



# THE Spokesman

a newsletter from the City to Park Ridge residents

[www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us)

APRIL 2011 • VOL 38 NO. 2

## Heritage center envisioned



## IANNELLI STUDIOS HERITAGE CENTER

The Kalo Foundation has passed the \$80,000 mark toward raising \$400,000 by July 4 to receive an additional \$200,000, \$1 in matching funds from an anonymous donor for each \$2 given. If every person in Park Ridge would contribute just \$10, Kalo would more than reach this first goal toward saving the Iannelli Studios at 255 N. Northwest Hwy. for future generations, said Kalo President Betsy Foxwell.

Landmarks Illinois—the state's leading voice for historic preservation—just awarded the Foundation a grant to help defray the costs of preparing the master plan for the Iannelli Studios Heritage Center. This assistance enables Kalo to obtain the professional services of a preservation architect, John Garrett Thorpe of Oak Park, who was key to saving the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio there.

The Iannelli Studios Heritage Center will create a vibrant educational and visitor destination showcasing the Park Ridge Arts Colony.

Programs will include permanent and traveling gallery exhibits, seminars and classes on the Iannellis and the Kalo Shop, photography, painting and drawing, sculpture and printing, silversmithing and more.

The Visitor's Center will offer community and business information, architectural and cultural tours and an art sales shop. The Iannelli Studios Heritage Center will honor the cultural legacy of Park Ridge and foster the success of local business.

Contribute or learn more on its website, <http://kalofoundation.org>, or call 847/692-4297. ▲

## Manager presents 2011/12 budget

City Manager Jim Hock proposed a budget in January for Fiscal Year 2011/12 that focuses strongly on core services. The capital budget includes only grant funded programs plus the match. Extra attention was given to

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## Vehicle stickers go on sale

Vehicle stickers and animal licenses for 2011-12 must be purchased by Tuesday, June 15. Preprinted applications, which can be returned by mail, are scheduled to be mailed to all residents who currently have a vehicle sticker on April 15.

This year's sticker features the City Seal. Revenue from vehicle sticker sales is used for street maintenance.

An additional form will be included with the applications for the purchase of a cultural arts decal at a cost of \$10.

The funds collected from the sale of the decals will provide financial support of cultural arts organizations in Park Ridge.



The vehicle stickers will be on sale at City Hall beginning April 18 during regular hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended hours are being offered in June. Blank vehicle and animal license applications will be available at City Hall. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted when payments are made in person.

The license fee for a passenger vehicle is \$45; for RVs and trucks up to 8,000 lbs is \$60; and for motorcycles, \$30. A penalty fee of \$15 will be charged if a vehicle sticker is purchased after June 15. The penalty increases to \$35 after September 15. A \$70 citation for failure to purchase and display a current vehicle sticker will be issued by the police department.

The fee for dog and cat licenses is \$10.

City Hall will be open Saturday, June 11, 9 a.m. until noon, for vehicle sticker, animal license, and decal sales, and for extended hours on Wednesday, June 15, from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. ▲

# Community group funding . . . .

Over the past few weeks, some aldermen and commentators in the local newspapers have challenged my position that the City should discontinue taxpayer funding of community groups. Some say that I am disregarding the will of the people of Park Ridge by advocating a leaner government, claiming it is no more than "meaner" government. Those who promote community group funding rely heavily on a supposed budget surplus in the current fiscal year as evidence that I have overstated the financial danger we face and that there is plenty of money to distribute to the groups. However, those commentators have seriously misread the actual financial picture. The situation remains precarious.

It is essential for residents to understand that the City's day-to-day operations are paid through the City's "General Fund." For the three years prior to the current fiscal year, the General Fund ran a cumulative operating deficit of \$8 million! \$8 million! Those operating deficits have depleted our net General Fund reserves, our City's savings account, to a mere one-third of the minimum recommended for municipalities our size. That depletion, in turn, has forced the City to repeatedly borrow money from restricted funds just to make payroll and pay its bills.

