban forest can reduce the damage caused by a single insect or disease.

The cost-share species mix will include a selection of small, medium, and large-growing species. Although tree prices have risen over the years, the Village has decided to hold the property owner's share of the cost to \$100 for each 2" - 2½" diameter tree. This is expected to amount to about 25-35% of the total cost of each tree. The cost includes both installation and a one-year guarantee.

Additionally in 2008, the Village will be offering for the first time, the opportunity for property owners to order private property trees through the Village's program. Property owners will pay the full cost of these plantings, but will be able to take advantage of any price break the Village may receive for ordering a large quantity of trees. Property owners interested in this program should contact Public Works no later than February 29 to request information.

PUBLIC WORKS

SOLID WASTE NEWS

BASIC SERVICES:

Unlimited Recycling of Acceptable Items

Newspaper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass food and beverage containers, steel/tin/bi-metal containers, empty aerosol cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil/formed foil and plastic containers identified as a #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 or #7 plastic and wax/polycoated "gable-topped" beverage containers such as milk cartons, juice drink boxes, whipping cream cartons and fabric softener refills.

Bulk Item Collection

Bulk items are collected weekly with refuse on the same day as the resident's regularly scheduled pick up day. Collection must be scheduled and is provided at no additional charge. There is no limit on the number of items a resident may set out as long they appear on the following list: *Carpet (rolls not to exceed 6'), Furniture, Microwave ovens, Mattresses/boxsprings, Large toys, Plumbing fixtures, Bicycles, Swing Sets (5' lengths), Snow blowers/shovels, Barbecue grills, Lawn care equipment.*

Scrap Metal/Residential Appliance Drop-off

Scrap metal not collected in the curbside program and residential appliances can be taken to ARC. The drop-off program is provided by ARC for no additional cost. Please call ARC at 981-0091 for hours and directions.

Unlimited Brush Collection

(April 1 - December 15)

Residents may set out an unlimited number of properly prepared bundles of brush. Properly prepared brush bundles will be collected at no cost; no sticker is required. Tree limbs/branches are not to exceed 3.5" in diameter, 5' in length or 50 pounds in weight and must be secured with a biodegradable material.

2008 Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no garbage, recycling or yard material collection on the following holidays:

New Year's Day (2008)	Memorial Day
Independence Day	Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day

If a holiday falls on a weekday, the regularly scheduled pickup for that day and the remainder of the week will be delayed by one day. Friday pickups will be done on Saturday. The following week will return to the regular collection schedule.

Solid Waste Brochure

All residents should have a copy of the Solid Waste Services Brochure distributed by the Village. The brochure details specific guidelines and restrictions that apply to both Basic and User Fee Services. It is also available on the web site, www.mountprospect.org.

USER FEE SERVICES:

Residential Appliance Disposal

Residents are responsible for the proper disposal of residential appliances. Please call the Public Works Department at 870-5640 for information on disposal options. Please do not set your appliance out at the curb without making proper arrangements.

Yard Material Collection Resumes April 1

All containerized yard material, bags and/or rigid containers must have the Village-imprinted sticker affixed for collection. Stickers are \$2.25 and are available at Village Hall, Public Works and other locations (see web site, www.mountprospect.org.)

Acceptable yard material includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, brush and twigs ONLY. Yard waste should be placed out for collection in either a 32-gallon maximum capacity rigid container or in biodegradable compost bags. If you use a rigid container, you must also affix the green "Yard Material" decal (in addition to the Village imprinted sticker) to the container.

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) Recycling Programs

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) have been in the media spotlight lately focusing on their environmental benefits of . They do however contain mercury, which makes disposing of them a concern.

In response to this issue, SWANCC has developed a CFL disposal program. Residents can bring their CFLs and rechargeable batteries to designated drop-off locations during specified hours. For more information on this program, visit SWANCC's website at www.swancc.org.

For more information regarding CFLs, visit the U.S. EPA's website at www.energystar.gov.

Computer Recycling

Three corporate businesses offer computer and electronic material recycling in different forms. Office Depot, Office Max and Staples each offer recycling programs for computer materials and other electronics. For more information about these programs, go to www.swancc.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Space Heater Safety

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

A kerosene space heater might reduce your heating bill, but it can be dangerous if not used correctly. Be sure the space heater is used in a well-vented area. For fuel, use K-1 kerosene only. Do not use gasoline, camp stove fuel, or any other flammable liquid. Store kerosene outdoors in approved containers, and refuel the heater outdoors. For more information, please contact Fire Prevention Bureau at 818-5253, or visit the web site, www.mountprospect.org.

