



The Exchange



A Message from Mayor DiMaria

Where do I begin? As I sit and reflect on this past year, I am overcome with so much emotion. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it. Nonetheless, I am so amazed by how the Morton Grove community has responded to this historic and difficult year. I want to give a big THANK YOU to all our residents, first responders, local businesses, educators, parents, and children alike for supporting each other and navigating these uncertain waters with such grace and positive spirit. We have all made sacrifices and missed out on milestones, skipped celebrations, and did our part to keep our

families and neighbors safe. I know that through our collective efforts, we will overcome these challenging times, and perhaps be an even stronger and closer community.

I look forward to new beginnings in 2021 for Morton Grove. Redevelopment continues to move forward with proposed projects, ongoing improvements within our parks, as well as new road paving projects. I am delighted to see new businesses opening their doors at Sawmill Station, including Kohl's, Dollar Tree, Starbucks, and Raising Cane's. We look forward to welcoming Ross and Cooper's Hawk, which are scheduled to open this spring, and we are expecting an announcement from the new grocery store during the first quarter of this year. I am excited and know you will be too!

Please stay safe and healthy, and do what you can to continue to support our local businesses and restaurants.

Your Mayor, Dan DiMaria

A LIVE WEBINAR

REGISTER AT
www.mortongroveil.org

COPING WITH COVID

IN 2021

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 at 3:00-4:00 PM

A live online event for residents to come together and talk about the emotional toll of living through the pandemic and learn helpful strategies and information on how to positively adapt to our new normal.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO GROUP DISCUSSION
FACILITATORS: TRUSTEE CONNIE TRAVIS, KATE PAZ,
OVIE SALGADO, & RUTH ORME-JOHNSON**



MORTON GROVE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

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2020

IN REVIEW

2020 IN REVIEW

As we welcome 2021, we're also looking back on the achievements of 2020. See the **2020 IN REVIEW** highlights throughout this newsletter.

2020 Development Highlights

- **Sawmill Station began phased business opening.** Despite the coronavirus pandemic, construction of the 26-acre lifestyle center remained on-schedule. With many Sawmill Station businesses already open for business, construction continues on the commercial and residential portions of the development.
- **Harrer Park Pool reconstruction project underway.** The Morton Grove Park District was approved for reconstruction of Harrer Pool at 6250 Dempster Street, which was originally built in 1962. The approved site plan includes a 6-lane, 50-meter lap pool, a deep pool, a plunge pool, a spray ground, a tot pool, a concessions deck, and a bathhouse. Site work has already started.
- **Menards is expanding.** Menards was approved for an expansion of its home improvement center at 6301 Oakton Street. The construction of 30,000 square feet of new garden center, outdoor warehouse, and heated storage space is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2021.

Sawmill Station is Open for Business

Construction did not slow down at Sawmill Station in 2020. A phased opening of the lifestyle center, located at the southeast corner of Waukegan and Dempster, began in late September. Among the first tenants to open their doors included Starbucks, Dollar Tree, Raising Cane's, Kohl's, and Aspen Dental. The Village looks forward to the upcoming openings of the soon-to-be revealed grocery store, Ross, and Cooper's Hawk in the first quarter of 2021. According to the Sawmill Station commercial developer, Kensington Partners, LA Fitness plans to open their doors in the fall of 2021. Kensington is working to secure additional tenants for the remaining retail spaces.

Vertical construction is underway and on-schedule for the 250-unit multi-family residential development to the east, known as Sawmill Place. According to residential developer UrbanStreet Group, construction is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2022.

Construction of the bike trail connection between the Forest Preserve District's North Branch Trail and Sawmill Station will coincide with completion of the residential development site improvements. The Village and developer continue to work closely with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County on the trail connection's design and construction.



Starbucks at 6801 Dempster Street



Raising Cane's at 6881 Dempster Street



Kohl's at 6931 Dempster Street

2020 IN REVIEW

76,400 square feet
of new restaurant and retail space
open to the public at Sawmill Station



\$64 million
2020 total construction value



800
building permits issued

156,000 square feet
of restaurant, retail, and fitness space under
construction or planned at Sawmill Station



50 businesses
located, relocated, expanded, or changed ownership

Fire Department Holds Annual Holiday Food Drive

The Morton Grove Firefighters Association recently completed its 35th Annual Holiday Food Drive. The drive was a little different in 2020 due to restrictions from the ongoing pandemic. From mid-November to early December, monetary donations were collected at Fire Station 4. Donations were used to create gift packages that included fresh turkeys and hams, as well as grocery store gift cards. Donated funds were also used to purchase age-appropriate gifts for the list of children received from participating charitable organizations. In 2020, the firefighters provided meals for 45 families and gifts for 120 children. Thank you to all those who donated and helped make this possible.



