The Village of Mount Prospect has a variety of resources to foster local business development. The Business section of the Village website (www.mountprospect.org/biz) offers licensing/permitting process guidance, contains an up-to-date available properties inventory, information on local financial incentives, and much more.

Although the Village is able to provide a large amount of information to aspiring business owners, there are clearly additional resources available. The Village took the initiative to partner with other community organizations that have similar goals, to create a network and offer educational programming, mentoring opportunities, and resources.

What began initially in 2011 as the Entrepreneur’s Café, roundtable discussions between mentors and entrepreneurs, has grown into a successful partnership to encourage and strengthen entrepreneurship on a variety of levels. The Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative (MPEI) was born!

Mayor Arlene A. Juracek said, “MPEI allows us to leverage the individual programs into a holistic approach to nurturing new businesses. It recognizes our success is dependent on that of our businesses, and as we know – success breeds success!”

The Village of Mount Prospect, the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce, the Mount Prospect Public Library, and the Mount Prospect
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 $10.05. Effective with all billings after January 1, 2016, the new combined rate will be $10.55. Based on a typical Mount Prospect household that uses 8,000 gallons of water during a one-month billing period, the monthly water and sewer usage fee would be $89.40, an increase of $5.00. This includes the $5.00 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.

Submit Water Meter Reading on the Web

For residents whose water meters have not yet been upgraded to automatic meter readers, the Village continues to provide several options for those serviced by Village water to submit their water meter readings. Residents may submit readings by phone, fax, and e-mail or electronically via the website, www.mountprospect.org/watermeter. Residents who have already received upgraded automatic meter readers are no longer required to submit readings. For any questions, please call Utility Billing at 847/392-6000.

Vehicle Stickers

The deadline for displaying the 2015-2016 vehicle sticker was April 30, 2015. The Police Department may issue citations to drivers of locally registered vehicles if the 2015-2016 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. For those residents who have changed vehicles during the year, please call the Finance Department at 847/392-6000 for more information.

2016-2017 Vehicle Stickers

Residents should look for a renewal notice in the mail during the first week of February 2016. Residents who recently moved to the Village or those who do not receive a renewal notice by February 8 should come to Village Hall (50 S. Emerson St.) to pick up a renewal application. Vehicle stickers can be purchased online (mountprospect.org>Village Departments>Finance Department>Vehicle Stickers). For more information, please call the Finance Department at 847/392-6000.

Where Do Property Taxes Go?

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

To pay for all this, the Village obtains revenues from a number of sources, including property taxes. The 2014 property tax levy accounted for 15.9% of the Village’s total revenues expected for 2015. 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 three basic purposes: police and fire protection, public safety pensions and debt service on public improvements.

The owner of a residential property in Mount Prospect having an equalized assessed value of $95,400 (approximate market value of $350,000) will pay the Village about $1,141 in property taxes as a result of the final 2014 levy (payable in 2015). Of this amount, $648 is for police and fire protection, $346 is for funding public safety (police and fire) pensions, and $147 is for debt service on bonds issued 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 towards 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 the Public Library, the taxing districts in Mount Prospect do not share common boundaries. As such, not all of the 34 tax levies appear on every tax bill for a Mount Prospect resident or business. Typically, there are 16 or 17 districts on each individual tax bill.

Village’s Share – The pie chart located in this section shows the breakdown of property taxes for the Village of Mount Prospect in Elk Grove Township from the 2014 tax bill (payable in 2015). The Village is to receive $17.5 million or 12.2% of the total. The percentages vary depending on the area of the Village and the taxing districts included.

For more information on property taxes and the Village budget, visit the website at www.mountprospect.org/budget or contact the Finance Department at 847/392-6000.
Michael Cassady Appointed to Serve as Village Manager

In the fall of 2015, the Mayor and Village Board of Mount Prospect appointed Michael Cassady as Mount Prospect’s new Village Manager. Cassady has 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. He served as the Village Manager for Bensenville (2009-2015) and Palatine (1998 – 2004). In addition, Cassady spent five years in the private sector specializing in economic development.

Cassady’s experience in economic development, including downtown redevelopment and his focus on customer service, were important to the Mayor and Village Board.

Mayor Arlene A. Juracek said, “We were extremely impressed with Mr. Cassady’s professional demeanor, extensive experience in economic development and strategic planning, as well as his leadership and management style, which we believe are an excellent fit for the Mount Prospect community and organization.”

In addition to his extensive experience in strategic planning, he also has experience in guiding the implementation of strategic plans. While leading the Village of Bensenville, Cassady led award-winning innovations in customer service and conducted oversight of significant flood control and street reconstruction projects.

Cassady has a bachelor’s degree in Administration of Justice from Southern Illinois University, a master’s degree in Public Affairs from Southern Illinois University and a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University. He is also a veteran of the United States Air Force where he served as a Security Police Officer.

