



2015/2016 Holiday Edition

The Exchange

Village of Morton Grove

A Message from the Village President

Daniel P. DiMaria

Dear Neighbors,

2015 has been a year to remember! From February's cold and snow to June's rain, to thrilling victories of our favorite sports teams, this year will not soon be forgotten.

Our Village marketing and branding project resulted in our new tagline: *Incredibly Close. Amazingly Open*. These four words tell the world who we are. We are *incredibly close* to Chicago, O'Hare airport as well as world-renowned education, culture, and entertainment opportunities. More importantly, we are *incredibly close* to our families, neighbors and friends. *Amazingly Open* describes our phenomenal natural resources, forest preserve, parks, bike paths, horse trails, and golf course. Even more importantly, we are *amazingly open* as a community; open to new neighbors, ideas and experiences. Our strong bonds translate into community-wide unity and vision that brings together village leaders, employees, teachers, parents, business owners and volunteers and keeps Morton Grove safe, sound, and moving forward.

I want to thank our Village staff and our volunteers for their dedicated service to our Village this past year. All of us appreciate everything they do.

On behalf of my wife, Melodee, our family, and our Village family, I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and a happy healthy 2016. I say it every year because I believe it. Next year will be our best year yet!

Daniel P. DiMaria
Mayor



Village Officials

President

Daniel P. DiMaria

Trustees

Bill Gear

Rita Minx

John Pietron

Ed Ramos

John Thill

Janine Witko

Village Clerk

Connie Travis

Village Administrator

Ralph E. Czerwinski

Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston



Have a Joyful Holiday Season and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Due to the dedication and extraordinary service provided by our employees Village Hall will be closed Thursday, December 24 at noon, Friday December 25, 2015 and Friday, January 1, 2016

Legislative Updates

Upcoming Meeting Schedules

The Morton Grove Village Board meets the second and fourth Monday of each month except in the case of a holiday. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and are held in the Council Chambers of the Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, 6101 Capulina Avenue. Watch for Board meetings live on MG Cable Television (Channel 6 on Comcast and Channel 99 on AT&T). Meetings are also available on the Village's website.

Village Board Meetings	7:00 pm	December 14 (December 28 is cancelled) January 11 and January 25
Traffic Safety Commission	7:00 pm	December 10 and January 7
Appearance Commission	7:00 pm	January 4
Advisory Commission on Aging	1:00 pm	January 12
Zoning Board & Plan Commission	7:30 pm	December 21 and January 18
Community Relations	7:00 pm	January 12

2016 Village Budget

The Village Board is scheduled to adopt the 2016 Budget on December 14, 2015. The Board has held a series of workshops to review and discuss the proposed budget. The 2016 Budget presents no increase in expenditures over the 2015 budget. Therefore, the 2016 proposed budget does not request an increase in the Village's portion of property taxes to be paid in 2016.

Board and Commission Spotlight

Economic Development Commission (EDC)



EDC members, L to R: Chris Kintner, Sasha Carillo, Daniel Metz, Wayne Youkhana (Chair), Drew Massa, and Oscar Chung

EDC members meet quarterly to provide advice and support to the Village Board on ways to promote and retain existing businesses, attract new businesses, and develop programs to promote economic development. The EDC reviews and approves applications for Façade Improvement Grants and serves as ambassadors for the business community by actively participating in events such as the Wright-Way Rescue Run/Walk and the Winter Farmer's Market.

Community Updates

Free Rain Barrel Program

Morton Grove has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to provide free rain barrels to Morton Grove residents. Rain barrels help prevent basement flooding by collecting water from roofs and gutters. The water can be used later to wash cars and pets or water gardens and lawns thereby saving both water and money.

Up to four 55-gallon barrels will be delivered to interested residents free of charge. Barrels are available in terra cotta, blue, black or neutral and come with all necessary connection hardware and easy instructions on how to install and use them properly.

Applications for rain barrels are available at Village Hall, on the Village's website or by calling 847.470.5235. Village Hall has installed a rain barrel, which can be seen on the south side of the building near the Shalin Memorial bench.



Civic Center Activities 50 and Better Programs

Each month, the Village, in partnership with Mather LifeWays MOREways, hosts a popular themed luncheon with entertainment for adults 50 and better.

Every week, older adults can enjoy lifelong learning programs, Wii bowling, a "jam band," a walking club, tech help, movies, and more. MOREways also works with the Morton Grove Public Library and Morton Grove Park District to bring you book discussions, exercise classes, and even trips to see plays, spend a day at the zoo, or visit nearby museums and cultural institutions.