Portable Generator Safety

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed but they can be hazardous. The U.S. Fire Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Council (CPSC) offer the following life-saving tips.

- Always 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.
- 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.

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

Please Keep Hydrants Clear

Every winter, fire hydrants become buried by the snow. This makes it difficult for the Fire Department to locate and use the hydrants. You can help the Fire Department by ensuring the hydrant near your home or business is kept free from snow on all sides. Please keep a clear path from the street to the hydrant as well. The Fire Department sincerely appreciates your efforts to assist us. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 818-5253.

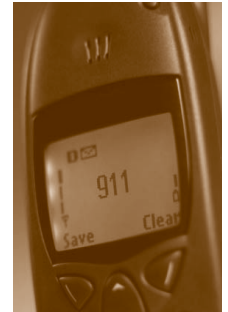


Storm Situations Strain Emergency Service Resources

9-1-1 is often swamped with non-emergency calls during severe storms. Residents should call 9-1-1 when there is an emergency such as a medical call, arching power wires, fires, or accidents. During severe weather:

- 9-1-1 should NOT be called to ask why the tornado sirens have activated. Residents should take shelter immediately and monitor the weather situation on the radio or television.
- 9-1-1 should NOT be used to report power outages, call Commonwealth Edison at 1-800-EDISON1. 9-1-1 dispatchers cannot speed the return of power and they do not have information about when power will be restored.
- 9-1-1 should NOT be used to report flooding streets unless they pose a life hazard such as someone trapped in a vehicle in the flooded street. Even if a home is being flooded, it will be some time before assistance can get to you as higher priority calls will be handled first.
- 9-1-1 should NOT be used to report bad traffic conditions. There is very little that can be done and callers have tied up emergency lines to argue with call takers over something they cannot control.

Please do not call 9-1-1 unless it is truly an emergency.



Be Prepared - Continued from Page 1

Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag. Include:

- A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- Credit cards and cash.
- An extra set of car keys.
- A list of family physicians.

For additional information about how to prepare for disasters contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 818-5253 or visit www.redcross.org or www.ready.gov.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

You Can Prevent Crime

Opportunity to commit crime is one of the main contributing factors in why criminal events occur. The following list provides some examples of what can be done to help prevent crimes against you or your property from happening:

- Always make sure all windows and doors are locked. Place a metal rod or similar object in the track of the sliding glass door to prevent it from being opened.
- Use adequate exterior lighting. The use of motion activated lights is encouraged.
- Trim trees and shrubs near your home.
- Make the home appear as if someone is there when you are away. Use timers on your lights when away at night or on vacation.
- Lock all vehicles kept outside the home. Don't leave garage remotes or valuables in vehicles parked outside your home.
- Consider installing an alarm system.
- Install a peephole on the front door and use it. Don't open the door to anyone you do not know.
- Get to know your neighbors. Be aware of your surroundings and get involved with neighborhood activities.
- When on vacation, suspend any newspaper subscriptions. Have mail forwarded to the vacation address or held at the post office. Try to have family, friends, or neighbors watch the property.
- If you arrive at home and see your front door or windows open, or see other signs of forced entry into your home, don't go in! The intruder may still be inside, immediately find the nearest phone and call the police (911).



Chat with the Chief

Mount Prospect Police Chief John Dahlberg will be holding several informal citizen discussion sessions on upcoming Thursday evenings at the Mount Prospect Public Library. Chief Dahlberg and members of his command staff will make themselves available to answer residents' questions, take their comments and/or hear their concerns. No advance notification of your attendance is necessary – just come as you are. These meetings will provide residents with a great opportunity to meet Chief Dahlberg and converse with him in a relaxed and open atmosphere. The meetings will be conducted from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson Street, Meeting Room B on the following dates: Thursday evenings February 21, March 6 and March 20. An additional meeting will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



Keep Kids Alive Drive 25

"Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" is a safety campaign targeting observance of residential speed limits. The objective of this program is to visually reinforce residential speed limits by way of non-traditional signage reminding motorists within the Village that adherence to speed limits is ultimately their responsibility. "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" lawn signs can be provided to a neighborhood by the Police Department if a neighborhood agrees to participate in the program. Residents then display the signs in their front yards in an effort to make motorists more aware of the existing speed limit.

