



A Message from Mayor DiMaria

Lots of exciting things have happened in the Village this past year. I am so proud of all our residents and businesses for doing their part to keep everyone safe and healthy as we navigate through this pandemic. Thankfully, we are in a much better place than we were two years ago. I'm happy to see that we were able to move the Village forward in 2021, with lots more to look ahead to in 2022.

We were fortunate to be able to host many in-person events last year, such as our Labor Days Celebration, Sustainability Expo, National Night Out, Pumpkin Smash, Santa Comes to Town Parade, and more. It was great to see our residents come together and participate, and I hope we can continue to do more in the year ahead.

We made big strides in our redevelopment efforts in 2021. Cooper's Hawk, Ross, Chipotle, and Amazon Fresh all opened

their doors at Sawmill Station this past year. We are now focusing efforts on the transit-oriented district around the Metra station, which will include a renovated commuter rail station and a significant increase in private investment in the surrounding area. Various projects are underway to improve our roadway and active transportation infrastructure across the Village.

We are so lucky to have an amazing variety of local businesses and restaurants that have proven their resilience. Let's keep supporting them. I want to thank all of our residents, first responders, and businesses for supporting each other and getting through these unpredictable times. I wish you all good health and prosperity in the New Year.



Your Mayor, Dan DiMaria



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

2021 IN REVIEW

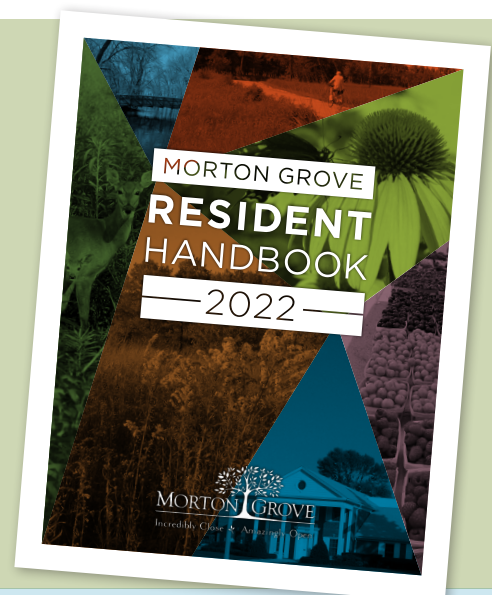
2021 IN REVIEW

As we welcome 2022, we're also looking back on the achievements of 2021. See the **2021 IN REVIEW** highlights throughout this newsletter.

New Resident Handbook Released

The Village is proud to release the 2022 Morton Grove Resident Handbook. This updated and modernized guide provides a comprehensive overview of Village operations, services, programs, and regulations, and community amenities and resources. The easy-to-use handbook is designed to be a helpful resource for both newcomers and long-time Morton Grove residents.

A digital 2022 Resident Handbook is available online at www.mortongroveil.org/resident-information and hard copies are available for pick-up at Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue).



In This Issue

Community Updates	Pages 2 - 3
Winter 2022 Updates	Page 4
Building & Public Works	Page 5

Public Safety	Page 6
Senior Community	Page 7

Economic Development Updates

2021 IN REVIEW

66 businesses

located, relocated, expanded, or changed ownership in 2021

\$19.2 million

total value of 2021 construction



1,600+

building permits issued



70,000 square feet

of new retail and restaurant space at Sawmill Station in 2021

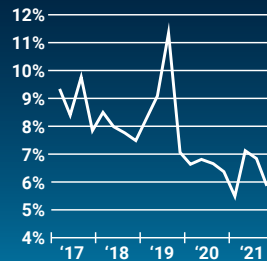
9

new restaurants in 2021



16,700 employees

employed by Morton Grove businesses in 2021



5.79%

commercial & industrial vacancy rate in Q4 2021

\$65.6 million

commercial & industrial real estate sales in 2021

Morton Grove On-Track for a Strong Rebound

While COVID-19 had a significant impact on Village tax earnings in 2020, many revenues, especially sales and home rule revenues, improved in 2021 and the opening of several major retailers at Sawmill Station delivered a major boost. Businesses continue to locate and expand in Morton Grove and construction projects have not slowed. Overall, Morton Grove has fared well in its recovery and the outlook for 2022 is bright.

