



## *A Message from* **Mayor DiMaria**

I am thrilled to report that 2024 was filled with accomplishments for Morton Grove. In December 2024, the Village purchased the Fifth Third Bank building at 6201

Dempster for future use as a combined village hall and police station, fulfilling a key goal of our 2023 Strategic Plan. Design is underway and renovations are expected to begin in 2026 once Fifth Third relocates to its new building at 6210 Dempster.

We are excitedly anticipating the completion of the new Morton Grove Metra station, which is expected to be finished by Fall 2025. This legacy project will transform the transit-oriented district and boost transit ridership, complementing the new Dempster Pulse line. In October 2024, the Village celebrated the completion of the adjacent Gateway Plaza, which features a pollinator garden and commemorative items from the community.

Private investment continues to flood into Morton Grove, with major projects under construction and planned for 2025. Lexington Homes' townhome development, Metro on Main, is taking shape just steps from the Metra station. Napleton Honda will finish its new dealership at Waukegan and Dempster in Q1 2025.

We have made great strides, but we continue to work toward an even brighter future. The Village is excited to begin the



*Rendering of Future Morton Grove Metra Station*

development of a long-term plan for the Dempster Street corridor in conjunction with an update to the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Keep an eye out for opportunities to share your input this year.

Most importantly, this past year has been filled with memorable events and programs that have brought us closer together as a community. Morton Grove Days 2024 was one for the books and our fourth Sustainability Expo was bigger and better than ever. Thank you to all the volunteers who bring these events to life.

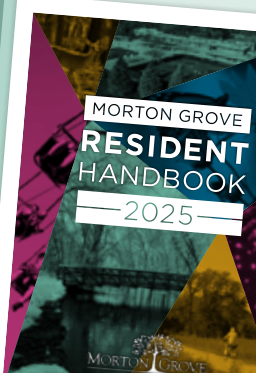
2024 was an exciting year, and this year promises even more to look forward to. As I have announced my decision not to seek reelection this year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Village Board, board and commission members, staff, residents, and businesses for their support and partnership during my years of service. Their ongoing contributions to our community give me confidence that we will continue our legacy of progress. I am so proud of all we have achieved together.



**Your Mayor, Dan DiMaria**

## 2025 Resident Handbook

Be sure to check out the 2025 Morton Grove Resident Handbook, a comprehensive and easy-to-use guide to Village operations, services, regulations, amenities, and resources. The Handbook is designed to be a helpful resource for newcomers and long-time residents. Hard copies are available at Village Hall and a digital Handbook is available at [mortongroveil.org/new-resident-information](https://mortongroveil.org/new-resident-information).



## Neighborhood Outreach Meeting

**Thursday, February 27  
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 IN REVIEW**

# 2024

IN REVIEW

As we welcome 2025, we're also looking back on the achievements of 2024. See the **2024 IN REVIEW** highlights throughout this newsletter.

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## Economic Development Updates

2024 IN REVIEW

### 29 businesses

located, relocated, expanded, or changed ownership in 2024

### \$43.1 million

total value of 2024 permitted construction



### 1,500+

building permits issued

### 9,640 employees

employed by Morton Grove businesses in 2024

### \$597,389,748

in retail sales in 2024



### \$450,000 in grants

secured for long-term planning & infrastructure investment

### 13.6% increase

in home price in 2024 (Redfin)



### 122,616 square feet

new or remodeled commercial & industrial space entitled

## Investing in Morton Grove

### 2024 Project Progress



### Napleton Honda

6900 Dempster Street

Napleton Honda is on-schedule to complete its new 40,000-square-foot dealership in 2025.



### Metro on Main by Lexington

8350 Lehigh Avenue

Construction of Lexington Homes' 89-unit townhome development will be complete in 2025. The model homes and sales center are now open. The developer reports that more than half of the units were pre-sold in 2024. Learn more at [www.lexingtonchicago.com](http://www.lexingtonchicago.com).