Cassady, his wife, Allison, and four children look forward to making Mount Prospect “home.”

MPTV is on AT&T U-Verse

Mount Prospect residents who have AT&T U-Verse cable service, may now access MPTV and MPTV2, the Village’s Government and Educational Access Channels. U-Verse customers may access the channels by going to Channel 99 and picking Mount Prospect in the alphabetical listing of municipalities. After choosing “Mount Prospect,” there will be a choice of “MPTV” or “MPTV2.” Choose the channel of preference. Keep in mind - the program guide, “go to last channel selected” and other remote control functions will not operate while in the Channel 99 sub-menu system.

Mount Prospect Centennial Information Meeting

Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m.
Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St., Community Room

Community groups, organizations, Village departments and commissions, service clubs, religious organizations, schools and park districts serving the Mount Prospect community are invited to send a representative to an informational meeting about the upcoming 2017 Centennial celebration in Mount Prospect.

Sponsorships are also now on sale! For more information, contact the Mount Prospect Centennial Commission at mp100@mountprospect.org.

Check out new website in 1st Quarter 2016:
mountprospect100.com
COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Chamber Business Breakfasts
Wednesdays - Jan. 6, Feb. 3 and Mar. 2
7:45 - 8:45 a.m.
Emerson's Ale House
113 S. Emerson St.
$15/person PREPAID (includes gratuity)
RSVP details below
The Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce invites you to begin your day with other members of the Mount Prospect business community for breakfast, networking and Village news. This event takes place the first Wednesday of every month at Emerson’s Ale House in downtown Mount Prospect. Contact meghan@mountprospectchamber.org for more details and to register.

JAMuary Dance Parties
Fridays - January 15, 22 and 29
7 - 8:30 p.m.
RecPlex
420 W. Dempster St.
$10 resident/$11 non-resident
Get your groove on and stay fit in the New Year! Grab a glow necklace at the door and get ready to move. From Zumba to Hip Hop to Jazz, the Mt. Prospect Park District guarantees you will forget this is actually a workout. Register at the RecPlex front desk. Visit mppd.org for more information.

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago: The Winter’s Tale
Tuesday, January 19
7:30 p.m.
Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S. Emerson St.
FREE
The Mount Prospect Library Foundation brings The Shakespeare Project of Chicago to Mount Prospect in 2016 by sponsoring three plays: The Winter’s Tale on January 19; Cymbeline on March 1; and Cardenio on April 19. At 7 p.m., the pre-show introduction begins. Following the play is a post-show discussion and opportunity to interact with the actors and creative team, which will further enrich your experience. To register, visit mppl.org, call 847/253-5675, or stop by the Library.

Sister Cities Commission Trivia Night
Friday, January 22
7 p.m.
Village Hall Community Room (1st Floor)
50 S. Emerson St.
$10/adult and $5/student (17 and under - must be accompanied by an adult)
Bring a friend, some snacks and beverages and enjoy a friendly game of trivia on all things French! Limit 10 per table. If you already have a team of 10 and would like to reserve a table, please contact sistercities@mountprospect.org. Walk-ins welcome. Proceeds support community activities and programs sponsored by the Sister Cities Commission. For more information, visit mountprospectsistercities.com.
Tickets will be subsequently distributed through the Mt. Prospect Park District. To order or for more information, phone 847/255-5380 or visit mppd.org.

01/30-02/13

Unbelievable Chocolate Raffle
Saturday, Jan. 30 - Saturday, Feb. 13
Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S. Emerson St.
Attention, chocolate lovers; this one’s for you! Join the Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation beginning Saturday, January 30 through Saturday, February 13 for its sweetest event of the year - the Unbelievable Chocolate Raffle. The event takes place in the lobby of the Library and features sumptuous baskets designed for the chocolate lover in all of us. Raffle tickets are $1 each or six for $5. All proceeds benefit the Foundation, which raises funds for special programming and events at the Library that otherwise would not be available through public funding. Call 847/253-5675 for more information.

02/06

Mardi Gras Family Night
Saturday, February 6
4:30 - 8:30 pm
RecPlex
420 W. Dempster St.
$5 residents/$7 non-residents
Celebrate a family fun event at the RecPlex French Quarter! For just $5 per child (adults free), all can participate in open swim, craft with The Studio, jump, bounce and games galore! Shoot baskets, visit the fortune teller, march in the Mardi Gras parade AND enter a shoebox float in our parade contest! Grab a few extra coins for concessions and “loot” from the Bourbon Street Boutique. Watch the Cold Blooded Creatures show featuring “Bubba” the 14-foot alligator! Non-stop activities from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.! Register on the day of the event or pre-register and receive a free prize upon arrival. Pre-registration code is #26906. Visit mppd.org for more details.

