



The Spokesman

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY TO THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY
WWW.PARKRIDGE.US



“Like” us on Facebook!

January 2017 Vol. 44 No. 1



Uptown Parking Study Underway

The City has moved forward and hired Gewalt Hamilton Associates to conduct a Comprehensive Parking Study of the Uptown area. Please visit the City’s website for a link or go directly to www.uptownparkingstudy.com to participate in a survey and share your insights and opinions. We value your input and would like to hear from you!

Would you like to volunteer to shovel snow for an elderly or disabled resident?



Contact City Hall at 847/318-5200 to inquire about this helpful volunteer opportunity.



MONEY MATTERS

City refinances bonds = more savings

The City has recently completed the refinancing of approximately \$10,000,000 in bonds related to the Uptown TIF. With the assistance of William Blair & Company, the City’s bond advisor, Park Ridge will save an estimated \$1.2 million in interest expense over the next eight years. As debt service is a component of the annual levy calculation, savings acquired by refinancing equates to a reduction in the amount of money that the City needs to collect in property taxes to cover debt payments.

As a reminder, the City refinanced two bonds in March, 2015 with an estimated interest expense savings of \$1.8 million.

City receives highest rating for FY2016 Audit

BKD, LLP, an independent auditing firm, issued the City’s fiscal year 2016 audit opinion on October 27, 2016. The City once again received the highest rating of unmodified, or “clean.” In addition to auditing the financial records of the City, the auditors test the City’s design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control. The auditors found no material weaknesses in this area. The independent audit opinion can be found within the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is available on the City’s web site at www.parkridge.us.

Warm community kindness is a blessing to those who needed cold weather outerwear thanks to the combined efforts of the Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines Police Departments. Over 300 coats and winter accessories such as scarfs, mittens, gloves and hats were collected during the *Coats for Cops* campaign. The annual drive provides the cold weather wear to local individuals and families so they can stay warm in the winter months. Distribution took place on November 5 at the Maine Township Town Hall with the assistance of Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky and her staff, along with police officers and volunteers.



Photo credit: Dick Barton

For more information about future drives, you may contact the Park Ridge Police Department at 847/318-5252. Coats and accessories not distributed on November 5 were donated to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines.

Featured in the photo are Des Plaines PD Officer Mike Heidkamp; PRPD Citizen Patrol Joan Hutchinson; PRPD Citizen Patrol Leslie Wolf; Des Plaines PD Officer Mike Meyer; Supervisor Carol A. Teschky; Niles Police V.I.P.S. M. Pistorius; PRPD Citizen Patrol Jean Trnka; Niles PD Officer April Rider; PRPD Citizen Patrol Don Tyre; PRPD Officer Ben Peterson who is the lead coordinator of the drive; and PRPD Explorer Gary Lynch.

Featured in the photo are Des Plaines PD Officer Mike Heidkamp; PRPD Citizen Patrol Joan Hutchinson; PRPD Citizen Patrol Leslie Wolf; Des Plaines PD Officer Mike Meyer; Supervisor Carol A. Teschky; Niles Police V.I.P.S. M. Pistorius; PRPD Citizen Patrol Jean Trnka; Niles PD Officer April Rider; PRPD Citizen Patrol Don Tyre; PRPD Officer Ben Peterson who is the lead coordinator of the drive; and PRPD Explorer Gary Lynch.

A message from Acting Mayor Marty Maloney



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

As we all turn our calendar page to January, we cannot ignore reality that winter has moved into the area with a vengeance and that it is predicted to be a colder and snowier winter than the past few years. With the onset of cold weather and possibly unsafe conditions, let's continue to show why Park Ridge is such a great place to live and work by watching out for our neighbors, friends, and lending a hand where we can. Consider registering for the City's volunteer-based program which lends assistance to disabled or elderly residents requiring snow removal. If you can help, please contact Cheryl Peterson at City Hall to have your name added to the list.

The past few months have resulted in many positives from the City Council, perhaps the most noteworthy being the news that the City will be decreasing our tax levy for the coming year. This means the City's portion of your tax bill will go down and you will pay less in property taxes to the City of Park Ridge than in previous years. This reduction comes through several years of making difficult choices and executing the plan to get the City in a better financial position. I must thank City staff for their hard work, dedication, and assistance in making this happen through a number of choices, including a bond refunding plan that captured \$3,000,000 in interest savings.

