



A Message from Mayor DiMaria

I am proud to report that 2023 was another great year of exciting accomplishments and progress for the Village of Morton Grove. We developed and adopted a new Strategic Plan to determine where the Village wants to go as an organization, a community, and a government. We set the stage for major redevelopment projects to begin construction this year, including a new Napleton Honda dealership at Dempster and Waukegan, 89 townhomes by Lexington Homes at 8350 Lehigh, and a 36-unit mixed-use development at Chestnut and Lehigh. We celebrated the completion of Phase I of the Oakton Street multi-use path and are working on next phases with our neighboring communities.

I take the greatest pride in reporting that the new Morton Grove Metra Station and Gateway Plaza (Lincoln and Ferris) projects will be shovel-ready for Spring 2024. These are legacy projects that will reflect the quality and appearance that our residents and community deserve and truly transform the Village's transit-oriented district. Lastly, we are working diligently toward the

design of a new combined Village Hall and Police Station at 6201 Dempster Street, the current site of Fifth Third Bank. In 2024, the bank will construct a new branch across the street on vacant land at 6210 Dempster as part of a partnership deal between the Village, Morton Grove Park District, and Fifth Third Bank.

Lots of exciting things have happened in the Village this past year, and we have so much to look forward to in 2024. I want to thank our Village Board, board and commission members, staff, residents, and businesses for contributing to the vibrancy and strength of Morton Grove. Together, we move forward as a community of neighbors toward our shared goals and a bright future.



Your Mayor, Dan DiMaria

Village Board of Trustees



Clockwise from Top Left: Clerk Scanlon Harford, Trustee Travis, Trustee Witko, Trustee Shiba, Trustee Minx, Mayor DiMaria, Trustee Khan, and Trustee Thill

2023 IN REVIEW

2023 IN REVIEW

As we welcome 2024, we're also looking back on the achievements of 2023. See the **2023 IN REVIEW** highlights throughout this newsletter.

Neighborhood Outreach Meeting

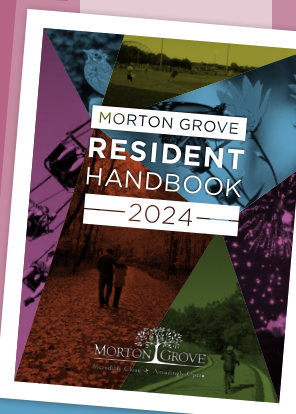
**Thursday, February 15
6:00 p.m.**

*Emma Melzer School
9400 Oriole Avenue*

Mayor DiMaria, the Village Board, and staff invite you to learn about what's happening in your Village!

2024 Resident Handbook

The Village is proud to release the 2024 Morton Grove Resident Handbook, which provides a comprehensive overview of Village operations, services, regulations, amenities, and resources. The easy-to-use guide is designed to be a helpful resource for newcomers and long-time residents. A digital 2024 Resident Handbook is available at mortongroveil.org/new-resident-information. Hard copies are available at Village Hall at 6101 Capulina Avenue.



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Economic Development Updates

2023 IN REVIEW

49 businesses

located, relocated, expanded, or changed ownership in 2023

\$27.7 million

total value of 2023 permitted construction



1,500+

building permits issued



9,213 employees

employed by Morton Grove businesses in 2023

\$595,475,000

in retail sales in 2023



145 new residences

under construction or approved for development in 2023

5

new restaurants in 2023



65,700 square feet

of new or remodeled commercial space entitled in 2023

Investing in Morton Grove *A Year of Projects*



Napleton Honda

6900 Dempster Street

Napleton Honda is demolishing all existing buildings at the current location and constructing a new 40,000-square-foot dealership to be completed by Q1 2025.



Metro on Main by Lexington

8350 Lehigh Avenue

Lexington Homes is constructing 89 new townhomes at the former industrial property. The homes will be delivered in phases between 2024 and 2027. Learn more at www.lexingtonchicago.com.

Fifth Third Bank

6210 Dempster

Fifth Third Bank is in permitting for a new bank branch at 6210 Dempster. The development is part of a multi-property deal that includes the Village's purchase of Fifth Third's current site at 6201 Dempster for a new Village Hall and Police Station. The new branch will be completed in 2024.