02/06

Friends Cookbooks Only Sale
Saturday, February 6
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S. Emerson St.
If you love food and books, then this sale is for you! Stock your pantry with new recipes from our stellar collection of gently used cookbooks. Stop by the Library between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the best selection. Funds raised through the sale will help the Friends support additional Library programs, events, and services. For more information, call 847/253-5675.

02/06

Valentine’s Yoga, Chocolate & Wine Class
Tuesday, February 9
6 - 8 pm
Rob Roy Golf Course
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
Fee: $20/person ($25/person walk-ins)
Must be over 21 years of age
Bring your yoga mat to the Rob Roy Clubhouse. Enjoy yoga by candlelight and end with wine and chocolate treats. Registration deadline is Monday, February 8. For more information, contact Robin at the River Trails Park District at 847/255-1200.

02/06

Pre-Valentine’s Day Ladies Night Out
Friday, February 12
6 - 9 p.m.
MPHS Museum Campus • 101 S. Maple St.
Tickets: $10 prior to event/ $12 at-the-door
Did you ever wonder how all of those romantic Valentine’s Day traditions got started? Learn about old-fashioned courtship rituals. Discover the meaning of flowers. Swoon over love notes and poems. Satisfy your taste buds with some deliciously decadent chocolate. Indulge your fantasies with a historical romance used book sale. Gather your favorite girlfriends and join us at the Mount Prospect Historical Society for a night of Valentine history. For more information, contact the Historical Society at 847/392-9006 or mtphist.org.

02/05

Shining Stars Celestial Celebration
Friday, February 5
6 p.m. – Midnight
The Cotillion Banquets
360 S. Creekside Dr.
Palatine, IL 60074
$45/person (ticket info. below)
Each year, the Mount Prospect Special Events Commission honors individuals and organizations that help make Mount Prospect a great place in which to live and work. They are celebrated as “Shining Stars” and recognized at a gala banquet. Reserve your seat online today at mountprospect.org. Click on the “Shining Stars” logo on the lower left-hand corner. See Ad on page 16 for more details.

02/06

Mommy & Me Valentine Tea
Saturday, February 6
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Rob Roy Golf Course
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
$11 R/$13 NR (over 15 years of age)
$8 R/$10 NR (2-14 years old)
Bring your mom, sister and grandma, too for a special Mommy & Me Valentine Tea! Put on your party clothes and come for a delicious afternoon of ‘high tea’. Real tea will be served in real china! All the typical ‘high tea’ assortment of sandwiches and goodies to enjoy. Registration deadline is February 1. For more information, visit rtpd.org or call 847/255-1200.

mountprospect.org
Freeze Fest
Saturday, February 20
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Weiss Community Center
1500 E. Euclid Ave.
FREE
Gather your family and friends for a fun-filled day at the River Trails Park District! This event includes minute to win it games, an obstacle course, entertainment, cup stacking contest, a bounce house, snow shoeing, ice skating, arts and crafts, snow painting, giveaways and more! For more information, visit rtpd.org or call 847/255-1200.

Mount Prospect Trivia Night V!
Sponsored by the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce
Friday, February 26
Doors open at 6 p.m./Games begin at 7 p.m.
Location: TBA
$200 per team (team table is 8-10 people)
Registration details below
A fun night with lots of raffle prizes! This is a community event, open to the public. 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, bring decorations for your table and wear costumes! Contact dawn@mountprospectchamber.org or 847/ 398-6616 for event registration.

Mini Golf at the Library
Saturday, March 5
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S. Emerson St.
$5/golfer  $20/family of 4 or more
Join us once again as we host an 18-hole miniature golf course at the Library for a day of family fun. This unique adventure will have golfers putting throughout the Library, between the stacks, and down the stairs. There will also be a 19th Hole entertainment area for players with refreshments, entertainment, and games. This event is a fundraiser for the Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation (MPPLF). The MPPLF provides funding to the Library for special programs and projects that are otherwise unattainable with tax dollars. For more information, visit mppl.org.

Lunch with the Bunny
Saturday, March 19
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Rob Roy Golf Course
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
$16/R; $19/NR (15 years and up)
$9/R; $11/NR (2-14 years old)
Here comes Peter Cottontail to the Rob Roy Golf Course! Bring your parents, siblings and grandparents for an afternoon of refreshments, treats and an egg hunt! Don't forget your camera! Please bring a highchair/booster seat if needed. Call with seating requests or stop by the Weiss Center (1500 E. Euclid Ave.) to complete a form. Registration deadline is March 12. For more information, visit rtpd.org or call 847/255-1200.
Help Keep Hydrants Clear

Every winter, fire hydrants become buried by the snow. This creates a situation where it becomes difficult for the Fire Department to locate and use the hydrants. Residents can help by ensuring the hydrant near one’s home or business is kept free from snow on all sides. Please keep a clear path from the street to the hydrant as well.