Economic Development continues to be a primary focus of the City Council. I am proud to see that Park Ridge had a number of new businesses open over the last few months and many more are slated to open in 2017. I urge everyone to support our local business community and keep your dollars in Park Ridge. Every dollar that stays in Park Ridge helps the City to remain on course with our plan, keeping your taxes as low as possible.

During the months of January, February, and March, the City Council will be busy working on the Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the City. I encourage everyone to attend the Budget Workshop meetings to better understand the challenges faced when preparing the City's budget. The City's financial condition has significantly improved thanks to changes in spending policies, tough budgetary decisions, and a disciplined approach to budgeting. The last 4-5 years have been challenging. Many tough decisions previously made by the City Council have allowed us to be in a more comfortable financial position.

As we begin 2017, I want to thank you for choosing to live, work, and play in Park Ridge. I am honored to be working on your behalf and representing you as an Alderman and as your Acting Mayor. I am proud of the work the City Council has accomplished in the last year and am excited about the progress we expect to achieve in the New Year.

As always, if there is ever anything you need, please feel free to contact me. I wish you the best in the coming year. I will see you around town!

Marty

*City Council Meetings—1st and 3rd Monday of each month / Committee of the Whole Meetings—2nd and 4th Monday of each month
The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The public is welcome to attend.*

Important phone numbers

CITY HALL
505 Butler Place, Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone: 847/318-5200
Fax: 847/318-5300
Website: www.parkridge.us
Hours: Monday—Friday, 8 am—5 pm

City Manager's Office
City Hall, 1st Floor
847/318-5216

Community Preservation & Development
City Hall, 2nd floor
847/318-5291

Finance Department
City Hall, 1st floor
847/318-6015

Fire Department Administration
City Hall, 1st floor
847/318-5283
Emergency 911

Police Department (open 24/7)
200 Vine (east side -City Hall)
Non-Emergency 847/318-5252
Emergency 911

Public Works Administration
City Hall, 2nd floor
847/318-5227

Public Works Service Center
(7 am—3 pm)
400 Busse Hwy. 847/318-5240

City Officials

Marty Maloney, Acting Mayor
847/698-4134
martymaloney@gmail.com

Betty Henneman, City Clerk
847/318-5204
bhennema@parkridge.us

Ald. John J. Moran, Ward 1
847/720-4494
parkridge1stward@gmail.com

Ald. Nicholas Milissis, Ward 2
847/877-0983
milissis2ndward@gmail.com

Ald. Richard Van Roeyen, Ward 3
847/452-3219
aldvanroeyen@gmail.com

Ald. Roger Shubert, Ward 4
847/384-0611
shubert4alderman@gmail.com

Ald. Daniel J. Knight, Ward 5
847/830-4819
pr5aldknight@gmail.com

Ald. Marc Mazzuca, Ward 6
312/206-7424
parkridgeward6@gmail.com

Ald. Marty Maloney, Ward 7
847/698-4134
martymaloney@gmail.com

Each department contributes its own departmental information for the Spokesman.
Questions? You may contact Deputy Clerk Peterson, editor, at 847/318-5464 or cpeterso@parkridge.us

O'Hare Airport Noise Complaints

Have you noticed an increase in airport noise? If so, here's the reason why...

The O'Hare Modernization Plan (OMP) will modify the airport's configuration from several intersecting runways to a configuration of six parallel, east-to-west runways and two diagonal runways. This map indicates the runways which will impact the City of Park Ridge upon completion of OMP.

NextGen Technology is transforming America's air traffic control system from radar-based to satellite-based, which will shorten routes, save time and fuel, reduce traffic delays, increase capacity, and permit controllers to monitor and manage aircraft with greater safety margins. Because of this, aircraft will be able to fly closer together, take more direct routes and avoid delays caused by airport "stacking" as planes wait for an open runway.