In fact, the supposed current "surplus" is made up entirely of fund balances in various restricted funds, such as the Library Fund and the Sewer Fund, which legally cannot be used for anything other than library and sewer projects, and which cannot, repeat cannot, be used to pay for the City's day-to-day operations...or to fund



contributions to community groups. Moreover, the General Fund is actually projected to run yet another deficit of \$100-250,000 this year, further depleting our reserves. Although this year's deficit will indeed be smaller than the recent past, it by no means represents good news. We must remain fiscally vigilant while we navigate through these highly uncertain times.

And while we are on the subject of the budget, I remain dissatisfied with our budget process and hope the new Council which takes office in May will adopt a completely new approach to budgeting which involves a form of zero-based budgeting. It is not acceptable for governments to assume that a property tax increase is "normal" so that "business-as-usual" can be preserved. Instead, our City departments must be reassessed from top-to-bottom with an eye towards diminishing the cost and size of government so that we can reverse the strangling effect of annual tax increases. The new aldermen will need your support and "encouragement" in this endeavor. You should give it to them.

Sincerely,

David F. Schmidt, Mayor

## Centennial celebration concludes....

On April 19 we look to the end of our year-long celebration of the first 100 years of city life. On that day in 1910, villagers in Park Ridge voted to adopt the city form of local government, and elected our first mayor, Dr. Albert Buchheit, May 24.

The Steering Committee for the City Centennial has made two final plans for this historic year. A short Centennial history will be presented to all church pastors in Park Ridge, for inclusion in a church bulletin or newsletter. Fifty years ago, all local churches participated in a similar, coordinated announcement when the new official flag of the City of Park Ridge was unveiled.

Also, a map of the City marked to show the home street addresses of all 24 Park Ridge mayors will soon be on the City Centennial website, [www.citycentennial.wordpress.com](http://www.citycentennial.wordpress.com). Please enjoy the map as another opportunity to visit the good story of our local history.

It has been the goal of the Steering Committee throughout the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## City clerk's corner....

I trust you will remember to vote in our April 5 Municipal Election. Your polling places are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The new aldermen you select will begin serving their terms on Monday, May 2. At that City Council meeting, we will acknowledge the service of our outgoing aldermen and swear-in their successors. You are invited to be present along with their families and friends at this significant City Council meeting—7:30 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2011.

Thanks to the many citizens who responded to our call to give us your tattered American flags during the month of Presidents. The VFW /American Legion members will retire them all with dignity as flag tradition directs. If you forgot, we will collect again during June, here at City Hall. ▲

**The Spokesman**  
CITY OF PARK RIDGE  
505 BUTLER PLACE • PARK RIDGE, IL 60068  
(847) 318-5200 FAX: (847) 318-5300  
HOME PAGE: [www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us)

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| David F. Schmidt  | Mayor      |
| Betty W. Henneman | City Clerk |

**ALDERMEN**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Joseph F. Sweeney | First Ward   |
| Richard DiPietro  | Second Ward  |
| Donald Bach       | Third Ward   |
| James Allegretti  | Fourth Ward  |
| Robert Ryan       | Fifth Ward   |
| Thomas Carey      | Sixth Ward   |
| Frank Wsol        | Seventh Ward |

*The Spokesman is published six times a year by the City as a public information service for residents.*

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jim Hock        | City Manager |
| Aggie Stempniak | Editor       |

City Hall hrs: 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon–Fri  
City Council meetings:  
First and third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

# Manager presents

(continued from page 1)

fire and police pension funding as affected by new state law. Personnel costs including benefits underwent close scrutiny.

Funding for community groups was cut from the City Manager's proposed budget; however, a new cultural arts decal was created to gain support for the arts organizations. The decal may be purchased in conjunction with a vehicle license. Funding for a few of groups and summer brush pickup were reinstated by the Council.