Sergeant Eterno, Supervisor of the department's traffic unit, started the program in Mount Prospect in the beginning of October 2007 when signs were given to residents of the 2100 block of west Haven Street. The traffic unit had responded in the past to complaints of speeding in that neighborhood and addressed the issue by assigning extra patrols and placing the "speed trailer" in the area. In an effort to supplement law enforcement resources Sergeant Eterno contacted a neighborhood resident and offered them the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 yard signs. If you are interested in implementing this program in their neighborhood, contact Sergeant Eterno at 818-5248.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Thank You for Your Generosity

Thanks to the generosity of Village residents, employees, local businesses, churches, schools and civic organizations, the Human Services Department was able to provide assistance to a large number of needy residents, again in 2007. Recipients were given several bags of groceries, a turkey or ham, and a gift certificate for perishable foods. Thanks to cash donations, the Star Program has again provided gift certificates at a local store that made it possible for parents to purchase appropriate gifts for their children. Thank you!



Social Services Assistance

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 Human Services Department at 870-5680.

Spotlight on Shingles

*Wednesday, March 19, 10:00am -
Mount Prospect Community Center*

This Shingles education presentation provides education on Shingles and the Shingles Vaccine, whether Medicare will cover the cost of the vaccine and how to obtain the vaccination. The presentation will be given by Healthy Aging Services staff from Northwest Community Hospital. Please call Human Services at 870-5680 to register for the presentation.

Flu Vaccine Available

The Flu season is upon us and the best way to fight this virus is to receive the influenza vaccine. The Village of Mount Prospect will be offering Flu Vaccines at our blood pressure clinics held every Monday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in our Community Center.

Shots are available to anyone eighteen years of age and over. Anyone with the following conditions will NOT be eligible for vaccination through the Village: 1. Allergy to eggs, 2. History of Guillain Barre Syndrome, 3. Pregnant, 4. Acute illness with a fever or history of seizures/convulsions from fevers - Please contact your own physician.

Seniors who have Medicare A and B will not be charged for the shot, but must bring their Medicare card and their supplemental insurance card with them in order for the Village to file their insurance claim. Individuals with Medicare HMO, Railroad Retirement, or who are under age sixty-five and do not have Medicare, will be charged \$20.00 for the shot.

Personal Information Form

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

Advance Directives

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

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

Financial Planning Class

A new series of classes will be held on Tuesday evenings January 15, 22, 29 and February 5, for pre-retirees and retirees. The topics include Retirement Planning, Fixed Income (CD's, Bonds, etc.), Annuities and Insurance, Stocks, and Mutual Funds. Classes will be held at the Village of Mount Prospect, 50 S. Emerson Street, 1st floor Community Center, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge; however, advanced registration is requested. Please call 847-870-5680 to reserve a space.

Income Tax Time is Here

Free Income Tax assistance is 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 after January 14, 2008. 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: Circuit Breaker Grant/IL Cares applications will NOT be completed at the Income Tax appointments. 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 State of Illinois Circuit Breaker Grant based on their 2007 income must schedule an appointment for this assistance. This separate appointment may be arranged at the same time the Income Tax appointment is scheduled.



Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs

Although the deadline for filing your application for the 2007 Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance Program* is December 31, 2008, you may want to do this at the time that you would file income tax since many of the same papers are needed for both.



The State of Illinois offers a grant program to help individuals sixty-five years of age and older and disabled citizens who pay taxes on their homes, or to refund some of the taxes paid as part of their rent. Illinois residents who qualify for this grant may also participate in the Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, and will receive a discount on their State of Illinois license plates.

The Income guidelines for the Prescription portion of the program are:

*\$22,793 for a one-person household
\$30,594 for a two-person household
\$38,393 for a three-person or more household*

Income guidelines for the refund and/or the discount on your license plate are:

*\$21,218 for a one-person household
\$28,460 for a two-person household*

In addition, you must pay rent or property tax.

If you are interested in this program, please call the Human Services Department at 870-5680, for assistance and/or the application.

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 and the spring class will be March 26. 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 870-5680 to register.

Several Clubs Have Openings

The GRANDMOTHERS CLUB is looking for members.



The MENS CLUB is looking for members. They meet every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Village of Mount Prospect Community Center, 50 South Emerson Street.

For information about either of these clubs, contact the Human Services Department at 870-5680.

Our choral group, known as THE SENTIMENTALISTS, is looking for a few more voices. Male voices are especially needed. All are welcome on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The desire to sing and enjoy the company of other people is all you need. You do not have to be able to read music. Stop by the Mount Prospect Community Center on Wednesday mornings if you are interested.