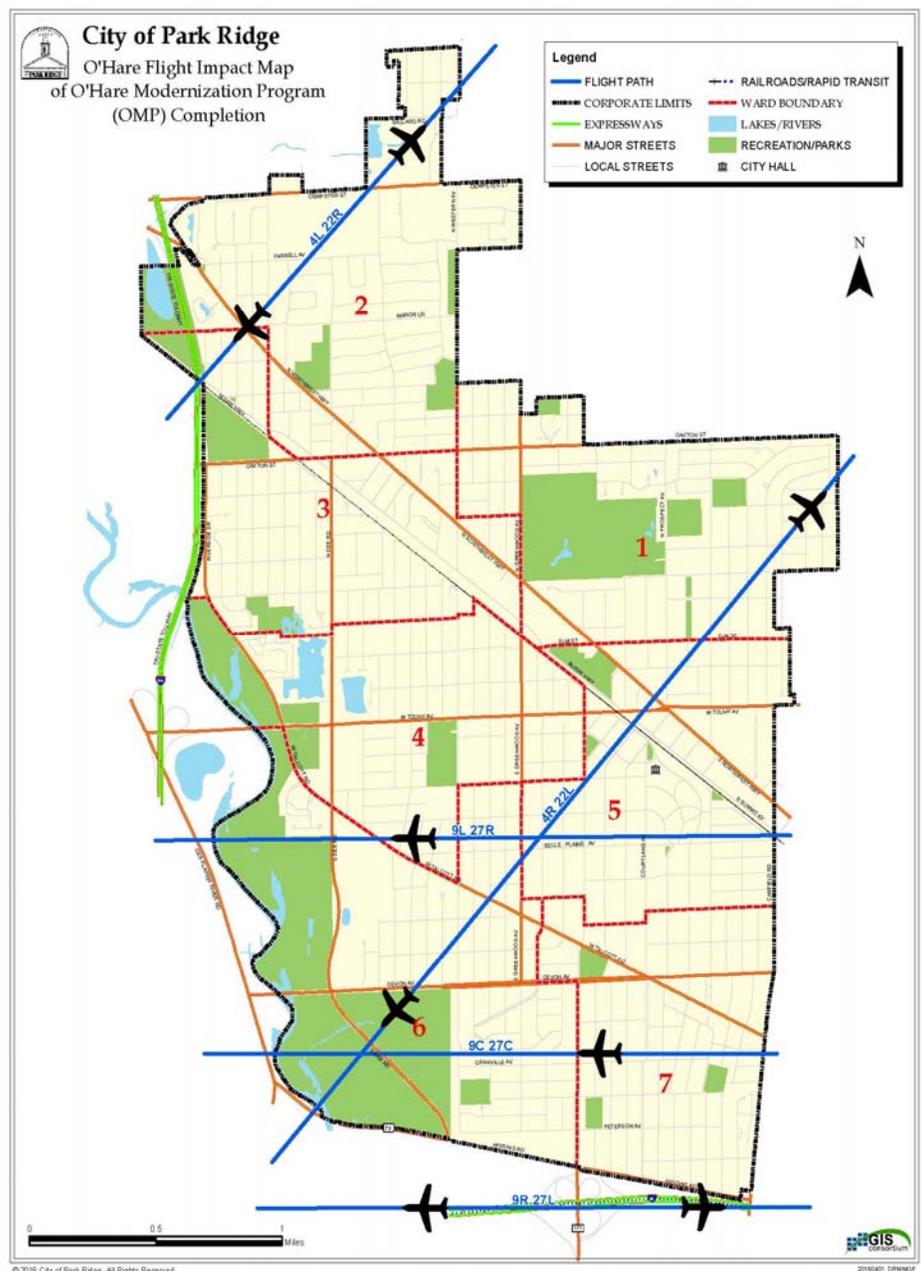
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved a six-month test of the Fly Quiet Runway Rotation to bring nighttime noise relief to residents living near O'Hare International Airport. The test was intended to occur during the overnight hours when demand requires one arrival and one departure runway. The test included a 25-week schedule that consisted of 12 weekly periods intended to balance the overnight noise. The six-month test concluded on December 25. The exclusion of Runway 15/33 and eventual commissioning of Runway 9C/27C will massively impact the present configurations of the Fly Quiet Rotation.

The FAA and Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) have acknowledged that planes are banking and adjusting flight paths over the corner communities during departures in east and west flow. This is increasing noise and pollution over communities that are already being inundated with arrivals. They also acknowledged that three Park Ridge Noise monitors are showing increases in their readings due to this operational change.

The City needs YOUR help! Here is what you can do...

- ◆ **File a complaint with the Chicago Department of Aviation** at (800) 435-9569 or visit <http://chicagonoisecomplaint.com>
- ◆ **Complete the Fly Quiet Rotation Survey** www.surveymonkey.com/r/flyquiet
- ◆ **Express your concerns to Illinois and U.S. Elected Officials**
(Obtain contact information on the City's website at www.parkridge.us)

Come join us at the City's next O'Hare Airport Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. to get the latest O'Hare news and updates. The meeting is held at City Hall in the Council Chambers.