Fireplace Safety

In order to help reduce the risk of home fires, the Mount Prospect Fire Department recommends that residents follow these guidelines for proper use and maintenance of their fireplaces:

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.

Top 10 Space Heater Safety Tips

1. Look for a space heater equipped with a guard around the heat source to keep children and pets safe.
2. Select a heater approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
3. Follow manufacturer instructions for proper use and safety measures.
4. Only use space heaters in well-vented areas and at least three feet away from any objects such as curtains, clothing or furniture.
5. Always place a space heater on a flat, level surface.
6. Do not use an extension cord to power the space heater.
7. Use K-1 kerosene only for kerosene space heaters. Do not use gasoline, camp stove fuel, or any other flammable liquid.
8. Store all fuel outdoors. Never refuel the heater inside the home.
9. Never leave a space heater on overnight or unattended.
10. Never place objects on the space heater to dry.

For more information, please call the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Bureau at 847/818-5253.

Fire Department is on Social Media

Stay connected with the Fire Department’s Social Media Sites.

“Like” us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/MountProspectFD

Follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/MountProspectFD

mountprospect.org
Traffic Enforcement “Street Of The Week”

Mount Prospect police officers will concentrate their traffic enforcement efforts by implementing the “Street of the Week” program on designated roadways for one week periods. Here are the dates and the corresponding roadways for the “Street of the Week” program this winter:

- **December 28 – January 3**
  Rand Rd. (Rte. 12)

- **January 4 – January 10**
  Central Rd.

- **January 11 – January 17**
  Northwest Hwy. (Rte. 14)

- **January 18 – January 24**
  Lincoln St.

- **January 25 – January 31**
  Elmhurst Rd./Main St. (Rte. 83)

- **February 1 – February 7**
  Golf Rd. (Rte. 58)

- **February 8 – February 14**
  Burning Bush Ln.

- **February 15 – February 21**
  Wolf Rd.

- **February 22 – February 28**
  Busse Rd.

- **February 29 – March 6**
  Euclid Ave.

- **March 7 – March 13**
  Lonnquist Blvd.

Don’t Leave Your Car Running

During the winter months many residents 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 illegal regardless if the car is locked or not. Residents can also be held responsible in civil court for damages or injuries if one’s car is taken and involved in an accident. The bottom line - never leave your car running unattended.

INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU DONATE TO CHARITIES

There are more than 25,000 legitimate charitable organizations registered in Illinois. Unfortunately, there are some solicitors attempting to sell a product or collect donations for charities that may not be legitimate.

All legitimate charities are required to register with the Illinois Attorney General’s Office Charitable Trusts Bureau. You can check to see if a charity is registered with the Illinois Attorney General’s Office by visiting the online resource at illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/charities/search.

If you suspect a solicitor may not be soliciting for a legitimate charity, do not give them any donations or purchase any of their products. Check with the Illinois Attorney General’s Office Charitable Trust Bureau (website above) to verify if they are properly registered.

The Mount Prospect Police Department offers these tips to donate smart:

- **Find out if the solicitor is a paid fund-raiser.** If the solicitor is paid, a portion of your contribution will pay the salary. Illinois law requires paid fund-raisers to identify themselves as such and to name the charity for which they are soliciting.

- **Ask how much of your contribution will go to the charity.** Illinois law requires professional fund-raisers to disclose this information if asked.

- **Request written information.** A legitimate charity will provide you with information outlining its mission, how your donation will be distributed, and proof that your contribution is tax-deductible.

- **Contact the charity.** Find out if the organization has authorized the use of its name. If it is not aware of the solicitation, you may be dealing with a sham solicitor.

  - **Refuse high pressure solicitations.** Legitimate charities will not push you to give on the spot.

  - **Be wary of charities that offer to pick up your donation.**

  - **Do not feel obligated.** If charities send you unsolicited goods, such as labels and note cards in the mail, you are under no obligation to contribute and may keep any unsolicited merchandise without donating.

  - **Never pay in cash.** For security and tax record purposes, pay by check.

Solicitors are not required to register with the Police Department prior to soliciting in the Village. Solicitors are only allowed to solicit by ordinance Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. during daylight savings time and Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time. Soliciting is not allowed on Sundays (with the exception of religious organizations) or on any State or National holiday. If any solicitors come to your door outside of solicitor hours or you suspect they may not be soliciting for a legitimate charity, please contact the Mount Prospect Police Department by calling 9-1-1 immediately.

With COURAGE we protect  
WWW.MOUNTPROSPECT.ORG/PolICE

With COMPASSION we serve  
WWW.JOINMPPD.ORG

For news, safety tips and more, “Like” us and follow us on social media.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Police Department found various ways to give back to the community in 2015.

April 26, 2015 – Officers participated in the opening ceremonies of the Spring Games of the Special Olympics held at Prospect High School.