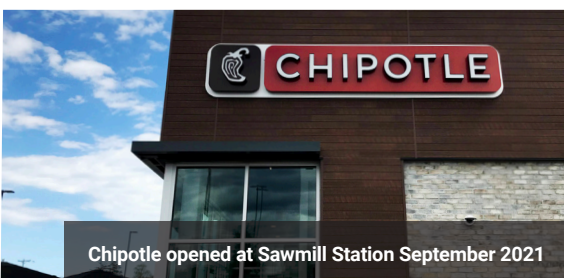
The near-completion of Sawmill Station, a mixed-use 26-acre redevelopment representing over \$150 million in new investment, has caught the attention

of investors. Developers are pursuing several large opportunity sites for new commercial, mixed-use, and residential construction along Dempster Street, Waukegan Road, and Lehigh Avenue. With LA Fitness and MedMen in the 2022 construction pipeline at Sawmill Station, the lifestyle center is only growing as an economic engine for the Village and catalyst for new investment.

The establishment of the new Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District in October 2021 is expected to reinvigorate the mixed-use area surrounding the Morton Grove Metra Station and the expiration of the successful Lehigh/Ferris TIF District in 2023 will provide new tax revenue to our schools and other local taxing districts.

2020 Census data released in 2021 shows that Morton Grove's population continues to grow. The community's current population of 25,297 residents is an increase of 8.7% since the 2010 Census. By comparison, Cook County's population increased by only 1.6% over the same period.

Residents continue to be attracted to Morton Grove's excellent location, character, amenities, and services. According to Redfin, median home values have increased from \$281,000 to \$355,000 over the last five years. Morton Grove was recently ranked in the top 100 nationally for best suburbs for city amenities based on schools, parks, crime ratings, housing affordability, healthcare, shopping, and restaurants.



Chipotle opened at Sawmill Station September 2021



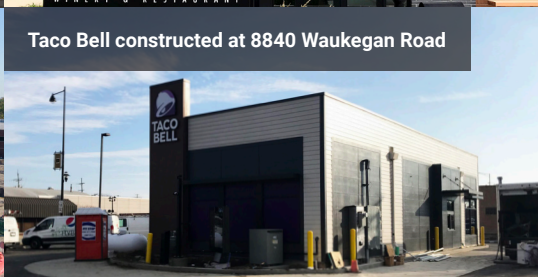
Cooper's Hawk opened March 2021



Ross opened at Sawmill Station July 2021



Residences at Sawmill Station gained partial occupancy December 2021



Taco Bell constructed at 8840 Waukegan Road



Amazon Fresh opened November 2021



Sustainable Morton Grove

First Morton Grove Sustainability Expo a Success

Over 500 people attended the Village's first annual Sustainability Expo at the Morton Grove Civic Center on September 11, 2021. The event featured an electric car show and over 30 exhibits from eco-friendly retailers and service providers. Residents and visitors learned about energy-saving products and received tips on greener everyday living. The event was organized and hosted by the Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC). Learn more at www.mortongroveil.org/enrc.



Food Scrap Composting

The Village offers Morton Grove residents two opportunities to compost household food scraps:

Groot offers food scrap composting from March 15 through December 15 of each year through its Landscape Waste/Food Scrap Cart Subscription Program. Subscribers are provided either a 65-gallon or 95-gallon container for food scraps and landscape waste, which is picked up weekly. Residents may sign up for this service at 800-244-1977.

Collective Resource (CRC) offers year-round service to residents for food scrap pick-up and composting. Participants may choose 5-gallon buckets or 32-gallon totes for individual or communal use. CRC has a longer list of acceptable items than Groot and offers residents using Groot's Landscape Waste/Food Scrap Program a Winter Gap Program so that they may continue diverting their food scraps until Groot's program restarts in the spring. Service options and pricing are available at collectiveresource.us/compostingin-evanston-morton-grove-skokie.



Morton Grove Holds First Annual Pumpkin Smash

Dozens of residents attended the first annual Morton Grove Pumpkin Smash on Saturday, November 6, at the north end of Harrer Park. Between the ten communities participating in the event through the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), 41 tons of pumpkins were diverted from landfills this year.