Help is available

In 2012, members from the Park Ridge Human Needs Task Force, Healthy Community Partnership and Health Commission organized to form the Healthier Community Coalition. Based on results of its 2013 community survey, the coalition discovered that there were residents who felt they had problems with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues but did not know where to turn for assistance. Of the 7,000 surveys sent out randomly, over half returned indicated the respondent had mental health concerns.

The coalition, in conjunction with a federal grant with the Police Department, created a guide to make it easier for residents to know where to turn for counseling support, mental health services or support groups to assist with coping with daily living and stress. The City has also since hired a full-time Social Worker, Geri Silic, who is available to residents and can be contacted at 847/384-2137.

The brochure is available at City Hall, the Public Library and at the Police Department among other locations in the city. The Police Department's website has also posted the brochure online under "Mental Health Resource Guide."



Now Available:

THE HEALTHIER PARK RIDGE COALITION'S
Mental Health Resource Guide

Available in the Pickwick Theatre Lobby
or at the Park Ridge Police Department

Please contact the Police Department at
info@parkridgepolice.org or (847) 318-525
for more information.

Be bold and get cold— Taking the

On February 18, the Park Ridge Police Department will once again brave the icy cold waters of Lake Michigan at Clark Street Beach in Evanston to support the Law Enforcement Torch Run which benefits the Special Olympics of Illinois. The department has committed to "be bold and get cold" for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois by taking an icy dip into the frigid winter waters. The freezing cold that dippers will experience is temporary; the positive impact this event makes on the lives of Special Olympics athletes across Illinois will last a lifetime.

We need your help! Please consider joining our team, but if you can't, your donation to Special Olympics Illinois on the department's behalf would be greatly appreciated. Any amount is appreciated – it all goes to one "cool" cause and gets us that much closer to our goal. Best of all, your donation helps provide athletes with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in Special Olympics programs and reveal their inner champion.

Donating is simple, fast, and secure. Simply visit www.plungeillinois.com and click on "Support a Plunger;" search for team "Park Ridge." If you are interested in joining our team and would like to take the plunge, you may register through the website and join team "Park Ridge." All donations are tax deductible!

Contact Park Ridge Police - Community Strategy Officer Ben Peterson for additional information on the event, or questions about donations or registration. E-mail: bpeterso@parkridgepolice.org or call 847/318-5233.

Thanks in advance for your support – and don't forget to forward this information to anyone who you think might want to donate too!



WANTED: New Members

PARK RIDGE CITIZENS PATROL and POLICE EXPLORERS

Do you want to volunteer for a great cause? Look no further.

Members of the Park Ridge Citizens Patrol donate their time by patrolling the community during evening hours, and assist the City's Public Safety Departments during storms, railroad crossing problems, floods, power outages, automobile accidents, crime scenes and other catastrophic events. Additionally, the Citizens Patrol also assists with traffic and crowd control for various special events such as 5K walks and runs, parades, car shows, the Taste of Park Ridge, and National Night Out. Interested individuals should contact Volunteer Coordinator Tom Wilson at 847/318-5454.

The Explorer Program is part of the Learning for Life Career Education Program for young men and women who are at least 14 years of age and have completed eighth grade or are 15–20 years of age with a future interest in the law enforcement field. This is a great opportunity for teens to gain valuable life experience, social skills, and have civic fulfillment for volunteerism.

The Park Ridge Police Explorer Post 911 is based on five areas of emphasis: career opportunities; life skills; in-service learning; character education; and, leadership experience. These areas are based and conducted in a public safety environment. Activities will allow Explorers to have hands-on experience with police officers in their roles in the community.

Explorers have assisted in numerous community events including Independence Day Fireworks; parking/traffic control; roadside safety checkpoints; Taste of Park Ridge; National Night Out, and Winterfest. Explorers that become members in good standing will qualify for Police Squad Car Ride-Along program and have opportunities to apply for scholarships.

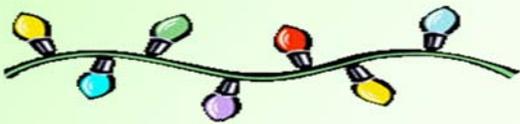
The Park Ridge Police Explorer Post meets and trains on a bi-weekly basis at the Park Ridge Police Department on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the program and uniforms will be supplied.