36-Unit Mixed Use Project

8500-50 Lehigh

MHDC SLF LLC has obtained approvals for a four-story mixed-use project proposed at Chestnut and Lehigh. Plans are in place for three restaurant and cafe tenants on the ground floor. Construction will start in 2024.



Park Villa Townhomes

Ferris, Hennings & Narragansett

Ten luxury townhomes are under construction along Hennings between Ferris and Narragansett. P & P Properties plans to deliver the homes in 2024.



Ponto Collection

Shermer & Ponto

A six-unit single-family subdivision by Varda & Company is currently under construction. The 3,300-square-foot homes will be delivered in 2024. Learn more at www.thepontocollection.com.

For more project information, visit mortongroveil.org/business-development.

Sustainability Updates

Third Morton Grove Sustainability Expo a Success

The Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) and Village staff hosted the third annual Sustainability Expo at the Morton Grove Civic Center on September 9, 2023. This year, a Recycling Fest was added to the event to collect recyclable items of all kinds. The event featured 37 exhibitors, live music, a solar house, electric vehicle display, and kids activities. Residents and visitors learned about energy-saving products and greener everyday living. Learn more at www.mortongroveil.org/enrc.



New Composting Service

Effective January 2024, WasteNot, Inc., is serving as the Village's new curbside compost collection hauler for homes, businesses, and schools. The decision to change haulers was driven by service offerings, cost considerations, WasteNot's

commitment to using 100% electric vehicles, and the Village's commitment to providing exceptional customer service after a competitive bid process.

WasteNot's year-round service makes composting more accessible and convenient for Morton Grove residents. Participants receive an airtight five-gallon receptacle to hold a variety of compostables, including all food waste, paper products, certified compostable products, and more. Both weekly and bi-weekly service is offered. Learn more and register at wastenotcompost.com/mortongrove.



New Dempster Pulse Line Service


The Village joined Pace Suburban Bus and Morton Grove's elected officials in November 2023 for an event celebrating the opening of the new Pulse Dempster Street line. Pulse is Pace's expanding network of arterial bus rapid transit service, which provides premium bus service to

commuters featuring enhanced amenities and a streamlined route design on heavily traveled Chicagoland corridors. Morton Grove's five new Pulse stations range from completed to still under construction, but full daily service has already started. Pulse service offers limited stops, traffic signal prioritization, modern stations, and buses that run every 15 to 20 minutes. Pulse riders can get from Morton Grove to O'Hare Airport in 30 minutes for only \$2.00 using their Ventra Card (\$2.25 cash). The Dempster Pulse Line is a major improvement to Morton Grove's public transit network and provides a new alternative to personal vehicles. To learn more, visit www.pacebus.com/route/pulse-dempster-line.

GREEN IN 2023

251 trees 
planted in the public parkway

 **22nd year**
of Tree City USA designation

 **25% of waste**
collected as recycling (21%) or compost (4%)

11,000 street trees
maintained by Public Works in 2023

544      **pumpkins**
composted in the 2023 Pumpkin Smash

51 volunteers 
at the Village's community clean-up event

 **244 homes**
with solar panels installed as of Q4 2023

5  **Dempster Pulse**
bus rapid transit stops began operation

 **0.55 miles**
of new Oakton Street multi-use path

Winter 2024 Updates

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2024 Village Hall Closures

May not reflect actual holiday dates.

Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 2
Thanksgiving	November 28 - 29
Christmas	December 25

Public Meetings

Visit www.mortongroveil.org/events for updates.
All meetings held at Village Hall at 6101 Capulina Avenue unless otherwise noted.

Advisory Commission on Aging

2nd Tuesday of month at 1:00 p.m.

Morton Grove Civic Center, 6140 Dempster Street

Appearance Review Commission

1st Tuesday of month at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of month at 7:00 p.m.

Community Relations Commission

3rd Monday of the following months at 6:30 p.m.

January, March, May, July, September, November

Economic Development Commission

2nd Monday of month at 7:00 p.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Commission

1st Monday of the following months at 6:00 p.m.