### Joe Donut Mixed-Use Project

6724 Dempster Street

In 2024, the Village approved a mixed-use development with ground-floor retail and restaurant spaces including a new location for the popular Joe Donut cafe. The project is currently in permitting and construction is expected to begin in Spring 2025.



### Fifth Third Bank

6210 Dempster Street

Fifth Third Bank purchased the property at 6210 Dempster in December 2024 and is obtaining permits for construction of its new bank branch at the site in 2025. Fifth Third will remain operational under a Village lease at 6201 Dempster, the future site of the Morton Grove Village Hall and Police Station.



### 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 2025.



### Ponto Collection

Shermer & Ponto

Varda & Company continues its construction of the six-unit single-family development, with two homes completed in 2024. All homes will be completed by the end of 2025. Learn more at [www.thepontocollection.com](http://www.thepontocollection.com).

For more project information, visit [mortongroveil.org/business-development](http://mortongroveil.org/business-development).

## Sustainability Updates



### Metra Station Coming Summer 2025

Construction of the new Morton Grove Metra station began in October 2024 and is expected to be completed by Fall 2025. The Village partnered with the Regional Transit Authority and Metra to replace the current station, which was built in 1976. The new Craftsman-style station is being constructed by Efraim Carlson Construction, a fourth generation family-owned contractor firm.

The project includes the construction of a new station immediately north of the existing station and reconstruction of the parking lot to improve 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.

During construction, Metra service will continue using the existing station and platform. The existing station will be demolished once the new station building is operational. Parking at the Metra station will be reduced during the project, but the Village is providing approximately 50 new commuter parking spaces along Main Street and Nagle Avenue.

Metra is contributing \$300,000 toward the \$4 million project, with the balance being paid from the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District. Staff has also applied for grant assistance from the State of Illinois. The enhanced station will be a focal point for the Village's transit-oriented district, promote transit ridership, and improve the face of the community for residents and visitors.



### Village Celebrates Fourth Sustainability Expo

The Environment and Natural Resources Commission (ENRC) and Village hosted the fourth annual Sustainability Expo at the Civic Center on September 14, 2024. The event featured 35 exhibitors, live music, kids activities, and Mobile DMV services from the Secretary of State. This annual event exhibits green businesses and organizations and offers a one-stop drop-off for various recyclable and reusable items. Visitors learn about energy-saving products and greener everyday living. Learn more at [mortongroveil.org/enrc](http://mortongroveil.org/enrc).

## GREEN IN 2024

**220 trees**   
planted in the parkway in 2024

 **23<sup>rd</sup> year**  
of Tree City USA designation

 **131,159 lbs.**  
collected for compost by WasteNot in 2024,  
equivalent to **130,056 miles**  
**not driven** based on carbon equivalency

**102 households**   
participated in WasteNot's food  
scrap collection program in 2024

**4.1**  **tons of pumpkins**  
composted in the 2024 Pumpkin Smash

 **312 homes**  
with solar panels installed as of Q4 2024

**30 minutes**   
to O'Hare using the Dempster Pulse line

 **15,762 lbs.**  
of electronics recycled at the 2024 Village  
and SWANCC recycling event

## Winter 2025 Updates

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### 2025 Village Hall Closures

*May not reflect actual holiday dates.*

|                               |                                               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Memorial Day</b> .....     | Monday, May 26                                |
| <b>Independence Day</b> ..... | Friday, July 4                                |
| <b>Labor Day</b> .....        | Monday, September 1                           |
| <b>Veterans Day</b> .....     | Tuesday, November 11                          |
| <b>Thanksgiving</b> .....     | Thursday, November 27 -<br>Friday November 28 |
| <b>Christmas</b> .....        | Thursday, December 25                         |

### Public Meetings

Visit [www.mortongroveil.org/events](http://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 the following months at 7:00 p.m.  
February, April, June, August, October, December

**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.

Interested in serving on a board or commission? Visit [www.mortongroveil.org/village-committees-and-commissions](http://www.mortongroveil.org/village-committees-and-commissions). For additional information, call 847-470-5220.