May 29, 2015 – Officers raised nearly $6,000 for Special Olympics Illinois during the annual “Cop on Rooftop” event.

July 2015 – Officers held six “Kickin’ It with the Cops” soccer events where Mount Prospect kids could get out and play soccer with officers. Local businesses sponsored the program along with the Department.

August 4, 2015 – The Department hosted the “National Night Out Against Crime” event to build community relationships and share prevention and safety information.

September 13-19, 2015 – Officers shared safety information with commuters during the Illinois Rail Safety Week.

December 15, 2015 – Department personnel helped distribute food and presents to families in School District 26 during the district’s holiday giveaway.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In early 2016, PAPA SAVERIO’S will begin occupying the former Tony Sacco’s restaurant location that was located in Randhurst Village. They will feature a wide variety of pizzas, pasta, salads and Italian sandwiches.

MCDONALD’S completed the construction of their new restaurant on the former Bakers Square property and opened for business in December. A development group has purchased their former location and will redevelop that site with a commercial center. They are in final negotiations with two “fast casual” restaurants to occupy that site. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2016.

DOWNTOWN HAPPENINGS

The Village has demolished the Central Plaza shopping center at the northwest corner of Main Street (Route 83) and Central Road and is currently completing an environmental clean-up of the property. Once completed, the Village will pursue foreclosure proceedings and pursue the redevelopment of that site in late 2016/early 2017.

BAR 145 is expected to open in January in the former Blues Bar location at the corner of Main Street (Route 83) and Busse Avenue. Bar 145 is a gastro pub specializing in “burgers, bands, and bourbon.” A gastro pub has an atmosphere that is relaxed and focused on offering a particular cuisine prepared as well as the best restaurants.

TOKENS & TANKARDS (T & T) is a unique gastropub concept and set to open in January in the former Ye Olde Town Inn space on Busse Avenue. T&T will feature a nostalgic atmosphere with an expansive menu of local craft beer, cider and food options, alongside a selection of vintage, coin-operated video and pinball games.

TREZEROS KITCHEN AND TAP is eyeing a Spring 2016 grand opening in the former Jake’s Pizza location on Northwest Highway. Trezeros will be an Italian/American casual dining restaurant that will offer steaks, seafood and pasta.

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS opened its doors in November in the Shoppes on Emerson. They are the creator of and the leaders in fresh fruit bouquets. They make any occasion special with an array of irresistible products, including The Original Fresh Fruit Bouquet and gourmet chocolate dipped fruit.
Welcome to the Village! Residents new to the area are invited to the Center to learn more about Village and Library services, meet staff and tour the Center. Our ‘Welcome’ is held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Thank you for Caring and Sharing

The Human Services Department operates a food pantry year-round which provides monthly food assistance to eligible residents. The Holiday Meal Basket Program provided assistance in both November and December to 125 families. The generosity of Village residents, employees, local businesses, churches, schools and civic organizations help to sustain this program. Thank you to all those who made donations throughout 2015.

Upcoming Appointments Needed for Senior Citizens’ Programs

- Real Estate Senior Exemptions and Tax Freeze Applications (Senior Tax Freeze applications no longer need to be notarized; however, income from 2014 must be itemized on the back of the form.)
- Income tax appointments being made for residents 60 years of age and older. (Tax preparers are trained to complete standard forms, individuals with very technical tax situations are advised to seek the services of a professional preparer.)
- State of Illinois Benefits Access Program License Plate Discount, Seniors Ride Free and Persons with Disabilities Ride Free benefits. (Please note: if you applied for the Benefits Access Program in 2014, you will need to reapply this year. People should apply 3 months before their license sticker is due to expire, and not before.)

Diabetic Education Class and Support Group

The Village Nurse facilitates monthly classes for people with Diabetes, Prediabetes, and their caregivers, January through March 2016. The 90-minute group includes education requested by participants, as well as fellowship and support for those who are challenged by this disease. The program is offered in English and Spanish without charge to Village residents and babysitting is provided. Classes are held at the Community Connections Center, 1711 W. Algonquin Road. Class size is limited. Please call 847/506-4930 to register.

English Diabetes Program
Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(January 8, February 12, March 11)

Spanish Diabetes Program
Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(January 22, February 26 and March 25)

Call Check

The Call Check Program initiates a well-being check by phone during extreme weather conditions. This program will go into effect in times of extreme weather conditions, including a combination of extreme cold and ice, extremely high temperatures with heat indexes over 115 degrees, and during power outages lasting an extended period of time. Conditions must be widespread so that the Village is aware of the problem. Please call 847/870-5680 to register or for additional information.

Rules of the Road Class

Wednesday, March 23
1:30 p.m.
The Secretary of State sponsors Rules of the Road driver refresher classes for senior citizens who need to renew their driver’s license. To register or for more information, contact Human Services 847/870-5680.