February, April, June, August, October, December

Fire & Police Commission

4th Tuesday of month at 1:00 p.m.

Fire Station #4, 6250 Lincoln Avenue

Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Tuesday of month at 7:00 p.m.

Special Events Commission

3rd Monday of the following months at 6:00 p.m.

February, April, June, August, October, December

Public Works, 7840 Nagle Avenue

Traffic Safety Commission

1st Thursday of month at 7:00 p.m.

Residents interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee are invited to submit an application found at

www.mortongroveil.org/village-committees-and-commissions/

to the Mayor's Office at the Village Hall. For additional information call 847-470-5220.



New Metra Station Coming 2024

The Village is working with Metra to finalize engineering and architectural plans for construction of a new Morton Grove Metra station at 8501 Lehigh Avenue. Staff is preparing to put the project out to bid in Q1 2024. Construction is planned to begin in Q2 2024 and be completed by the end of the year. The project includes the construction of a new station in a new location north of the existing station and reconstruction of the existing parking lot to improve

site access, circulation, accessibility, and landscaping. The new station will include an after-hours heated waiting area, tenant retail space, ticket vending machines, and a public restroom.

Metra is contributing \$300,000 toward construction of the station, which will cost approximately \$3 million. The balance of the cost will be paid for by the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District, but staff is reviewing opportunities for grant assistance. The new station will create a new focal point for the Village's transit-oriented district, encourage Metra ridership, and improve the face of Morton Grove residents, commuters, and visitors.



Gateway Plaza To Be Constructed in Spring 2024

The long-awaited Gateway Plaza at Ferris and Lincoln is finally coming. Construction was pushed to Fall 2023 due to engineering and design needs, then put out to bid in August, but bids came in significantly over budget. Staff has worked diligently to deliver a high-quality product that is within budget. The revised design will be consistent with all plans that have been presented to the community. The project will be put out to bid again this winter and construction is planned to start in Spring 2024. A ribbon cutting for commemorative brick and bench purchasers will be held upon completion.



New Village Hall & Police Station in the Works

The Village is under contract to purchase the current Fifth Third Bank site at 6201 Dempster for a combined Village Hall and Police Station facility. The Village will close on the property and begin its renovation and addition work when Fifth Third opens at its future location at 6210 Dempster. The current Village Hall and Police Station at 6101 Capulina was remodeled as a temporary facility in 1980.

Building & Public Works



The Village Reminds You to Get Your Permit

The Department of Building and Inspectional Services reminds residents and property owners to check with Village staff before beginning any construction project, whether DIY or by a contractor, because a permit may be required. A permit will ensure work complies with building and safety requirements. Projects that are not built to Village standards may endanger your household, negatively impact your home's resale value and insurance costs, and require costly corrections after-the-fact. Additionally, homeowners may receive citations for work completed without a permit. To find out if your project requires a permit, call 847-470-5214.

The Village offers online permitting for fences, sewer repair, water heaters, furnace/air conditioning replacements, HVAC alterations, and solar panels. To access the permitting module, visit www.mortongroveil.org/building-and-inspectional-services-department. All other permit applications must be submitted in-person or by mail to the Building Department at 6101 Capulina. The Village plans to expand online permitting capabilities in the future with its transition to BS&A Cloud software in 2024.

50/50 Tree Planting

The Village is offering residents an opportunity to participate in the 2024 50/50 Tree Planting Program. The program allows participants to choose a certain type of tree to be planted in the public parkway by paying 50% of the cost. The Village will pay the other 50%. This year's cost for the resident is \$60 per tree. The deadline to submit a request to participate is **April 1, 2024**. To learn more and apply, visit mortongroveil.org/50-50-tree-planting-program-for-2024.




Phase I of the Oakton Street Multi-Use Path Completed

In October 2023, the Village and representatives from federal, state, county, and municipal governments gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Oakton Street multi-use path, a 0.55-mile stretch of paved path along the south side of Oakton between Caldwell and Lehigh. The path provides a safe, off-street facility for walkers, runners, and cyclists.