In addition, a host of free resources awaits you at the Civic Center. You can bring in documents to be shredded, have important papers notarized, dispose of expired medication and needles, use computer tablets, play tabletop games, and much more! Not sure where to start? Stop by for a complimentary cup of coffee and chat with the friendly staff at the Civic Center at 6140 Dempster!

Lehigh Avenue Metra Municipal Parking

The Village offers permit parking for the commuter parking lot at Lehigh and Chestnut Avenue. Annual permit fees are \$500, and quarterly permits are \$135. Permit applications are due one month prior to the permit period. These spaces are sold on a first-come first served basis and fill quickly. If you wish to be added to the waiting list, please contact the Village Administrator's office at 847.470.5220.



Service Updates



Snow and Ice

The snow season is upon us. The Public Works Department is prepared for winter and asks for your cooperation with the following:

- Don't drive during or immediately after a storm unless it is truly necessary. Public Works crews will be working to keep streets passable for you and emergency vehicles.
- If you do have a driveway, please use it. The more cars off the street, out of alleyways and parking lots means snow removal crews will be able to do their job faster and more efficiently.
- If you must park somewhere other than on your driveway, move your car as soon as possible to an area that has been cleared of snow so crews can plow back the area where your car was parked.
- Please be patient and considerate of others during this winter season. Snowfall is inevitable and being careful and avoiding injury to yourself and others is important.
- Move your vehicles after a snowfall of over one inch if you live on a snow route. Crews will be plowing those streets over night.

Fire Hydrant - Snow Removal

The Morton Grove Fire and Public Works Departments request your help if you live near a fire hydrant.

Please help by making every effort to clear the snow and ice from around a hydrant during the winter months. The extra time a firefighter spends clearing snow covered hydrants can make a difference in how quickly a fire can be extinguished and subsequently limit damage. Please do not let a hydrant in your neighborhood remain covered by snow this winter.



Water Main Breaks

Historically, as the weather gets colder the Village has an increase in water main breaks. Public Works crews ask for your cooperation and patience during these repairs. If your water service is affected during such an event you will be notified before water service is shut-off. Most often water is restored within three hours from the beginning of the repair. If you see an unusual flow of water in the street or parkway, please report it to the Public Works Department at 847.470.5235 from 7am to 3:15pm Monday through Friday. Off-hour calls should be directed to the Police Department's non-emergency number at 847.470.5200.

Service Updates

Overhead Sewer and Flood Control Device Assistance Program

Interest free loans of up to \$5,000 are now available for residents wishing to install flood control systems in their homes. The Village program covers 50% of the costs to purchase and install over-head sewers and other approved back flow prevention systems. The loan must be paid back within 10 years or when the house is sold (whichever occurs first). The Village has budgeted \$50,000 in 2016 for this program.

Program Requirements:

- Consult a licensed plumber to determine the best system for your home;
- Fill out the application available at Village Hall or on the Village website;
- The Village will inspect the property to determine eligibility;
- Get three estimates from licensed plumbers (the loan is based on the lowest estimate);
- Project must be completed within 90 days of approval;

Questions - Contact Public Works at 847.470.5235.

Stream and River Pollution Concerns

Wintertime creates significant pollution concerns to streams and rivers via storm water runoff. Pollutants accumulate in snow banks and ice during the winter months. When they melt, pollutants will be washed directly into the storm sewer system and ultimately into rivers. Please pick up any debris that may be found on your property in order to keep it from washing into the waterway all year. In addition, please consider the following to reduce this problem during winter months:

- Be sparing with salt applications. After the snow melts, always sweep up the excess salt from pavement surfaces.
- Use a commercial car wash to hose off the grey sludge and salt from your car. This water drains into treatment areas and not into waterways.
- Watch your pet waste. Picking up your animal's waste is just as important in the wintertime as it is in the warmer months.

stormwater@mortongrovel.org

Street Repairs/Potholes

Colder temperatures mean street pavement conditions will fluctuate more often than during the summer. In the daytime, snow and water will seep into cracks and crevices in the pavement and freeze when nighttime temperatures drop. Potholes are created when that frozen moisture expands weakening the pavement. Cars subsequently run over that area and the pavement breaks apart. The Public Works Department makes every effort to find and repair pot holes throughout the community in a timely manner; however, we do occasionally miss some. If you have a pothole that needs immediate attention, please contact Public Works at 847.470.5235. Your help is always appreciated.

Did you know. . .