A 5% increase in property taxes is included and increased ambulance fees will be in accord with neighboring communities.

Concerns were raised regarding state spending and funding and provisions made to rebuild the general fund balance.

Major revision of the City website was accomplished in 2010. The City now posts a video of all City Council, Committee of the Whole, and Budget meetings. The site has a citizen request component that permits residents to enter a request or concern and receive immediate verification of receipt and follow-up, generally within 48 hours.

Council approval of the budget in March allows for smooth transition to the new fiscal year, starting May 1.

The City Manager's Budget Message and budget detail, as well as videos of budget-related meetings, are posted on our website at [www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us). ▲

## Cool cities moves forward

Park Ridge Cool Cities volunteers are meeting on a regular basis to discuss ideas, suggestions and plans for making our city livable, sustainable, and for reducing our carbon footprint. Meetings are set for the second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., at the Public Works Service Center.

### Mission Statement

The City of Park Ridge is committed to providing excellence in City services in order to uphold a high quality of life, so our community remains a wonderful place to live and work.

The Cool Cities program is a generational project, meaning it welcomes all generations to participate and that all future generations will benefit from the work.

To indicate your interest in supporting the Cool Cities initiative, contact Joan Slezak Fritz at [jslezfr@yahoo.com](mailto:jslezfr@yahoo.com).

An article about Cool Cities appeared in the December 2010 *Spokesman*. ▲

## New tree trimmers

ComEd has notified the City of several changes to its contracted services relating to tree trimming and vegetation management activities.

The contractors who may be working in Park Ridge on behalf of ComEd are: Asplundh Tree Expert Company, ABC Professional Tree Service, Inc. and Davey Resource Group. ComEd's line clearance workers perform emergency and non-emergency tree pruning and vegetation management work. ▲

## Street resurfacing starts this month

A number of residential streets are being resurfaced throughout the city starting in mid-April through May and June. The resurfacing work is done in stages. After initial preparation of all streets in a designated area, crews come back to perform the next portion of work. About one million dollars is being invested.

Direct any questions on the resurfacing to the Engineering Division of Public Works at 847/318-5228.

The 2011 resurfacing list, alphabetically by street, is: Albion Ave., Washington to Canfield; Avondale Ave., Park Plaine Ave. to Dead End; Belle Plaine Ave., Western Ave. to Greenwood; Brophy, Peterson Ave. to Higgins; Clifton, Touhy to Cedar St.; Crescent Ave., Peterson Ave. to Higgins; Edgemont Ln, Michaeljohn Dr. to Washington Ave.; Elmore St., Elm St. to Touhy Ave.; Good Ave., Glenview Ave. to Busse; Greendale Ave., Beau to Cumberland; Greenwood, Elm to Busse; and Granville Ave. to Castle; Helen, Woodland Ave. to Glenview; Marlowe Ave., Home Ave. to

Dead End; Michaeljohn Dr. Elmore St. to Kathleen; Norman Blvd., Home Ave. to Dead End; Park Plaine Ave., Avondale Ave. to Virginia St.; Potter Rd., Busse Hwy to NW Hwy; Stewart Ave., Western to Greenwood Ave.; Tyrell Ave., Woodland Ave. to Glenview; Washington Ave., Elm St. to Touhy, Talcott Rd. to Devon, and Lahon to Cuttriss St.; Wesley Dr., Oakton St. to Virginia St.; Western Ave., Northwest Hwy to Oakton; and Wilkinson Pkwy, Busse Hwy to NW Hwy. ▲

## Police officer, firefighter honored

A Park Ridge police officer and a firefighter were honored in March at the annual awards program sponsored by the Park Ridge VFW Post 3579.

Officer Matthew McGannon was nominated as Police Officer of the Year for extensive community oriented police initiatives over the course of 2010. This included establishing working relationships with Lutheran General Hospital, Cook County Sheriff's Police, Maine Township Hall, and Glenview Senior Center, as well as implementing the Senior Breakfast program.