Two more project phases are planned. Phase II will provide a better, alternate path for cyclists at Oakton Street and Caldwell Avenue, and a segment along the north side of Oakton between St. Paul Woods and River Drive, offering access to St. Paul Woods. Phase III will extend the path across the Metra tracks to the east, reaching Niles West High School. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Transportation will replace the bridge deck over Edens Expressway. This is a great example of government at all levels working together to invest in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

2023 IN REVIEW

 **1,418 trees** trimmed in the public parkway

55  **water main breaks** repaired by the Water Division

 **4,474** ^{fleet} **miles** of street cleaning in 2023

6,089 ^{square feet}  of public sidewalk repaired in 2023

 **2,400 tons** of leaves removed from Village streets

6,483 ^{square yards}  of asphalt patched to restore street pavement

 **340 miles** of roadways & alleys maintained

 **140 fleet vehicles** serviced and maintained

Your Utility Contacts

UTILITY	PROVIDER	CONTACT
Cable TV	Comcast/Xfinity	800-934-6489
Electricity	ComEd	800-334-7661
Natural Gas	NICOR	888-642-6748
Garbage	Groot	847-734-6400

Resources will always be available for emergency response. However, if you experience interruptions in these services, alerting the provider directly may result in the quickest resolution. **Residents are reminded that if any condition threatens safety, dial 9-1-1 immediately.**

Public Safety

2023 IN REVIEW

1st place

in its class for the 2022-23 Traffic Safety Challenge (Illinois Assoc. of Chiefs of Police)

1,500+ attendees
at the 2023 National Night Out

18,256 Fire Department
training hours, an average of 468 per firefighter

4 minutes, 23 seconds
average Fire Department
response time in 2023

4,295 calls for service
to the Fire Department January - December 2023



2023 National Night Out

This past August, the Police Department hosted its eighth annual National Night Out, with attendance estimated to be over 1,500 people. The free event featured live music, face painting, a balloon artist, a bouncy house and obstacle course, a rock climbing wall, pony rides, trucks on display, food and beverages, and giveaways.

The goal of National Night Out is to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement and nurture a sense of community. The event was a great opportunity to bring the Police Department and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



MORTON GROVE
CITIZENS POLICE
& FIRE ACADEMY



Join the Morton Grove Citizens
Police & Fire Academy

The Police and Fire Departments are seeking participants for the 2024 Citizens Police and Fire Academy. The Academy is a twelve-week program with one block of instruction per week and is designed to give community members an understanding of Morton Grove Police and Fire Department operations and a working knowledge of law enforcement and firefighting.

The 2024 Academy will run from March 6 to May 22. Classes are held every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and are approximately two

hours in duration. The classes will be held at the Morton Grove Village Hall at 6101 Capulina Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Classes are limited to 20 students, so register early. There is no cost for residents to participate. The academy will conclude with a graduation ceremony and each participant will receive a certificate of completion

For more info, contact the Police Department Community Liaison Officers, Officer Jurasz (jjurasz@mortongroveil.org) or Officer Lietz (glietz@mortongroveil.org) at 847-470-5200. You can also visit mortongroveil.org/citizens-police-and-fire-academy to learn more and apply.

Be Alarmed!

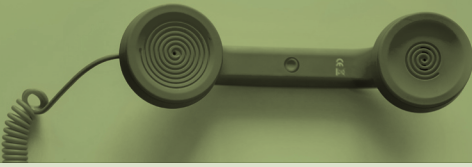
The Fire Department is proud to take part in the "Be Alarmed" program, a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery ionization technology smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois.

The Department's our goal to ensure that all residents are adequately protected by the proper quantity and installation of residential smoke alarms. What is more exciting is that the program is FREE to eligible residential dwellings. It is easy to enroll in the program and smoke alarm installation is provided by the Morton Grove firefighters at no cost. To learn more and apply, visit mortongroveil.org/fire-department/be-alarmed.



Morton Grove Police
Department Offers
Free Gun Locks

The Morton Grove Police Department takes gun safety seriously and offers free gun locks and brochures to Morton Grove residents. Visit the Police Department's front window at 6101 Capulina Avenue and request one from the desk officer. If you have any questions, please ask. For tips on how to keep guns safe in the home, visit mortongroveil.org/police-department/gun-locks.