Mount Prospect Business News

New Business/Change of Ownership/Relocation

Famous Footwear #2801
1141 Mt Prospect Plaza
847/797-1208
Shoe Store

Breezes Of Mexico, Inc.
1742 E Kensington Rd
847/566-7233
Restaurant

Lahey Clinic
800 W. Central Rd, Suite 113
847/506-1050
Office

Blues Bar
2 W. Busse Av
847/788-9977
Restaurant

Seattle Suttons Healthy Eating
668 E Northwest Hw
847/577-2772
Food Service

Cargowise Edi Inc
1699 Wall St, Ste 506
847/364-5600

Stowick & Stowick
940 E Northwest Hw, Ste. 1
847/253-9100
Service

Us Cellular
999 N Elmhurst Rd, Suite 2680
224/612-5909
Retail

Mobile Concept Limited
2076 S Elmhurst Rd
847/956-0102
Retail

Studianos Hair Salon
2025 E Euclid Av
847/827-8677
Hair Salon

Agata Inc.
1844 S Elmhurst Rd
847/593-0486
Trucking Company

Ups Store
119 S. Emerson St
847/788-9001
Mail Service

Vazzano Ltd.
111 E Busse Av, Suite 502
847/398-1400
Insurance Sales

Watch & Clock Service
1719 W Golf Rd
847/837-8864
Service

Care Registry Network, Inc.
1100 W Northwest Hw, 213
847/670-0945
Nurse Agency

Power On
999 N Elmhurst Rd, Suite 2675
847/222-1151
Retail

Accutrak Solutions
1980 Carboy Rd
847/437-6200
Retail

Lapmaster International Llc
501 W Algonquin Rd., Suite A
224/659-7101
Manufacturing

Pro Docs Inc
800 E Northwest Hw, Suite 207
847/394-5000
Service

I-Net Dor Inc.
1870 S Elmhurst Rd
847/781-8005
Retail

Dae Jang Kum
1747 W Golf Rd
847/439-1166
Restaurant



Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce

107 S. Main Street, Phone: 398-6616
www.mountprospectchamber.org



A Disaster Preparedness Seminar with Mount Prospect Fire Chief Michael Figolah took place in September at ITT Technical Institute in the Kensington Business Park. The Chamber plans to hold similar meetings in 2008. Please contact the Chamber if you are interested in attending such events.

Congratulations to Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce 2007 Business Leader of the Year B & E Accounting

B & E Accounting - Richard Sassan, CPA located at 800 W Central Rd., offers individual tax return preparation, business tax return, small business services and payroll. For more information call 818-1040 or visit www.beaccounting.com.

Candidates Forum, Saturday, January 5, 9:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Village Hall, 3rd Floor Village Board Room

Candidates for the February primary election for U.S. Senate and Congress are invited, as well as candidates for State Senate and State Representative.

Midwest Bank Economic Breakfast, Economic Outlook for 2008, Featuring Robert Genetski, Economist, Wednesday, January 30, 7:30a.m - 9:30 a.m., Mr. Peters, Prospect Heights.

Happy 3rd Anniversary MPDMA!

Congratulations to the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association (MPDMA) on their third year of operation. This hard-working group hosted another successful season of downtown events including the Fun and Fitness Art Walk, the Blues Mobile Cruise Nights (Saturdays, May - September), and the Fall Festival.



The MPDMA was formed in spring of 2005 with the collaborative vision of promoting downtown Mount Prospect as a family friendly, quality shopping district. New for 2008, the MPDMA is welcoming Family memberships. Your annual membership of \$25 will help this group continue to promote downtown and create a healthy vibrant business district we all can enjoy.

Pick up a copy of their Shopping, Dining and Service Guide at a member businesses downtown or at Village Hall. To learn more about the DMA, contact President-Elect, Tom Nelson of Byte Me Computers and Internet Service, 670-9125, or visit their website at www.mpdma.org.

SPEAK OUT

Village of Mount Prospect
50 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

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Postal Customer

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Mount Prospect, IL 60056

The 15th Annual Celestial Celebration

Shake, Rattle, & Roll with the Stars



Saturday, February 2, 2008
Bristol Court, 828 E. Rand Road
Mount Prospect

Cash Bar - 5:30 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
50's attire optional

SHINING STAR AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED
Tickets are \$35 each - Tickets are limited.
Call 870-6622 with questions.

15th Annual Celestial Celebration Ticket Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

No. of Tickets _____ @ \$35 each. Total Enclosed: _____

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

Names of guests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

"Speak Out" provides a way in which YOU can communicate with Mount Prospect elected officials and administration. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive response. If you need more space, please attach a separate sheet.

Date: _____ As a citizen of Mount Prospect, it is my opinion that: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to: 'Speak Out,' Village of Mount Prospect, 50 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 OR Email to: speakout@mountprospect.org
(Name and Mailing Address or E-mail Address required for response).