Morton Grove families brought gourds, jack-o-lanterns, and decorative pumpkins to the convenient drop-off location in front of Park View School. Kids and adults enjoyed watching the Public Works Department raise pumpkins high up in an end loader before letting them fall and crash into a composting bin below.

A pumpkin smash is a fun way to keep organic material out of landfills by composting into nutrient-rich soil. Composting reduces Morton Grove's greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from landfills, which are the third largest producer of methane in the country. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's pumpkin smash!

GREEN IN 2021

192 trees planted in the public parkway

21st year of Tree City USA designation

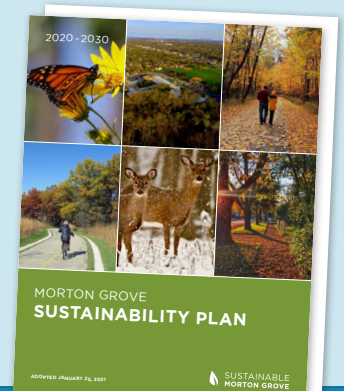
20 tons of food scraps collected weekly across Collective Resource communities, on average

10,000 street trees inventoried in GIS by Public Works in 2021

over 500 attendees at the first annual Sustainability Expo

Sustainability Plan

In January 2021, the Village Board adopted the Morton Grove Sustainability Plan, which guides the Village's efforts toward creating a more sustainable community and region from 2020 to 2030. In 2022, the Village will continue to implement water, air, land, and waste sustainability strategies. View and download a copy of the Plan at: www.mortongroveil.org/enrc.



Winter 2022 Updates

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2022 Village Hall Closures

May not reflect actual holiday dates.

Memorial Day May 30
Independence Day July 4
Labor Day September 5
Thanksgiving November 24 - 25
Christmas December 26

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 Monday of Month at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

2nd & 4th Mondays of Month at 7:00 p.m.

Community Relations Commission

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30 p.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Commission

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:00 p.m.

Fire & Police Commission

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

Fire Station #4, 6250 Lincoln Avenue

Plan Commission

3rd Monday of Month at 7:00 p.m.

Special Events Commission

3rd Tuesday of Alternating Month Starting February at 6:30 p.m.

Public Works, 7840 Nagle Avenue

Traffic Safety Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Monday of Month at 7:00 p.m.

Get Involved

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.

Meet Dr. Khan, Your New Village Trustee

The Village of Morton Grove was excited to welcome Dr. Saba Khan to the Village Board of Trustees in 2021. Dr. Khan has been an active member of the Morton Grove community for many years. She was officially sworn in as a Trustee in May. Before her election, Dr. Khan served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission since 2013. She was instrumental in reviewing and providing recommendations on various new developments, businesses, and construction projects.

By profession, Dr. Khan is a periodontist and dental implant surgeon with a private practice in Mount Prospect. She teaches as a Clinical Professor through the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) postgraduate surgical program. Dr. Khan also serves on the Board of

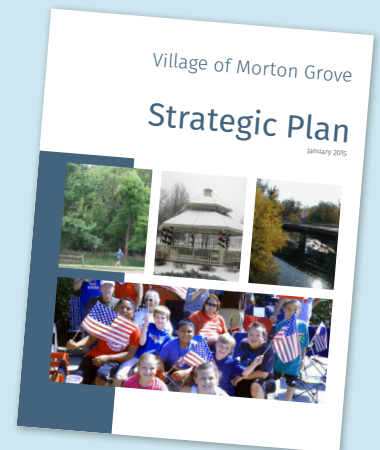


Directors of the Muslim Community Center (MCC) in Morton Grove.

Dr. Khan is happily married to her husband, Mazhar Khan, and is a proud mother to her sons, Mubashir and Ibrahim. In her spare time, she loves to hike, bike, and spend time with her family. With deep roots in community service, Dr. Khan is a great addition to the Village Board and is the first Muslim woman to serve as a Village Trustee. Welcome, Trustee Khan!

Morton Grove Strategic Plan to Be Updated in 2022

As part of the 2022 budget, the Village Board of Trustees authorized funding for an update of the Morton Grove Strategic Plan. A strategic plan is a high-level planning document aimed at providing guidance and operational direction for an organization. The current Strategic Plan was adopted in 2015 and has served as a framework for decision-making for the last six years.