### Village Purchases Fifth Third Bank Building for Future Village Hall & Police Station

In December 2024, the Village closed on the purchase of property at 6201 Dempster Street for future use as a combined village hall and police station. The 1.67-acre property was formerly owned and is currently used by Fifth Third Bank as a bank branch. On the same day, Fifth Third finalized its purchase of vacant Village-owned property at 6210 Dempster Street, just across the street. Fifth Third Bank plans to construct a new 2,800-square-foot bank building on the 0.65-acre site this year. Fifth Third will remain operational

at 6201 Dempster Street under a lease from the Village until its new building at 6210 Dempster Street is completed. The Village will then begin its renovation and expansion of the 26,500-square-foot building at 6201 Dempster Street for its new municipal facility.

The Morton Grove Park District played a major role in the public-private real estate deal. Just days earlier, the Park District swapped the property at 6210 Dempster Street for a slightly larger parcel of Village-owned land just north of the Morton Grove Civic Center at 6140 Dempster Street. The Park District's newly acquired property will expand the Harrer Park footprint and bring the Morton Grove Historical Museum buildings under unified Park District ownership.

The Village Hall and Police Station project is a key component of the Village's 2023 Strategic Plan. Options for future use of the current Village Hall site at 6101 Capulina Avenue are being considered, but any decision by the Board is unlikely until 2026.

### Dempster Street Corridor Planning & Comprehensive Plan Update to Begin in 2025

In 2024, the Dempster Street Corridor Plan was approved for the Regional Transportation Authority's 2024 Community Planning program based on an application submitted by staff. The technical assistance to be received through the program is valued at \$200,000, and a consultant selection process is currently underway. The Plan will re-envision the Dempster corridor and provide a cohesive vision that connects transit, expands retail and employment-generating development, and identifies opportunities for new

housing. The Plan will help attract investment and redevelopment, obtain infrastructure grant dollars, and better manage parking.

Planning efforts will begin in early 2025. The Village is excited to develop a long-range plan for the Dempster corridor in support of the Strategic Plan and in conjunction with an update by staff to the Village's 1999 Comprehensive Plan. Keep an eye out for upcoming engagement opportunities. Your input is valuable to shaping the vision for Dempster Street and Morton Grove.



Community Celebrates  
New Gateway Plaza

In October 2024, the Village held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the long-awaited completion of Gateway Plaza at Ferris and Lincoln Avenues. The Plaza is a new green space that includes pedestrian areas, bicycle parking racks, landscape planting beds, and commemorative bricks and benches generously donated by the community. Formerly grassed open space, the 10,000-square-foot Village-owned public plaza complements the Metra Station reconstruction project and helps improve the image of the community for commuters, visitors, and residents.

The Plaza's landscape beds feature native and pollinator plants and, notably, the American Beauty Rose, which was exhibited by the Poehlmann Brothers of Morton Grove at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis and received first place. The Poehlmann Brothers' greenhouses were known for their cultivation of rare flowers. The Village plans to install educational signage at the Plaza this year.

50/50 Tree Planting  
Program Open for 2025

The Village's 50/50 Tree Planting Program is accepting applications for 2025. 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, 2025. To learn more and apply, visit [mortongroveil.org/50-50-tree-planting-program-for-2025](http://mortongroveil.org/50-50-tree-planting-program-for-2025).

Major Infrastructure  
Projects Move Forward

In 2024, the Public Works Department worked with partnering agencies on a variety of projects to improve the reliability and quality of critical public infrastructure. Projects included:

*In conjunction with the Morton Grove - Niles Water Commission, the Village **lined the 20-inch water main** that provides water to the Village's west side.*

*In partnership with Skokie and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Village began the construction of roadway, signal, and underground **infrastructure improvements to Austin and Oakton**, which are planned to be completed in 2025.*

*The Village **replaced water main and improved sidewalks** on Cameron Lane from Church Street to Beckwith Road.*