Firefighter/Paramedic Frank Villari was selected as Firefighter of the Year for his leadership and dedication regarding two specific incidents during 2010. This included superior lifesaving efforts on April 20, and when he responded on July 24 as the Dive Master when he was deployed to Westchester and Hillside to provide assistance in removing life safety hazards and mitigating other emergencies resulting from significant flash flooding.

Selections were made by a committee of peers from their respective departments. ▲



Judith Penzel

Officer Matthew McGannon (left) and Firefighter/Paramedic Frank Villari received awards.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

### Healthy Living Month

See [www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us) for list of related events

### 6 Wednesday

**SBD Productions; 7:30 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium Area

### 7 Thursday

**Career Success in a Facebook World; 7 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 8 Friday

**Event honoring Mary Schurder; 6 p.m.**

Center of Concern @ PR Country Club

**Mega Movie Pajama Night; 6 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Maine Park Leisure Center

### 9 Saturday

**Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast; 7:30 a.m.**

@ PR Country Club

**Bunnytime Brunch; 10 a.m.**

PR Park District @ Maine Park Leisure Center

**Gen'l Mtg, Lunch & Program; 11:30 a.m.**

21st Star Chapter NSDAR @ PR Country Club

**You Asked for it!; 7 p.m.**

PR Chorale @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church

### 10 Sunday

**Ward Miller "Preservation Snapshot"; 2 p.m.**

PR Historical Society @ Non-Profit Center

**SPEEDY film screening; 6:30 p.m.**

@ Pickwick Theatre

### 14 Thursday

**Crafting Clay Garden Markers; 7 p.m.**

Garden Club @ Senior Center

### 14 Thursday – 15 Friday

**Rummage Sale; 9 a.m.**

@ PR Presbyterian Church

### 15 Friday

**Jazz Dinner Dance; 6 p.m.**

Maine South H.S. Student Caf 

### 15 Friday – 16 Saturday

**Annual Ice Show; 7 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Oakton Ice Arena

**Maine East Orchestration Dance Concert; 7:30 p.m.**

@ Auditorium

### 16 Saturday

**Newcomer's Spring Kids Sale; 9:30 a.m.**

@ St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

**Art Institute Trip; 10 a.m.**

PR Park District—departs from Maine Park

**Annual Ice Show; 1:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Oakton Ice Arena

### 17 Sunday

**American Red Cross Blood Drive; 8 a.m.**

@ St. Paul of the Cross Church

**Extravaganza VI; 11:30 a.m.**

Embers Elementary @ Allgauer's, Northbrook

**Annual Ice Show; 1:30 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Oakton Ice Arena

### 18 Monday

**Maine East / Gemini Jazz Band Concert; 7 p.m.**

@ M.E. High School Auditorium

### 19 Tuesday

**Senior Citizen's Breakfast Club; 9 a.m.**

Police Department @ Senior Center

**Mtg, Program & Paperback Sale; 1 p.m.**

20th Century Club/Foundation @ PR

Presbyterian Church

**Ladybug Fun; 6:30 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Wildwood Nature Center

### 21 Thursday

**Earth Day Work Day; 4 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Maine Park Leisure Center

### 23 Saturday

**Spring Skate; 1 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Oakton Ice Arena

### 26 Tuesday

**Sophomore College Planning Night; 7 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 26 Tuesday – 27 Wednesday

**Ice Cream Social; 6:30 p.m.**

Messiah Lutheran Church

### 27 Wednesday

**Around the World in an Afternoon, Annual**

**Benefit; noon**

20th Century Club/Fnd. @ PR Country Club

### 29 Friday

**Arbor Day program, 9 a.m.**

Roosevelt School, Prospect/Albion Aves.