Two New Community Health Screening Clinics

In addition to the Health Screening Clinics held weekly at Village Hall and the Community Connections Center on Mondays, the Village Nurse will hold a health screening clinic each month at Keefer’s Pharmacy and Stay Fit Physical Therapy and Core Wellness. Village residents can have their blood pressure, heart rate, blood sugar and total cholesterol checked at these community clinics. There is a $1 fee assessed for blood sugar and a $4 fee for total cholesterol.

Keefer’s Pharmacy
5 W. Prospect Ave.
First Friday of every month, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Stay Fit Physical Therapy and Core Wellness
127 W. Prospect Ave.
Second Wednesday of every month, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
In September of 2015, seven members of the Commission, including Mayor Arlene A. Juracek, visited Mount Prospect’s sister city, Sèvres, France. They met with Sèvres’ new Mayor, Grégoire de La Roncière, and his Deputy Mayors, forming a solid relationship between the two communities. The members stayed in their homes and enjoyed a true French breakfast every morning and then everyone headed out for three very full days and evenings. There were tours of Sèvres’ porcelain factory, local schools, the library, churches, and a war memorial to the American fliers who came to the aid of France during World War I. The purpose of this visit was to further promote cultural, business and student exchanges and the brotherhood shared between America and France. All felt it was wonderful and meaningful experience. The Sèvres officials plan to visit Mount Prospect in 2017, which is our Centennial Year.

This was an official diplomatic visit and not a social one. Expenses, including travel, were personally paid by the Commission members who made the trip. No tax dollars were spent. The Commission does this because it believes in the philosophy and mission of the Sister Cities programs.

Coming in the Spring of 2016, the Sister Cities Commission will have a new website, mountprospectstercities.com. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/Mtprospectstercities for latest news, events and programs.

Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative continued from page 1

Downtown Merchants Association are now working together as the MPEI – connecting people to resources that encourage, strengthen, and support small business.

“Creating the MPEI with my colleagues at the Village and the Chamber allows us to formalize a relationship that’s been growing steadily over the past year and a half. It helps take our current collection of ad hoc partnerships to another level, and lets us focus even more tightly on our shared goal of elevating and developing the business community of Mount Prospect toward even greater success,” said Business Reference Librarian Joe Collier.

Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dawn Fletcher Collins said, “The strength of MPEI is in the partnership – we all bring different expertise to the table and we are all motivated to make it successful. Educational and inspiring programs, films and resources are at the core of MPEI; we will continue to change and grow to meet the needs of the business community.”

MPEI includes a variety of programming designed to guide new and prospective business owners down the path of success, including:

• Entrepreneur’s Café and Jumpstart Your Business workshops.
• Spotlight on Success Film Series - featuring documentaries with a business focus.
• MPEI E-Newsletter - filled with tips, advice and event notifications specifically for small business owners.
• Business Event Calendar – listing local business events, workshops, and online webinars, many free or low cost.
• Business Blog and Podcasts - posted by the Mount Prospect Public Library
• Mentoring and support through the Mount Prospect Chamber.
• “Reference by Appointment” – one-on-one help for new or established entrepreneurs. Contact Joe Collier at 847/253-5675 or jcollier@mppl.org to set up appointment.

“We feel an educated and connected entrepreneur has a greater likelihood of success; providing a supportive network for our local business owners directly contributes to a healthy, positive business climate,” said Village Senior Planner Nellie Beckner.

MPEI is dedicated to entrepreneurs’ interests and needs. It continues to grow. Become a part of it! Mentorship opportunities, podcasts and expanded programming are coming soon. Be sure to visit www.mountprospect.org/MPEI for exciting developments ahead in 2016!

Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative

2015 Tree Lighting

Hundreds of people celebrated the Tree Lighting Ceremony held on November 25, 2015 at Village Hall.

A Big Thank You To…

The Prospect High School Madrigals
The Costello Family
Homer Tree Care, Inc.
Mt. Prospect Lions Club
The Mount Prospect Special Events Commission
Mount Prospect Public Works

Sister Cities Commission Members Visit France

After the visit, the tragedy in Paris shocked the world. Mount Prospect Mayor Arlene A. Juracek sent a message to the Sèvres delegation:

“Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends in Sèvres. We know that they have friends, family and jobs in Paris and we extend our sincere concern to America’s oldest allies for their well-being in the face of terror.”

The Sèvres Office of the Mayor offered these words:

“Thanks for all your sympathetic messages and prayers that we have received from you. As said, friends of Sèvres and the whole city council are safe. We are extremely shocked by the terrorist attacks that occurred yesterday.

We are now praying for all those who passed away suddenly and also for those injured during these horrible attacks. The city council is working closely with the police headquarters to ensure all safety policies are in place to protect our citizens. Best regards.”
Snow Shoveling

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

Snow in the driveway opening should be shoveled, in the direction of traffic, and deposited on the opposite side of the driveway. Then, clear a pocket to the right of your driveway (when facing driveway from street).