Morton Grove Metra Station Renovation Planning Underway

In 2021, the Village began a selection process to choose an architect to for the renovation of the Morton Grove Metra Station. This cooperative project by Metra and the Village will provide residents and workers with a modern and accessible facility. Investing in rail infrastructure in combination with ongoing bus rapid transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure projects in the area will enhance the multimodal transportation network and regional mobility. Design work will begin in early 2022 and construction is planned for late 2022 with completion in 2023.



Building & Public Works

Main Street Reconstruction

In 2021, the Village developed and implemented a program for the badly needed replacement of all utilities and reconstruction of all pavement on Main Street west of Lehigh Avenue. The Main Street water main, which has suffered from years of breaks and patching, was to be replaced in two phases: between Lehigh and the forest preserve and west of the forest preserve. The first phase, which was completed this year, included water feeder main replacement, sewer separation, and pavement reconstruction. Design of Phase II construction within the forest preserve is underway. This second phase is limited to water feeder main replacement.

The new Main Street infrastructure is designed to support future redevelopment of the property at 8350 Lehigh Avenue, the 7.85-acre former site of Morton Grove Pharmaceuticals. A future use for the site has not been determined at this time.



Building Department Begins Offering Select Online Permitting

The Department of Building and Inspectional Services now offers an online permitting option for water heaters, furnace/air conditioning replacements, and HVAC alterations. To access the permitting module, visit www.mortongroveil.org/building-and-inspectional-services-department.

At this time, all other permit applications must be submitted in-person or by mail to the Building Department at 6101 Capulina Avenue. The Village intends to expand online permitting capabilities in the future.



2022 Construction for Oakton Street Multi-Use Path


Final engineering for the multi-use path planned along the south side of Oakton Street between Caldwell Avenue and Gross Point Road is underway. Final plans will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for approval in March and construction is planned to begin by fall of 2022. The project is intended to provide a safe, off-street facility for walkers, runners, and cyclists. People are currently walking and cycling on Oakton Street or on non-paved surfaces along Oakton Street in all types of weather to access bus stops, schools, and places of employment. To date, the Village has secured more than \$2 million in grant funding to support the multi-jurisdictional project.

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	800-244-1977

2021 IN REVIEW

 **856 trees**
trimmed in the public pathway


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

 **4,474** ^{feet} **miles**
of street cleaning in 2021

8,365 ^{square feet} 
of public sidewalk repaired in 2021

 **1,325 tons**
of leaves removed from Village streets

1,037 tons 
of hot mix asphalt used to restore street pavement

 **386 signs**
repaired and replaced

 **9,129** ^{feet miles}
plowed during snow events

Public Safety

2021 IN REVIEW

1st place

in the 2020 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge within the Police Department size division

1,500+ attendees
at the 2021 National Night Out

18,363 Fire Department training hours, an average of 470 per firefighter

4 minutes, 10 seconds
average Fire Department response time in 2021

5,892 Fire Department medical, fire, & non-fire calls for service January through November



2021 National Night Out

This August, the Morton Grove Police Department hosted its sixth annual National Night Out. Attendance was estimated to be between 1,500 and 2,000 people, making the event the largest to-date in Morton Grove. The free outdoor event featured face painting, a balloon artist, a bouncy house, an obstacle course, ponies, a rock climbing wall, and free 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.

Join the Morton Grove Citizens Police Academy

The Police Department is seeking participants for its 2022 Citizens Police Academy. The Academy is a ten-week program with one block of instruction per week and is designed to give community members an understanding of Police Department operations and law enforcement.

The Academy will run from March 22 to May 24, 2022. Classes are held every Tuesday 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. The deadline to apply is March 11, 2022. There is no cost for residents to participate. Call 847-663-3804 or 3813 with any questions. Apply online at www.mortongroveil.org/citizens-police-academy.