### 29 Friday – 30 Saturday

**Once Upon a Mattress, Musical; 7:30 p.m.**

Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 30 Saturday

**3rd Annual Electronics Recycling Event; 9 a.m.**

Chamber of Commerce @ PW Service Center

**Earth Day; 11 a.m.**

PR Park District @ Maine Park

## May

### 1 Sunday

**Once Upon a Mattress, Musical; 2 p.m.**

Maine South H.S. Auditorium

**Lee Bey "Park Ridge Modern"; 2 p.m.**

PR Historical Society @ Summit of Uptown

### 6 Friday

**Scholarship Presentations; noon**

Panhellenic Club @ PR Country Club

**The Youth Campus 2011 Gala; 5:30 p.m.**

@ PR Country Club

### 6 Friday – 7 Saturday

**Once Upon a Mattress, Musical; 7:30 p.m.**

Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 7 Saturday

**Annual Pancake Breakfast; 7 a.m.**

KIWANIS (AM) @ PR Presbyterian Church

**Youth Mission Car Wash; 9 a.m.**

@ PR Presbyterian Church

**Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale; 9 a.m.**

@ PR Library

**Springtime Tea – Mommy & Me; 11:30 a.m.**

PR Park District @ Maine Park Leisure Center

### 8 Sunday

**Friends of the Library, Spring 1/2 price Book**

**Sale; noon @ PR Library**

### 10 Tuesday

**Maine East Creative Self-Expression Show;**

**6:30 p.m.**

@The Great Frame Up, 8305-1/2 Golf Rd., Niles

**Slithering Snakes; 6:30 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Wildwood Nature Center

### 10 Tuesday – 11 Wednesday

**Rock & Roll Guitar Concerts; 7:30 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 11 Wednesday

**Gen'l Mtg, Lunch & Program; 11:30 a.m.**

21st Star Chapter NSDAR @ PR Country Club

### 12 Thursday

**Butterflies & Garden Ponds; 7 p.m.**

Garden Club @ Senior Center

### 12 Thursday – 14 Saturday

**Maine East Spring Play; 7:30 p.m. @ Auditorium**

### 14 Saturday

**Plant Sale; 9 a.m.**

Garden Club @ Hodges Park

**Messiah's Annual Fun Fair , 11 a.m.**

@ Messiah Lutheran Church

### 17 Tuesday

**Senior Citizen's Breakfast Club; 9 a.m.**

Police Department @ Senior Center

**Lion's Club Free Hearing Tests; 10 a.m.**

Bus in Parking Lot adjacent to Library

**Des Plaines River Cleanup; 4 p.m.**

PR Park District @ Wildwood Nature Center

**Orchestra Concert; 7:30 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 18 Wednesday

**Maine East Choral Concert; 7:30 p.m.**

### 19 Thursday

**Maine East / Gemini Band-O-Rama; 7 p.m.**

@ High School Auditorium

**Choir Concert; 7:30 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

### 20 Friday

**Band Concert; 6 p.m.**

@ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

**Art League Demo; 7 p.m.**

South Park Recreation Center

### 23 Monday

**Maine East/District 63 Orchestra Concert; 7 p.m.**

@ High School Auditorium

### 30 Monday

**Memorial Day Parade; 9:30 a.m.**

Talcott/Cumberland to City Hall

## Projects begin

Spring construction projects include the Street Resurfacing Program and the Sewer Improvement Program (100% grant funded). Relief sewers are proposed on Prospect from Devon to Rosemont, and Grace from Frances to Granville. A sewer replacement is also planned on Glenview from Hamlin to Dee beginning in May.

The Water Main Replacement Project will begin later in the summer, as well as a Sewer Lining Program and a Pavement Striping Program.

A 2011 Capital Improvements Map is located on the City website at [www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us), referenced on the front page and part of the whole "Map" section. The map shows locations of proposed construction—street resurfacing, sewer construction, and water main construction. ▲

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Eagle finds home

Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano and two volunteers from his department helped move an American Eagle statue to District 64 Emerson Middle School. Principal Dr. Victoria Mogil accepted the statue. Kane Connell, Branch Manager of Liberty Bank in Park Ridge, arranged for the donation.