The MG Public Works Department maintains:

- Over 98 miles of water main with 1,093 fire hydrants
- 142 miles of sewer and 462 miles of street

Public Safety Updates



Citizen Police Academy

Are you interested in getting an up-close look at what a police officer does on a daily basis?

The Citizens Police Academy, a 10-week program covers one topic per week for two hours, providing an understanding of the overall operation of the Morton Grove Police Department and a basic knowledge of law enforcement. Class size is limited with no cost for residents who participate. Topics include:

- History of the Morton Grove Police Department
- Qualifications and the hiring process
- Communications and Investigations
- Laws of arrest, search, and seizure
- Optional ride-a-long
- Crime Prevention and Records
- Gun laws and safety, practice shooting
- Special units (N.I.P.A.S., Mobile Field Force Unit)

The Academy will be held in the spring of 2016.

Dates to be announced



TOYS FOR TOTS

Morton Grove Police

Toys for Tots Donation Box Locations

1. Police Department, 6101 Capulina
2. Fire Station #4, 6250 Lincoln
3. Village Hall
4. Library, 6140 Lincoln
5. MG Park District, 6834 Dempster

New Unwrapped Toys Only Please



Holiday Season Burglaries

With the holidays approaching, the Morton Grove Police Department would like to inform you about a three pronged approach to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of a burglary.

Prevention, take the time to make sure your home's doors and windows are locked anytime you are away. If your home is equipped with an alarm system, make sure you and your family are using it. Alarm systems and visible advertisements such as stickers and lawn signs are the best deterrents against burglars. In the event you are traveling for the holiday season, notify the police department you will be away for an extended period of time and set up a vacation watch. Vehicles should also be locked and make sure to place items of value out of view.

Be aware and look out for behaviors of people that should raise red flags. People you do not know walking onto properties, looking into windows, checking doors of a home and/or vehicle, to see if they are locked. Be cautious of solicitors. A stop at your doorway may provide them the chance to scope the inside of your house for valuable items and map the layout for a later return. Look for unknown vehicles backed up on a neighbor's driveway or parked and running on the street.

Report if you see something suspicious - call 911. Stay online with the emergency dispatcher and help guide officers to the proper location. Be prepared to give a detailed description of suspects, vehicle information, and the direction of travel. Working together we can make a difference and bring down crime!

Did you know. . .

The MG Police Department offers free residential security surveys including a critical on-site evaluation of a property. It is used to determine your home's security status. In addition, the evaluating officer will make recommendations to improve the overall security of the premises.

Public Safety Updates



New Fire Engine Protecting Morton Grove



Did you know. . .

Fire loss statistics for Morton Grove between Thanksgiving (2014) and the New Year (2015) were greater than \$240,000.

Fire apparatus response time averages 4 minutes from dispatch to arrival.

The Village Board recently invested \$585,000 in a new state-of-the-art fire engine. This apparatus was designed by members of Morton Grove's Fire and Public Works Departments to meet the specific needs of our community. It can pump up to 1,500 gallons of water per minute, carries 2,700 feet of hose, and has a 30-foot telescoping light tower. The Engine carries 500 gallons of water so fires can be attacked before hoses are connected to fire hydrants.

This vehicle also has onboard medical supplies, equipment, and drugs so emergency life saving treatment can be started before the ambulance arrives. Our newest fire engine - Engine 5 - is available and responds from the Harlem and Shermer Fire Station.

Alarm User Fees Now Due

Permits are required for all security alarm systems on commercial or residential property located within the Village. The annual permit fee is \$50. Applications are available on the Village's website, at Village Hall, or at the Police Department. Alarm users are encouraged to properly maintain their systems to keep false alarms to a minimum. Contact the Support Services Division of the Morton Grove Police Department at 847.663.3806 for further information.

Prevent Battery Time-Outs for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

The Morton Grove Fire Department would like to remind residents to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and in all emergency accessory kits before the end of the year.

Firefighter Food Drive

The **2015 Annual Holiday Food Drive**, sponsored by the Firefighter's Association of Morton Grove, will be accepting **monetary** and non-perishable food donations until December 14 at the following locations:

MG Fire Department #4
Village Hall
American Legion Civic Center
Moose Lodge
MG Park District
Jerusalem Lutheran Church
Edward Jones - 5901 Dempster
Xylem - 8200 Austin

Checks payable to the Firefighter's Association of Morton Grove. **Questions 847.470.5226**

Community & Economic Development Updates

Now Open

The Village is pleased to announce the following businesses opened in Morton Grove this year (1/ 1/15—11/15/15) :