AARP Friendly Voice Program

Sometimes, just hearing a friendly voice on the other end of the phone can help in challenging times. Trained AARP Friendly Voice volunteers are available to call to say “hello” and chat. To request a call:

- Call directly at **1-888-281-0145** and leave us your information and we will call you back.
- Llámanos directamente al **1-888-497-4108**.

An AARP volunteer will call you back from the number 1-888-281-0145. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is a national non-profit organization. Learn more at aarp.org.

Morton Grove Public Library Offers Homebound Delivery

Did you know that residents of Morton Grove who are unable to visit the Morton Grove Public Library due to permanent or temporary disabilities are eligible for Homebound Delivery services? “Homebound” is defined as being generally confined to your residence either temporarily, due to illness, or permanently, due to age, disability, or other mobility problems. Deliveries are made generally once every two weeks at a convenient time, and may be done by Library staff.

Apply for Homebound Delivery at mgpl.org/homebound-delivery. Questions? Contact the Info Desk at **847-965-4220 x1** or info@mgpl.org.

Be My Valentine Senior Luncheon

The next Senior Luncheon is planned for **Friday, February 2**, at 12:00 p.m. at the Civic Center (6140 Dempster Street). The theme is “Be My Valentine.” The menu is still being planned. Live entertainment will be provided Morton Grove’s own The Jammers! and BINGO will follow. Seniors should call **847-868-5928** to reserve a spot.



AARP Foundation Senior Tax Assistance

The local office of the AARP and volunteer tax professionals will again donate their services to assisting local seniors with preparation of their income tax returns. This FREE service is available to area seniors by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Tax preparation assistance will begin on February 7, 2024. For appointments, please call **847-663-3070**.

Interested individuals will be required to provide their name and a phone number. A scheduler will call back with appointment information, including date, time, and location. Necessary paperwork will be emailed or MUST BE PICKED UP by the senior at least four (4) days prior to the appointment at the Morton Grove Civic Center (6140 Dempster). All paperwork must be completed BEFORE the scheduled appointment. Appointment slots are limited, so please reserve yours today. To learn more, visit mortongroveil.org/aarp-foundation-senior-tax-assistance.



Senior Ride Share Program

The Morton Grove Senior Ride Share Program is supported by funds provided through the SafeLIGHT Foundation, AARP, and private donors. The program offers FREE Lyft rides to registered residents who are at least 65 years old. Participants must be able to enter and exit a vehicle without assistance.

Scheduled rides are provided to grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical appointments within Morton Grove. Rides are also available to medical appointments at most area hospitals and medical buildings. The program will continue as long as funds are available. For more information, call **847-663-3070**.

Stay Connected!

The Department of Family and Senior Services provides a range of programs and services for seniors throughout the year. To learn more about current offerings, visit mortongroveil.org/family-and-senior-services.

The Exchange

www.mortongroveil.org

Village Hall Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Incredibly Close ✧ Amazingly Open

The Village of Morton Grove
6101 Capulina Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2985

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 22
Morton Grove IL
60053

Village Phone Numbers

Police, Fire or Medical Emergency
9-1-1

Fire Administration
847-470-5226

Police Administration
847-470-5200

Public Works
847-470-5235

Senior Hotline
847-663-3070

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Village Hall (Switchboard)
847-965-4100

Village Administrator
847-470-5220

Building & Inspectional Services
847-663-3040

**Community & Economic
Development**
847-663-3063

Village Officials

President Daniel P. DiMaria

Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford

Trustees

Saba Khan | Rita Minx | Ashur Shiba
John Thill | Connie Travis | Janine Witko

Village Administrator

Ralph E. Czerwinski

Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

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waste paper. Please recycle.

2023 Winter Adopt-A-Planter Program

Thanks to all the residents, businesses, and organizations who participated in the 2023 Adopt-A-Planter Programs. You helped keep Morton Grove beautiful and festive throughout the year.



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Village of Morton Grove



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@MortonGroveLyt



www.mortongroveil.org



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