Please contact Community Strategies Officer Ben Peterson at bpeterso@parkridgepolice.org or call him at 847/318-5233. You may also obtain information from the *Learning for Life* website at www.learning-for-life.org/exploring

Holiday lights recycling

All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at the Public Works Service Center, 400 Busse Highway through March 1. The Service Center is open weekdays, 7 am—3 pm. Garland, live greens, or wreaths are not accepted as part of this program.

The City has partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to recycle the lights and electrical cords. The strands are separated, baled and sent to be chopped or shredded and sold as a commodity to foundries and mills in the United States.



Styrofoam Recycling

Save your **white BLOCK Styrofoam** from being placed in the landfills.

White block Styrofoam will be collected January 3—20 at the Public Works Service Center located at 400 Busse Highway. The Service Center is open Monday—Friday, 7 am- 3 pm. Contact the Public Works Service Center at 847/318-5240 with any questions.

The following WILL NOT be accepted: food / beverage containers, trash, packaging peanuts or foam insulation.

Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected at the curb for chipping the week of January 9 on your regular garbage day. Please remove the trees from the bags and take off all lights, garland and ornaments. Christmas trees placed out at other times, or in the alley, will be collected by Groot and taken to the landfill. Only Christmas trees will be collected, not other yard waste or brush.



Forestry news—NOW is a good time to prune

Believe it or not, now is the time to get pruning. Pruning trees during the winter months reduces the risk of infection by disease, especially in oak and elm trees. It is important to prune and “train” your trees to make sure they are healthy, vigorous and structurally sound. As trees mature, they can accumulate numerous dead and/or broken branches which can be unsightly and can also harbor pests and disease. Trees should be pruned to reduce risk, enhance air flow through the tree, reduce shade if necessary and to improve tree structure and aesthetics. Ornamental trees that flower in the spring and early summer, however, should be pruned after flowering.

Treegator® watering bags, installed on newly planted parkway trees, should be removed for the winter months and reinstalled in the spring. These bags should be used during the growing season for the first two or three years after planting, until the tree becomes established.

Understanding snowfall regulations—help us help you

Most main streets throughout the City are referred to as snow routes and are posted with signs. Parking is prohibited on both sides of streets that have been designated as snow routes after 2" of snow has fallen, until 24 hours after the snow stops. Residents may call 847/ 318-6101 for a recorded message as to whether snow parking restrictions are in effect.

Vehicles parked on a snow route will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. Parking is also prohibited as posted on the north and west sides of all other residential streets after 2" of snow has fallen, until 24 hours after the snow has stopped. If snow falls during the night, vehicles parked in violation of snow parking restrictions will be ticketed. Refer to City Ordinance 13-14-1 for additional information.

Let us help you. When removing snow from your driveway, place the snow to the left or right of your driveway. Do not push or blow the snow into the street. On garbage collection day, place your cans on your driveway, not in the street, allowing snowplows to clear snow up to the curb.

The City appreciates your assistance which allows us to serve you better.



Stormwater management is a critical initiative for the City and the establishment of a comprehensive plan is the next step. Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. (CBBEL) has been hired by the City to develop a citywide Stormwater Master Plan. This plan is likely to include project recommendations with significant long term implications and associated costs.

As part of this project, CBBEL has developed an online survey for residents to take. A link to the survey can be found on the City's website or at <http://www.parkridgestormwatermasterplan.com>. The survey will include basic flooding questions along with an area for comments and more detailed descriptions. Paper copies of the survey will also be available at City Hall and at the Public Works Service Center. All results will go directly to CBBEL for compilation. Future meetings will be scheduled allowing for additional resident input.

An Invitation from District 64

An active and engaged community is the foundation of our outstanding public schools, which educate almost 4,500 students pre-K through 8th grade. As a resident, please watch for our 2016 Annual Report in the mail in January to see how our learner-centered classrooms are leading to student success.