- Amazon Distribution: 8290 Austin
- Boba Burger: 8530 Waukegan
- Café KoKo: 7955 Golf
- Car Care Collision Center: 5940 Oakton
- Cedar Food's: 8240 Leigh
- Hamburgers: 6301 Oakton
- Creative Edge Framing: 6308 Oakton
- Damen Healthcare Group: 5611 Dempster
- Equipment International: 8778 Ferris
- Ester Insun Kim, DDS: 5803 Dempster
- HS Midwest Distribution: 6215 Park
- House of Torment: 8240 Austin
- LEA Networks: 6264 Oakton
- Madhuram: 7620 Dempster
- Poko Loko Daycare: 5645 Dempster
- S&B Express: 6288 Oakton
- Teacher Tam: 8434 McVicker
- Transformation Beauty Spa: 9215 Waukegan
- Virtuoso Performing Arts: 8120 Lehigh
- Vivacity Beauty Salon: 6043 Dempster
- Wattcore: 6208 Oakton

In addition, the Village has several additional businesses that are expected to open before the end of the year.

Be sure to visit both the new and existing businesses! Remember to Support Morton Grove—Shop Local!

Ribbon Cutting for Creative Edge Framing



Mayor Dan DiMaria and Trustees Bill Grear and John Thill celebrated the ribbon cutting and opening of Creative Edge Framing's new showroom at 6308 Oakton Street. For over 30 years, Creative Edge has specialized in providing unique, creative picture framing, artwork, and custom mirrors for commercial and residential clients and recently relocated from Skokie. Pictured with the Mayor and Trustees are owner Mary Ellen Drexler along with her family and long-time associate.

Local Businesses Offer Senior Discounts

In response to a recent survey, three local businesses noted that they have special offers for Senior Citizens. These include:

- * Midas (5610 Dempster Street; 847.966.3350): Offers 10% discount on all services for seniors. The discount is capped at \$300.
- * Shama Travel (8010 N Gross Point Road; 847.966.7788): Offers a waiver of airline ticket fees for anyone who is 65 or older. This waiver can result in up to a \$50 savings for domestic tickets and \$100 savings for International tickets.
- * Walgreens (5730 Dempster Street; 847.583.9309): Offers Senior Day discounts the first Tuesday of the month. This includes a 20% savings on regular priced items and, if they speak to a Pharmacist on the current featured theme, they will earn Balance Rewards of 500 points.

Community & Economic Development Updates

'Tis the Season...Shop Local, Buy Local and Support Morton Grove!

The Village of Morton Grove encourages all residents to "Shop Local, Buy Local." At the most basic level, when you buy local more money stays in our community! This money comes in directly through sales, food, and beverage tax revenues, as well as indirectly. The more successful the business is, the more likely they are to hire more staff, patronize other local businesses, and reinvest or expand in their business and/or building. The increased staffing results in potential job opportunities for residents as well as an added customer-base for other local businesses. Further, when business owners expand/improve their business or building, their investments will, in turn, generate additional sales and/or property tax revenues.



So, this holiday season, and throughout the year, please remember to "Shop Local, Buy Local." Shopping locally not only supports the businesses within our community, it also supports the overall Morton Grove community!

Businesses Making News!

Check out the local MG Businesses Making News:

- ✓ **Pequod's** makes list of "The 9 Best Deep Dish Pizza Places in Chicago, Ranked" ([Thrillist/Chicago: https://www.thrillist.com/eat/chicago/best-deep-dish-pizza-in-chicago](https://www.thrillist.com/eat/chicago/best-deep-dish-pizza-in-chicago))
- ✓ **Lifeway Foods**, the leading supplier of probiotic dairy products has expanded their international market into Mexico. Lifeway Kefir is already available in the US, Canada, the UK, Central America, and the Caribbean (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lifeway-foods-expands-probiotic-kefir-distribution-to-mexico-300090809.html>)
- ✓ **Burt's Place** owner, Burt Katz, is featured in a news story as the "Master of Deep Dish Pizza" (<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/video/#!/blogs/1st-look/Meet-The-Deep-Dish-Superhero/295359561>). Burt, who is retiring, is actively looking for restaurateurs to take over his world-renowned pizzeria. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Nancy Radzevich (nancyr@mortongroveil.org) for information on how to reach Burt.

Façade Improvement Projects

Two businesses recently completed updates through the Village's Façade Improvement Program:

Equipment International completely updated the exterior of the building at 8778 Ferris when they relocated from Skokie. The work included replacement of the siding, new signage, and cleaning and tuck-pointing of the existing masonry.