The statue was originally sponsored by Liberty Bank as part of the 2010 Promise of Park Ridge public art project and was displayed in Hodges Park in front of City Hall. The mascot for Emerson is the eagle. ▲

## Parent patrol volunteers sought

Volunteers are still needed to assist the police with its Parent Patrol throughout the year. The police and the Maine Community Youth Foundation (MCYAF) have partnered to address teen alcohol use. The Parent Patrol members ride with officers and are on call to help officers at underage drinking scenes.

Contact MCYAF at 847/858-7090 or the Police Department at 847/318-5252 for more information. ▲

## Youth basketball 3-on-3 tournament set

The City of Park Ridge Youth Commission and the Park Ridge Parks Foundation are hosting a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Grab two of your friends, male or female, and register your team. Games will be played in age specific categories—Youngest Category: Under 5 years Oldest Category: 18+ years. Adult teams are welcome and will play in 18+ year old category. A June date is anticipated.

For details on this event, go to: [www.prparksfoundation.com/3on3basketball.html](http://www.prparksfoundation.com/3on3basketball.html). ▲

## Opening day is May 28 for farmers market

Pick-up some fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables along with freshly baked breads, and sauces and cheeses. All of this and more wait for you every Saturday, May 28 through October 29, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Farmers

Market located on Prairie Avenue south of the Metra Station. ▲

## Mark your calendar for family walk

A Family Walk for three generations to enjoy is coming Saturday, June 18. The entire family will be treated to live music, historical and new sculpture docent lectures, historical architecture (Iannelli Studio, Pickwick, etc.), a stroll through Hodges Park Art Fair, and a live concert at the Community Church.

Keep cultural arts alive and vital in Park Ridge by coming out for this fund-raising event that supports the Cultural Arts Council, Civic Orchestra, Concerts in the Park, Brickton Art Center, Historical Society and the Kalo Foundation with its "Save Iannelli Studios campaign." Applications, maps and pledge cards will be issued in the near future...so get your groups and troops together now. Cost: \$10 for an individual; \$25 for a family. Sponsors are also needed. Email: [diddy@asterlingdesign.com](mailto:diddy@asterlingdesign.com) for more information. ▲

## Parking permits are available

City parking permits, valid for six months, may be purchased on a first come, first serve basis at the Cashier's Office in City Hall.

The permits are available for various City lots with prices ranging from \$175 to \$250 for a six-month time period. They will go on sale to the public for the June 1 through November 30, 2011, period on Monday, May 16, at 7:30 a.m. ▲

## Get a garage sale permit

A permit from the City is required for every garage sale. The permits are available online at the City website.

The permit must be displayed at the location of the sale while it is in progress. No more than three permits may be issued for the same location in any calendar year, and each is valid for no more than three consecutive days.

Display and sale of goods are permitted only between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ▲

## Healthy living promoted

April is Healthy Living Month, and representatives from the City of Park Ridge, School District 64, the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District, the Park Ridge Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, and the Park Ridge Healthy Community Partnership are teaming up to promote healthy living.

Healthy Living Month is a community-wide initiative that will focus on healthy behavior choices by educating families. The month will focus on health, nutrition, fitness and understanding our environment. There are exciting, fun activities planned.

Further information and an events calendar are posted on the City website at [www.parkridge.us](http://www.parkridge.us). ▲

## Pharmacy savings

CVS Caremark, a pharmacy discount card available to Cook County residents, may be printed by going to this link: <http://www2.caremark.com/naco/>.

Print your card and start saving today. The cards are also available at City Hall. ▲

## Employee of year



Shirley Patras, senior administrative assistant to the police chief, was named Police Department employee of the year for 2010. Recognized for overall outstanding

and exemplary service, while always maintaining a positive attitude, she retired from the department in January after 13 years of service.