*The Village supported IDOT in its repair of the **Dempster Street bridge** over I-94, which is completed, and replacement of the **Oakton Street bridge**, which is planned to be completed in 2025.*

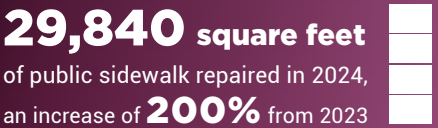
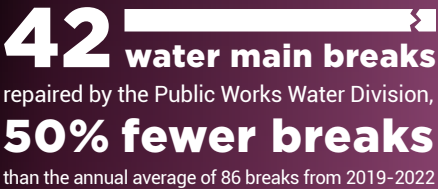
*The Village began a comprehensive **street pavement condition evaluation**, which will inform a capital improvement plan.*

*The Village supported the completion of **Oakton multi-use path improvements**.*



Water Main Lining

2024 IN REVIEW



Your Utility Contacts

| UTILITY     | PROVIDER        | WEB                                            | PHONE        |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cable TV    | Comcast/Xfinity | <a href="http://xfinity.com">xfinity.com</a>   | 800-934-6489 |
| Electricity | ComEd           | <a href="http://comed.com">comed.com</a>       | 800-334-7661 |
| Natural Gas | NICOR           | <a href="http://nicorgas.com">nicorgas.com</a> | 888-642-6748 |
| Garbage     | Groot           | <a href="http://groot.com">groot.com</a>       | 847-734-6400 |

If you experience interruptions in these services, alerting the provider directly may result in the quickest resolution. If any condition threatens safety, dial 9-1-1 immediately.

## Public Safety Updates

### 2024 IN REVIEW

**3<sup>rd</sup> place**

in the Champion Class for the 2023-24 Traffic Safety Challenge (Illinois Assoc. of Chiefs of Police)



**1,300+** attendees  
at the 2024 National Night Out



**20,073 hours**  
of Fire Department training for firefighters

**4 minutes, 56 seconds**

average Fire Department  
response time in 2024



**4,334 calls for service**

to the Fire Department January - December 2024



### Morton Grove Police Department Offers Gun Safety Resources & Locks

The Morton Grove Police Department actively promotes gun safety and offers free gun locks and educational brochures to Morton Grove residents. Visit the Police Department's front window at 6101 Capulina Avenue to request a free gun lock 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](http://mortongroveil.org/police-department/gun-locks).

### Fire Safety Services

To learn more about the following fire safety services offered by the Fire Department, call 847-470-5226.

**Home Fire Safety Checklist:** The Fire Department provides a safety checklist at the end of the 2025 Resident Handbook to help residents make a safety check of their home.

**Fire Safety Inspections:** Upon request, the Fire Department will assist residents in their efforts to provide a fire-safe environment in and around their home by conducting a fire safety inspection.

**Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention:** This instructional intervention program is available for parents and children with concerns about youth curiosity with fire.

**Public Education Services:** Fire Department presenters are available at no cost to discuss fire service and emergency medical issues with community groups and organizations.

### 2024 Fire Department Open House

In October 2024, the Fire Department held another successful Open House at Fire Station #4. Over 400 visitors attended the annual event, which offers activities and demonstrations for children of all ages. Children enjoyed sitting in Fire Department vehicles, spraying a fire hose, sliding down a fire pole, trying out firefighter gear, watching fire demonstrations, and learning about fire safety. With food truck vendors, giveaways, kids activities, and dogs available for adoption from Wright-Way Rescue, this is a fun and educational event for residents of all ages.



### MORTON GROVE CITIZENS POLICE & FIRE ACADEMY



### Join the Morton Grove Citizens Police & Fire Academy

The Police and Fire Departments are seeking participants for the 2025 Citizens Police and Fire 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 and Fire Department operations and a working knowledge of law enforcement and firefighting.