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 a driveway.

Mailboxes Damaged by Snow Plows

Mailboxes physically hit by a Village snowplow or truck will be replaced by Village personnel 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 mountprospect.org to view the complete mailbox policy and 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 at 847/870-5640 before making any repairs.

*The guidelines are listed on the Public Works Department section of the website; click Government>Village Departments>Public Works>Streets>Mailbox Policy.

Holiday Light and Extension Cord Recycling Program

For those residents who have purchased a new set of holiday lights this year, there is no need to throw away old lights in the garbage. Residents can recycle them free of charge. The same is true for extension cords that no longer work.

Residents can drop off their unwanted holiday string lights and extension cords at the Public Works Department located at 1700 West Central Road between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. The program started November 3, with a tentative end date of February 27. Call 847/870-5640 for more information.

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

Movement of Firewood Spreads Invasive Pests

For residents who use firewood, the Village encourages them to burn all of the wood before April. Gypsy Moth, EAB and other invasive pests are easily spread by firewood movement. Residents who purchase firewood to heat their home should 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 company hired to work on private ash trees can produce a signed Illinois Department of Agriculture “EAB Compliance Agreement.”
Tree Planting Efforts

The Village will continue the popular full-cost planting program in 2016. Through this program, property owners can take advantage of the Village’s contract pricing for 2.5” diameter parkway trees, which includes planting and a one-year guarantee. Residents pay the full cost of the tree, and are able to select the species of their choice from approximately eight to ten species. Interested parties should contact* Public Works by March 1 for spring ordering information and August 1 for fall ordering.

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 1.5” diameter tree, and choosing a species approved by the Village code. “Suitable planting site” means that certain minimum conditions are met, such as spacing between trees and required distances from driveways, utilities, etc.

*To learn more about the planting program described or view information concerning other planting programs the Village is undertaking, please visit mountprospect.org or contact Public Works at 847/870-5640.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) Recycling

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) have been in the media spotlight lately focusing on their environmental benefits. However, they contain mercury vapor, which makes disposing of the bulbs a concern.

In response to this issue, the Village, in cooperation with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), offers a free recycling program to Mount Prospect residents. Residents can bring their CFLs and four-foot fluorescents to the Public Works Department during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.) for recycling. CFLs should be dropped off unbroken and in a zip lock bag for proper recycling.

This program is for residents only and is not offered to commercial or industrial businesses. Please do not bring incandescent bulbs in for recycling. Incandescent bulbs are not hazardous and can be disposed of in regular solid waste.

For more information on the program, please visit the Village website*, mountprospect.org, or contact the Public Works Department at 847/870-5640.

*For program details, visit the Public Works Department section of the website; click Government>Village Departments>Public Works>Solid Waste>Solid Waste – Additional Recycling Programs.

Christmas Tree Collection

January 4 – 15

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 a resident’s regular refuse collection day; no stickers required.

Christmas trees set out for composting must be free of all decorative debris, which includes:

- 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 January 4 and after January 15, but these trees will be collected as regular refuse and will not be composted. Wreaths will also be collected at no additional cost on a resident’s regular refuse collection day, but are considered refuse due to the metal frame. Please place the wreath in the green refuse cart for disposal. In addition, artificial wreaths are not recyclable and should also be placed in the green refuse cart for disposal (not the blue recycling cart).

2016 Holiday Solid Waste Collection Schedule

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

- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day (falls on a Sunday. The holiday will be observed on Monday, December 26, 2016 delaying collection. Monday’s refuse will be collected on Tuesday, Tuesday’s refuse will be collected on Wednesday, and so on.)

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

Skip the Lines at the Commuter Parking Lot

Purchase a Monthly Permit at Village Hall

Instead of paying for parking at the automated pay machines on a daily basis, commuters are able to purchase a monthly pass through the Finance Department. Permits cover the vehicle for entire the month, regardless of days parked.

To learn more, visit mountprospect.org/easypark or call 847/870-5640.

The Village’s Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program provides an interest-free loan up to $25,000, which is repaid upon sale or change in title of the property. The Home Weatherization Grant Program provides a $1,500 matching grant to be used for energy efficiency improvements. 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.

Where does this 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 2015 household income limit for one person is $42,600, 2 persons $48,650, 3 persons $54,750, and 4 persons $60,800. See website* for a complete list.

Can I do the work myself?
The Village uses pre-qualified contractors to bid on rehabilitation projects and payment can only be made directly to the contractor hired for the job.

Can I replace my garage roof too?
Repairs to detached garages or other outbuildings are not typically eligible expenses.

Where can I get more information?
*For details and application materials, visit mountprospect.org (Government>Village Departments>Community Development Department>Housing Programs).