"You were a model employee and a true friend to every member of the department," Chief Frank Kaminski said. ▲

## Yard waste collection resumes

Collection of yard waste resumes the week of April 4. Place yard waste in large paper yard waste bags (not plastic) or in special yard waste carts for collection by ARC Disposal, the City's refuse hauler, on your regularly scheduled garbage day. ▲



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## Centennial

(continued from page 2)

year to offer opportunities to learn about the history of Park Ridge. As examples, the Committee collaborated on its Buchheit Day celebration in Hodges Park last May, presentation of a 'Moment in History' at the first City Council meeting of each month, preparation of a history Photo Quiz, and the mayoral house map.

Each Committee member provided its special programs for the Centennial: The City *Spokesman* published Centennial articles in every issue since last April and a special history insert in October 2010. The Historical Society presented a Centennial edition of its 'Spirits of Old Park Ridge' Town of Maine cemetery tour, the Public Library display case was dedicated to displays of local history in September, the Kalo Foundation's 'It Starts with the Arts' offered lectures and displays from Art Colony days, and the Heritage Committee has provided the material for church bulletins.

The 2010-11 vehicle sticker featured the first City Hall and a history-themed poster (\$10 plus tax) was made available (and is still available) for purchase at City Hall. Some of the other community organizations helping to promote Centennial awareness:

- Kiwanis (Noon) July 4th Kiddie Parade, and City Flag display on Buchheit Day
- Park Ridge Civic Orchestra programming in honor of John Alden Carpenter
- Fine Arts Society's 'Salute to Park Ridge History' at a summer concert in Hodges Park
- Police Department's Centennial badges
- Chamber of Commerce History Tours—Paul Adlaf ▲

## Prepare for severe weather

The Fire Department is offering information about severe weather preparedness in anticipation of its arrival in the spring. Severe weather hazards that affect Illinois include thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, floods, damaging winds and large hail. They have the potential to cause extensive property damage, injury and/or death.

To assist the people of Illinois in case of severe weather, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency works with the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross to promote weather preparedness through press releases, media coverage, and publication of a booklet. The "Severe Weather Preparedness Guide" contains information regarding safety measures, warning signs, historical data and contact information and is available at City Hall by the Cashier's Office.

You may learn more about severe weather preparedness on these sites:

Illinois Emergency Management Agency at [www.iema.illinois.gov](http://www.iema.illinois.gov), the National Weather Service: [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov), and American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). ▲

## Observe arbor day

City residents and officials are invited to an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on Friday, April 29, to recognize the importance of planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees in our community. City Forester Tony Gliot has organized the special celebration in keeping with the City's proclamation of April 29 as "Arbor Day."

Several new trees will be planted on the public parkway adjacent to Roosevelt School (at the SE corner of

Prospect Ave. and Albion Ave.). The Arbor Day ceremony will begin at 9 a.m.

This location was designated for tree planting because many of the parkway trees around Roosevelt School are ash trees that will inevitably have to be removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The new trees will grow to take the place of the ash trees that need to be removed.

The City is also celebrating 27 years as a "Tree City USA." The designation is made annually by the National Arbor Day Foundation to recognize a commitment to preserving and enhancing the urban forest.

Arbor Day was founded in 1872, by Julius Sterling Morton, with the planting of over a million trees in Nebraska. Now communities throughout the United States and the world celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees on the last Friday in April. ▲

## Building permits are required

With warmer weather on the horizon, many are planning home improvement projects. Residents are reminded a building permit is required for the construction of any building or structure and for any alterations or additions to any building or structure. Building permit provisions are a protection for residents. City inspectors review work as it progresses to ensure safe and proper completion.

A permit is not required for any repairs to a building or structure that do not result in the installation or relocation of any structural elements, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical system or for any decorating of any building or structure. For questions about permits, call 847/318-5291. ▲