Thanks to Toys for Tots Donors

The Morton Grove Police Department thanks everyone who generously donated to the Toys for Tots 2020 campaign. The Department was able to donate ten boxes filled with toys for families in need this difficult year. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program provides toys, games, and educational items for children in need. Since 1947, the national campaign has distributed 584 million gifts to over 265 million children.

Citizen's Police Academy

The Morton Grove Police Department is seeking participants for its Citizen's Police Academy. The Academy is a ten-week program with one block of instruction per week. The program is designed to give community members an understanding of Morton Grove Police Department operations and a working knowledge of what law enforcement is all about.



The Academy will run from March 23, 2021, to May 25, 2021. Classes are held every Tuesday and are approximately two hours in duration. The classes will be held at the Morton Grove Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue) from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Classes are normally limited to twenty students, but COVID restrictions may force us to further limit attendance. Please register early! Applications can be found at mortongroveil.org. There is no cost for residents to participate.

February is National Restaurant Month

WIN 1 OF 10 \$25 GIFT CARDS

Dine-In, Take-Out & Delivery

ALL ARE ELIGIBLE!

2020 was an incredibly difficult year for local restaurants, which is why it's more important than ever to show your support. Be sure to celebrate National Restaurant Month this February. Submit your photo entry online or bring your Morton Grove restaurant dining receipts, dated in February 2021, to Village Hall by **March 3, 2021**. Each group of receipts or individual receipt for \$25 will be considered an entry. The \$25 per entry requirement does not apply to qualified photo entries of you and your friends enjoying Morton Grove's restaurants, so upload early and often!

Visit Village Hall or www.mortongroveil.org/dinemg to submit photos

Winning entries will be drawn at the March 8, 2021, Village Board meeting. Maximum one (1) winner per household.



Check out a list of Morton Grove restaurants at mortongroveil.org/restaurants



Morton Grove Welcomes New Food Scrap Program

Beginning December 1, 2020, the Village of Morton Grove entered into an agreement with Collective Resource Inc. of Evanston, Illinois, to support a new food scrap collection program. This program provides residents with an option for the curbside collection of food scraps, which will be composted at a commercial facility.

Why Compost?

Composting reduces the volume of waste that is sent to the landfills and retains nutrients for future reuse. Fewer food scraps sitting in a landfill means that less methane gas is created and precious space is not being used for food waste. Composting also returns the vitamins and minerals found in food scraps back to the Earth to promote healthy soil. Using nutrient-rich soil reduces the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides in agriculture.

Learn More & Sign Up

- See the table below for information on what you can and cannot put in your compost pile.
- Learn more and sign up at collectiveresource.us.



Acceptable Items

Food Products

- Bones
- Breads & baked goods
- Candy
- Cereal
- Coffee grounds
- Dairy products
- Egg shells
- Fish/seafood
- Fried food
- Fruits
- Meats
- Grain products
- Spices/herbs
- Sugars/syrups
- Tea/tea bags (no staples)
- Vegetables

Paper Products

- Blue masking tape
- Coffee filters
- Egg cartons
- Food-soiled paper
- Gift bags
- Gift wrap
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Newspaper
- Paper food packaging
- Sugar/salt/pepper packets
- Tea bags
- Waxed paper
- Wood products/Sawdust

Other

- BPI-certified compostable bags
- BPI-certified compostable products
- Cold ashes from fireplace/grill
- Cellulose sponges
- Compostable kitchenware (ASTM D-6400 certified)
- Holiday wreaths
- Cotton balls
- 100% cotton clothing
- Dryer lint
- Fur/hair
- Houseplant scraps
- Nail clippings
- PLA Natureworks items

Not Acceptable Items

- Berry containers
- Candles
- Candy wrappers
- Cat litter
- Christmas trees
- Cigarettes & cigars
- Construction materials
- Dead animals
- Feces
- Gum
- Juice boxes & foil-lined containers
- Liquids
- Plastic bags
- Rubber
- Soap
- Soil & fertilizers
- Swiffer dusters
- Synthetic clothing
- Wax & waxed cardboard cartons



2,310 trees
trimmed in the public parkway



100 fire hydrants
painted



66

water main breaks
repaired by the Water Division



1,800 tons
of leaves removed
from Village streets

580 tons

of hot mix asphalt used to
restore roadway pavement



296 signs
repaired or replaced

131

light poles painted





Morton Grove Continues its Commitment to Sustainability

The Village of Morton Grove is committed to effective and innovative practices that reduce the environmental impact of how we live, work, commute, and play. The Village integrates sustainability in all aspects of public services and is working with the community to prepare for a resilient future.