Remove Holiday Decorations

Keep your home safe! Village Code requires holiday decorations to be removed within 60 days of the holiday. Besides aesthetics, there is 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.

Downtown Wayfinding Signage Design Nearing Completion

In March of 2015, the Village selected Media Objectives as a consultant to complete a wayfinding signage plan for Downtown Mount Prospect. The consultant conducted an analysis of the current signage conditions to create a wayfinding sign package that will be useful for drivers and pedestrians alike. A steering committee consisting of downtown business owners, local stakeholders and Village staff provided feedback to the consultant throughout the process.

A draft of the wayfinding sign package was presented to the Village Board at the October 13, 2015, Committee of the Whole meeting. Specific sign locations, a unified sign style and content were included in the design package. Revisions to the design package are underway based on feedback received from the Village Board members.

Designed to be informative and aesthetically pleasing, the wayfinding signage program will make visiting downtown more enjoyable and convenient. The signs will provide clear, helpful information such as public parking options, location of local landmarks and dates of upcoming events. Phase II of the downtown wayfinding signage program will include a Request for Proposals related to fabrication and installation of the signs. Phase II can begin once a final design package is complete.

For more information about this program, contact Senior Planner Nellie Beckner at 847/818-5312.

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 that 2nd floor? 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 initial submittal requirements, and make your permit review process go smoothly and quickly! We are happy to meet with you for any size project; however a Pre-submittal 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 or email tlewin@mountprospect.org.

Apartment Heating

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. 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.
RIBBON CUTTINGS

Kenneth Young Center - Mount Prospect Location
1585 Dempster St. | 847/621-2040 | kennethyoung.org
Kenneth Young Center (KYC) opened its doors 45 years ago with a mission to help people feel good, do better and find solutions. KYC continues to achieve this mission by serving the northwest suburbs with mental health and senior services. KYC celebrated 45 years with an open house and ribbon cutting at its new Mount Prospect location.
Ribbon Cut: November 18, 2015

Richard Sassan B & E Accounting & Tax CPA P.C.
930 E. Northwest Hwy., Suite SW | 847/ 818-1040 | baccounting.com
Richard Sassan, CPA, of B & E Accounting & Tax CPA P.C, celebrated 10 years in Mount Prospect! Sassan provides accounting, tax and payroll services.
Ribbon Cut: November 19, 2015

Sprint by Wireless Choice
905 E. Rand Rd. | 847/222-0200 | sprint.com
Sprint by Wireless Choice celebrated a store upgrade and new look with a ribbon cutting event. Sprint by Wireless Choice offers wireless plans, cell phones, accessories and more.
Ribbon Cut: August 14, 2015

Greco’s Grooming Salon
109 E. Prospect Ave. | 847/222-8005 | grecosgroomingsalon.com
Greco’s Grooming Salon is located in downtown Mount Prospect and celebrated 10 years of service! Greco’s specializes in services for cats and dogs, such as grooming (by appointment only), nail clipping (walk-ins welcome), self wash (call for availability) and much more. Treats, toys and food are also available for purchase.
Ribbon Cut: October 13, 2015

Outback Steakhouse
909 N. Elmhurst Rd. | Randhurst Village | 847/541-4329 | outback.com
Outback Steakhouse celebrated a grand opening in Randhurst Village featuring a new “Modern Australia” design. Outback Steakhouse is known for its variety of steak options, Bloomin’ Onion appetizer, beers imported from Australia and more. In addition to dining, it offers curbside takeaway and business luncheon/dinner opportunities. It is located at the corner of Elmhurst Rd. (Route 83) and Kensington Rd.
Ribbon Cut: October 28, 2015

William Taylor
State Farm Insurance – Randhurst Village
148 Randhurst Village Dr., Suite 234 | 847/398-2727 | william@wmtaylor.net
State Farm Insurance Agent William Taylor celebrated 25 years in business in Mount Prospect! Taylor specializes in auto, home, property, life and health insurances. In addition to insurance, Taylor also offers banking products.
Ribbon Cut: September 1, 2015

Richard Sassan B & E Accounting & Tax CPA P.C.
In the first quarter of 2016, the Village will upgrade its parking system at the commuter parking lots to provide a higher level of customer convenience. The system includes new parking kiosks and a mobile parking payment system. The kiosks will accept coins, bills and credit cards. The Village debit card will no longer be accepted, so users are encouraged to use up their card balances by the beginning of March.

As part of the upgrade, the Village will also implement the Whoosh! mobile parking payment system. Whoosh! is an app that allows users to skip the lines at the kiosks and pay for their parking with their mobile devices from their car or the train.

Another option available to commuters is the Easy Park program, which offers a monthly parking pass. Instead of paying for parking at the automated pay machines on a daily basis, commuters will be able to purchase a pass through the Finance Department. For more details go to www.mountprospect.org/easypark. Additional updates will be available on the Village’s website, mountprospect.org.