The 2025 Academy will run from March 19 to May 21, 2025. 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. Classes are limited to 20 students, so register early. There is no cost 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](mailto:jjurasz@mortongroveil.org)) or Officer Lang ([slang@mortongroveil.org](mailto:slang@mortongroveil.org)) at 847-663-3804. You can also visit [mortongroveil.org/citizens-police-and-fire-academy](http://mortongroveil.org/citizens-police-and-fire-academy) to learn more.

## Administration Updates



### Morton Grove Thanks Former Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski

After over a half century of public service and nine years serving as Morton Grove's Village Administrator, Ralph Czerwinski retired from the Village in June 2024. To honor his contributions, at the June 25, 2024, Village Board meeting, Mayor DiMaria unveiled the honorary Ralph E. Czerwinski Way, which abuts Village Hall along Capulina Avenue between Austin Avenue and School Street.

Ralph's steadfast leadership was instrumental in numerous accomplishments over the past decade, including Sawmill Station, Moretti's, the Morton Grove - Niles Water Commission, and the acquisition of the Fifth Third Bank building for the Village's future village hall and police station. Ralph left the Village poised for continued success. The Village congratulates Ralph on his well-earned retirement and thanks him for his many contributions and outstanding service to the Morton Grove community.

### Village Welcomes New Village Administrator

In May 2024, the Village welcomed Charles "Chuck" Meyer as Morton Grove's new Village Administrator. Chuck came to Morton Grove from the Village of Lincolnwood, where he worked for eleven years and served as the Assistant Village Manager for the last five years. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University.

In his first six months in Morton Grove, Chuck successfully negotiated a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighters Association of Morton Grove, prepared a balanced budget for 2025, and led acquisition of the Fifth Third Bank building for the Village's future combined village hall and police station facility. The Village looks forward to many more achievements under his leadership of staff.



From left, Chief of Police Mike Weitzel and Fire Chief Dennis Kennedy

### Village Welcomes New Chief of Police & Fire Chief

At the December 10, 2024, Village Board meeting, Deputy Chief Mike Weitzel was sworn in as the Village's new Chief of Police. Chief Weitzel has worked for the Morton Grove Police Department since 2000 in several positions, including Patrol Officer, Sergeant, Watch Commander, and Deputy Chief of Patrol Operations. Prior to joining the Village, Chief Weitzel served as a Specialist in the United States Army Reserves. He has an MBA from the University of Southern Indiana, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice leadership from Loyola University, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Class #282.

On January 14, 2025, the Village Board confirmed the appointment of District Chief Dennis Kennedy as the next Fire Chief of the Morton Grove Fire Department. Mayor DiMaria chose Kennedy based on his outstanding qualifications, breadth of administrative and practical experience, and commitment to maintaining the Department's legacy of achievement. Chief Kennedy joined the Morton Grove Fire Department as a fire medic in 2004 and has since filled nearly every position in the organization.

The Village looks forward to the continued success of the Police Department and Fire Department under the strong and capable leadership of Chief Weitzel and Chief Kennedy.

### Where do your tax dollars go?



|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| ■ 34.9% | Elementary School District     |
| ■ 32.1% | High School District           |
| ■ 12.1% | Village of Morton Grove        |
| ■ 5.5%  | Morton Grove Park District     |
| ■ 5.2%  | Cook County                    |
| ■ 3.7%  | Morton Grove Public Library    |
| ■ 3.6%  | Metropolitan Water Reclamation |
| ■ 2.9%  | Other                          |

Based on sample 2023 Morton Grove tax bill for residential property at Capulina & School

# The Exchange

[www.mortongroveil.org](http://www.mortongroveil.org)

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

## 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 Services**  
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

Charles L. Meyer

### Village Attorney

Teresa Hoffman Liston



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

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## 2024 Winter Adopt-A-Planter Program

Thanks to all the residents, businesses, and organizations that participated in the 2024 Winter Adopt-A-Planter Program. You helped keep Morton Grove beautiful and festive this season.



## Stay Connected!



Village of Morton Grove



@villageofmortongrove



@MortonGrovelLyt



[www.mortongroveil.org](http://www.mortongroveil.org)



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