In 2020, Morton Grove established the Environment and Natural Resources Commission to guide and promote the conservation and improvement of the community's environment and natural resources.



In 2020, Morton Grove partnered with Collective Resource to provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to participate in year-round food scrap composting. The program supplements the existing landscape waste and food scrap cart program offered through Groot, which is available from March 15 through December 15.



Morton Grove celebrated its 20th year as a Tree City USA. To qualify as a Tree City USA community, a municipality must meet certain standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. The Village continues to invest in its tree canopy, with 206 new trees planted in the public parkways in 2020.



Engineering is underway for the Oakton Street and Caldwell Avenue sidewalk connectivity project, which will include a new multi-use path to promote active transportation. In addition to \$1.76 million in funding awarded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program, Morton Grove was awarded an additional \$267,000 for construction costs through the 2020 Invest in Cook Program.



In 2020, the Village renewed its electric aggregation program as a Green Electric Aggregation Program. Supplier MC Squared will purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, to offset 50% of the Village's electric aggregation usage.



Morton Grove worked closely with Pace Suburban Bus to finalize plans for the implementation of a new Pulse rapid transit line along Dempster Street between Evanston and O'Hare International Airport, which will connect to other Pace, Metra, and CTA transit routes. Five rapid transit stations are currently proposed within Village limits.

MORTON GROVE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In 2020, the newly established Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) got to work with Village staff on Morton Grove's first Sustainability Plan. The Plan is intended to guide the Village's efforts toward creating a more sustainable community and region from 2020 to 2030. The Plan is aligned with the Greenest Region Compact ("GRC") developed by the Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which presents consensus goals for environmental stewardship so local municipalities are coordinated and can make positive impacts on a larger scale.

The Plan is currently in final draft form and can be reviewed on the Village website's ENRC page at mortongroveil.org/environmentnaturalresources.



Be Smart About Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It is produced when any fossil fuel, including natural gas, is burned. When fossil fuels do not burn properly, CO can build up and cause sickness and even death. Keep yourself and your family safe this winter by keeping interior and exterior air vents clear of blockages and obstructions. Also, test smoke and CO alarms at least once a month and be familiar with the sounds they make. Read more at bit.ly/mg-carbon.

Planning to Remodel in 2021?

If you are planning to renovate your home or business in 2021, the Building and Public Works Departments suggest that you contact the Village early in the process. Village staff can help you understand whether the planned improvements are allowed and which requirements will apply. The Village cannot design a project for you, but staff can provide basic direction before you begin talking to architects, engineers, and contractors. Preliminary review is likely to save you money by avoiding redesign work or unexpected construction costs. Understanding what your project entails will allow you to establish a more realistic overall budget.

When planning a construction project, it is especially easy to overlook the condition of underground infrastructure serving a home or business. Water and sewer line replacements are becoming more common with improvements of all sizes due to the condition of existing service infrastructure. This work can add thousands of dollars to the cost of a project. Determining if you need to replace water and sewer lines will help you make well-informed decisions as you develop your project.



MORTON GROVE PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

February

- 1 Appearance Commission 7:00PM
- 2 Environment & Natural Resources Commission 6:00PM
- 4 Traffic Safety Commission 7:00PM
- 8 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM
- 9 Advisory Commission on Aging 1:00PM
- 9 Community Relations Commission 6:30PM
- 15 Zoning Board of Appeals & Plan Commission 7:00PM
- 22 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM
- 22 Fire & Police Commission 1:00PM