Meet Fire Chief Ensign

On November 8, the Village Board confirmed Mayor DiMaria's appointment of Ralph Ensign as Morton Grove's new Fire Chief. Chief Ensign is a 43-year veteran of the Illinois fire service and has worked in various municipalities, including Glenview, Highland Park, Northfield, and Winnetka. He recently served as Fire Chief in the Village of Glenview from 2014 to 2019. Chief Ensign holds a bachelor's degree in Fire

Service Management from Southern Illinois University and the highest certification from the Illinois State Fire Marshal as a Chief Fire Officer. He also continues to serve as an assessor/evaluator for the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Chief Ensign was selected from a pool of 22 highly qualified applicants. Mayor DiMaria proudly stated, "In addition to his obvious technical expertise, Ralph stood out because of his outstanding experience in the Illinois fire service, his diverse background in community risk reduction and emergency planning, as well as experience with grants and project management and his collaborative community management style." Morton Grove is fortunate to have a great Fire Department and an exceptional Fire Chief to lead the way.

Help End This Pandemic

Get Vaccinated and Boosted - It's for everyone's benefit, but most importantly your own! COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are critical to the fight to end the pandemic. Residents aged 18+ who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago can receive booster shots. Individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eligible for a booster if they received the vaccine at least two months ago and are aged 18+. Vaccinations are also available for children aged five to 11.

Visit www.vaccines.gov to find the soonest available appointment for a pediatric or adult vaccination or booster close to home. As of this newsletter, 88% of Morton Grove residents have received at least one dose and 69% have received two or more.

Linking Seniors to Service Volunteers

The Village of Morton Grove is seeking individuals who are willing to donate their time to assist seniors and individuals with disabilities with snow removal this winter. Potential volunteers will be required to register with the Village Social Worker and Senior Services. Volunteer contact information will then be provided to residents in need.

Note that this is a strictly volunteer program. There will be no exchange of money or goods. Interested volunteers and seniors in need of shoveling assistance should call 847-663-3070 and ask for Ovie.



AARP Friendly Voice Program

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

- Call directly at 1-888-281-0145 and leave us your information and we will call you back.
- Llámamos 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.

Winter-Time Physical Activities

Seniors have the opportunity to stay active this winter at the Morton Grove Civic Center (6140 Dempster Street). Experienced instructors will lead older adults in the following classes that are designed to improve wellness, balance and mobility. Call 847-663-3070 to register.

Chair Yoga

Relax your mind and body with an hour of relaxing Chair Yoga. *Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., \$4.00 per class*

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention is a group exercise program designed to increase range of motion, strength, flexibility and overall wellness. *Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., \$4.00 per class*

Zumba Gold

Get your body moving with Zumba and some hot Latin tunes. *Mondays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., \$4.00 per class*



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 or volunteers.

Apply for Homebound Delivery at mgpl.org/homebound-delivery. Questions? Contact the Info Desk at 847-929-5101 or info@mgpl.org.

Senior Luncheons Resume

Monthly themed Senior Luncheons have resumed on the first Friday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will typically be followed by entertainment and Bingo. Seniors should call 847-868-5928 to reserve a spot. Face coverings and social distancing will be required. Luncheons are held at the Morton Grove Civic Center at 6140 Dempster Street. Go to www.mortongroveil.org/family-and-senior-services/program-and-calendar-information for specific monthly information.



The Exchange

www.mortongroveil.org

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



Incredibly Close ✨ Amazingly Open

Morton Grove Exchange
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

Civic Center Rentals
847-663-3071

Village Officials

President Daniel P. DiMaria

Village Clerk Eileen Scanlon Harford

Trustees

Bill Grear | Saba Khan | Rita Minx

John Thill | Connie Travis | Janine Witko

Village Administrator

Ralph E. Czerwinski

Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053



2021 Adopt-A-Planter Program a Success

Thanks to all the residents, businesses, and organizations who participated in the 2021 Adopt-A-Planter Program. You helped keep Morton Grove beautiful and festive this winter.



Incredibly Close ✨ Amazingly Open

In keeping with our tagline, the Village provides several ways to submit advice, suggestions, questions, and opinions to your elected officials and administration. For general inquiries, you can send an email to vmg@mortongroveil.org, visit the "contact us" section on our website in "Quick Links" at www.mortongroveil.org, call 847-470-5220, or fill out this form and return it to Village Hall at 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053. Include your name and mailing or email address to receive a response.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Comment: _____