State Farm Insurance made improvements to the interior while making updates and improvements to the exterior of the office at 9140 Waukegan Road. The exterior improvements included removal of the old awning, installation of new signage, replacement of existing siding, and painting of the existing masonry. Comparative "before" pictures of each of these buildings are available on the Village Website.

Local Updates



This is the Chamber's first logo. It's first motto was "Ever Onward" c.1926



Morton Grove
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The **MG Chamber of Commerce & Industry** is getting ready to celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2016! The MGCCI has been supporting the business community in Morton Grove since the "Roaring Twenties" and continues to be the "gateway to our business community". Look for scheduled networking and educational events on the Chamber's website at www.mgcci.org or on their Facebook page at "Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce".

Morton Grove Park District - *Quality Parks & Recreation*

The Morton Grove Park District has been providing memorable experiences in parks & recreation since its inception in 1951. Some upcoming events for 2016 include:

January 10 - 17	Free Week of Fitness
January 23	Disney on Ice: 100 years of Magic
February 12	Daddy/Daughter Rockin' Fifties Dance
February 19	Hot Wheels Classic & T.G.I.F. Family Night
February 20	Cold Brew & Blues

See more at: www.mortongrovetparks.com

Morton Grove Park District



The **Morton Grove Public Library** has served our community with entertainment, information, education, and cultural experiences for more than 75 years. The Morton Grove Public Library has a blend of library services and contemporary programming. Use the library website, and your library card to discover something new! Some upcoming events include:

December 13	Bel Sonore Chamber Ensemble Holiday Concert
December 18	Winter Break Read Club Kickoff
December 31	Winter Break Movie: "Inside Out"

See more at: www.mgpl.org.



**MORTON GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Community Activity



The Annual Veterans Day Parade



Eagle Scout Project

The annual Veterans Day Parade was held on Sunday, November 8, 2015. Supporters gathered at the American Legion Post #134 and marched to the Doughboy statue located at the Morton Grove Public Library. Mayor DiMaria and Eagle Scout candidate Sean Henderson are pictured following the dedication of a brick paver plaza Sean Henderson designed and built for his Eagle Scout project. The plaza is part of Post #134's tribute to all branches of service and those who have served. The Eagle Scout project can be seen alongside the American Legion Post #134 front door.

Winter Farmers' Markets

Civic Center

6140 Dempster

February 6, 2016

9am-2pm

<http://mgfarmersmarket.com/>



Village of Morton Grove

6101 Capulina Avenue

Morton Grove, IL 60053

M-F 8:30a to 5:00p

☎ 847-965-4100

✉ vmg@mortongroveil.org

🌐 www.mortongroveil.org



Important Village Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Village Hall (Switchboard)	847.965.4100
Village 24-hour Municipal Hotline	847.663.6161
Building and Inspectional Services	847.663.3040
Civic Center Rentals	847.663.3071
Community and Economic Development	847.470.5231
Fire Administration	847.470.5226
Police Administration	847.470.5208
Public Works Department	847.470.5235
Senior Hot Line	847.663.3070

Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas trees will be collected through January 13, 2016, along with regular garbage this year. Residents are requested to place the trees next to their garbage totes. Trees must be free of decorations (lights, garland, etc.). Please DO NOT place trees in plastic bags.

Did you know Morton Grove....

- Has 23,571 residents.
- Averages 29.44 inches of rainfall and 37.1 inches of snow annually.
- Averages a summer temp of 69°F and 29°F in the winter.
- Has 9,102 housing units.
- Has a median resident age of 46.5 years with an average of 3.19 people per household.
- Has four public elementary schools and two junior high schools.
- Has 27 doctors and 20 dental practices.
- Has a Park District that provides 13 parks, 4 field houses, and 2 pools.
- Maintains a Fire Department of 43 full-time members and a Police Department of 59 full-time and 10 part-time workers.
- Top two employers are Crane Packing and Xylem.
- Has 52 restaurants, two hotels, one public golf course, and nine public tennis courts.
- Is very accessible to virtually everywhere by car, train, or plane.

E-Newsletter

Subscribe to the Village's free e-newsletter to keep up with the latest Village news and events.

Sign up at:

www.mortongroveil.org/resident/emailnewsletter.asp.

E-mail addresses will not be shared.

Morton Grove Exchange

The Village of Morton Grove
6101 Capulina Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053-2985
www.mortongroveil.org

To: Morton Grove Resident
Morton Grove, Illinois

Carrier Route Sort
Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Morton Grove IL
60053
Permit 22