March

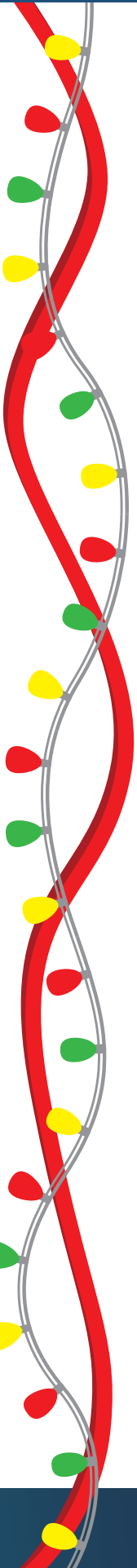
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- 4 Traffic Safety Commission 7:00PM
- 8 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM
- 9 Advisory Commission on Aging 1:00PM
- 9 Community Relations Commission 6:30PM
- 15 Zoning Board of Appeals & Plan Commission 7:00PM
- 16 Special Events Commission 6:30PM
- 22 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM
- 22 Fire & Police Commission 1:00PM

April

- 1 Traffic Safety Commission 7:00PM
- 5 Appearance Commission 7:00PM
- 6 Environment & Natural Resources Commission 6:00PM
- 12 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM
- 13 Advisory Commission on Aging 1:00PM
- 13 Community Relations Commission 6:30PM
- 19 Zoning Board of Appeals & Plan Commission 7:00PM
- 22 Fire & Police Commission 1:00PM
- 26 Village Board Meeting 7:00PM

2020 Adopt-A-Planter Program a Success

Thanks to all the residents, businesses, and organizations who participated in the 2020 Adopt-A-Planter Program. You helped keep Morton Grove beautiful and festive this winter.





Public Library Offers Senior Activity Kits

Stay busy and keep your brains active with activity kits from the Morton Grove Public Library. Available on the first of each month, starting February 2021, these kits will have fun and creative activities for seniors along with informational materials. Senior Activity Kits are available (while supplies last) by request through curbside pickup. Questions can be directed to info@mgpl.org or calling 847-965-4220.



Friendly Voice Program



Sometimes, just hearing a friendly voice on the other end of the line can help in challenging times. Trained AARP Friendly Voice volunteers can provide a call to a local senior to say hello and chat.

To Request a Call:

Dial 1-888-281-0145

and leave your name and callback number.

A volunteer will call you back. The caller ID will say "800 Service".

Stay Safe in the New Year

With the ongoing pandemic, the Village would like to remind residents to keep following COVID-19 guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

Follow the 3 Ws:

WASH YOUR HANDS

WEAR A MASK

WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our neighbors and loved ones safe in the new year.

Crisis Resources for Coping with COVID

Illinois Call4Calm Text Line (24/7): If you or a loved one are struggling with stress related to the pandemic and need emotional support, text TALK to 552020 for English or HABLAR for Spanish. People seeking assistance remain anonymous and provide only their first name and ZIP code.

Illinois Warm Line: If you or a family member has mental health or substance use challenges and would like to receive support by phone, call 866-359-7953. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays.

Illinois CARES Line (24/7): If your child is a risk to themselves or others, having a mental health crisis, or if you would like a referral to services for youth and families, call the 24-hour Crisis and Referral Entry Services (CARES) line to talk to a mental health professional. Call: 800-345-9049; TTY: 773-523-4504.

Turning Point Crisis Support Line: 1-800-953-0051/dial "0" Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Strategies for responding to challenging behaviors, tips for self-regulation and self-care, referrals and resources for ongoing mental health support. Ask to speak to a crisis worker.

Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances (24/7): If you or someone you know is suffering from an opioid or other substance use disorders, call 833-2FINDHELP to speak with a trained professional for support and advice or to be directed to customized resources or visit www.HelplineIL.org.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline (24/7): If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis, call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255). Staff will connect you with the closest possible crisis center.

The Exchange

www.mortongroveil.org

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



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

24-Hour Municipal Hotline
847-663-6161

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 Gear | Rita Minx | Ed Ramos

John Thill | Connie Travis | Janine Witko

Village Administrator

Ralph E. Czerwinski

Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

Remember to Clear the Way!

The Public Works Department will send out snow removal crews to plow Village streets after snowfall events. Please be mindful of SNOW ROUTE signs to avoid tickets and tows. Businesses must clear public sidewalks in front of their properties for accessibility purposes, and residents are also encouraged to do so.

Remember that depositing snow onto cleared streets and public walkways is prohibited in the Village, as this can create traffic hazards and block the flow of water into storm sewers. Also remember to clear snow around fire hydrants to make them accessible in case of emergencies.

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

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 911 immediately.**

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: _____