Inspire every child to



Discover what's happening in our schools every day by staying connected:

- Subscribe to the District 64 eNews via our website: www.d64.org
- Like us on Facebook: [d64parkridgeniles](https://www.facebook.com/d64parkridgeniles)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@DrLaurieHeinz](https://twitter.com/DrLaurieHeinz) [@D64News](https://twitter.com/D64News) [#engageD64](https://twitter.com/engageD64)
- Watch our YouTube channel: District 64 Park Ridge Niles

Questions? Email news@d64.org, call 847.318.4300, or stop in/mail us at 164 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Pet Safety Winter Tips

With the temperatures dropping and the cold wind chills, people start to worry about getting frost bite or hypothermia, but your pets can also be affected by the cold temperatures. Older dogs, young puppies, young kittens and animals that have health conditions have a harder time regulating their body temperatures in the winter. But there are some helpful tips on what pet owners can do to help keep their furry friends warm. Acclimating to the weather is the number one thing to do in the winter. If it's very cold outside, try taking your pet on a shorter walk or putting on booties and a jacket so they stay warm while they are outside. Just like humans, you also need to watch for frostbite on the tip of your pets ears, nose and paws. Call your vet if you have any questions or



Check your address **visibility**

The Park Ridge Fire and Police Departments urge owners or tenants of all residences and businesses in town to check the visibility of their address numbers from the street. When the Fire or Police Departments are responding to your location in the event of an emergency, every second counts. Frequently, many addresses are difficult to locate or be seen from the street.

Please look at the address numbers on your building to make sure that they are clearly seen from the street during the day and night. Numbers should not be on a front door or garage that, when open, would not be seen from the street. Frequently, overgrown landscaping obscures the view from the street which should be cut back. Make sure your address numbers conform to the proper size as stated in the City's Municipal Code. The Code is defined below to let you know the specific requirements.

Park Ridge Municipal Code: 9-5-5 Numbering Required

Every owner, agent or person in possession of a building shall number the same in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. All numbers shall be placed in a conspicuous place at or near the main entrance to the building to which they are attached. If the main entrance is not visible from the street, the numbers must be on the walkway side at least six feet (6') above the ground within two feet (2') of the edge of the building. Buildings on corner lots shall display the numbers facing the street which express the address. If there is no walkway side, then the numbers must appear on the driveway side. The numbers should not be obscured by bushes or other decorative materials. Each of the figures of every such number or numbers shall be not less than three inches (3") in height, in Arabic numerals of contrasting color with the background so as to be easily and distinctly read from the street.

PR Lions Club; noon

Thursday's @ Harp & Fiddle

Center of Concern

Every Monday; by appt.

Employment Counseling

Every Wednesday, by appt.

Grief & Loss Counseling

Seniors & Caregiving Counseling

Medicare Counseling

Legal Counseling

847/823-0453

Yoga at St. Luke's Church

Tuesdays; 7:00 - 8:15pm

Thursday; 11:00am - 12:15pm

\$5 / class donation appreciated

January**6 Friday**

"Sweet Treats & Tasting;" 12:15pm

PR Panhellenic Club @ PR Country Club

7 Saturday

Arctic Blast Dash 5K Run/Walk; 9:00am

PR Park District @ Centennial Fitness Center

Free Spin Orientation; 11:30am

PR Park District @ Centennial Fitness Center

11 Wednesday

Networking Luncheon; 11:30am

PR Chamber of Commerce

13 Friday

Friday Night Live Club; 7:00pm

PR Park District @ Maine Park

Orchisis Dance; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium (also 01/14)

14 Saturday

"Your Family Heirloom;" 11:30am

21st Star NSDAR @ PR Country Club

Middle School Open Gym & Swim; 7:00pm

PR Park District @ Centennial Fitness Center

16 Monday

MLK Open Skate; 11:00am

PR Park District @ Oakton Ice Arena

18 Wednesday

Science Night; 6:00pm

PR Park District @ Wildwood Nature Center

21 Saturday

Playdate with Nature; 9:00am

PR Park District @ Wildwood Nature Center

22 Sunday

Open House; 12:00pm

St. Andrews School

27 Friday

Third Grade Throwdown; 7:00pm

PR Park District @ Maine Park

28 Saturday

Prospect & PJs; 6:00pm

PR Park District @ Prospect Park

February**3 Friday**

Friday Night Live Club; 7:00pm

PR Park District @ Maine Park

4 Saturday

Free Spin Orientation; 11:30am

PR Park District @ Centennial Fitness Center

11 Saturday

Frosvital; 11:00am

PR Park District @ Oakton Sports Complex

A Night of Stars Dinner & Dance; 6:00pm

PR Chamber of Commerce @ Café La Cave

8 Wednesday

"History of Wrigley Field;" 11:30am

21st Star NSDAR @ Elks Lodge Des Plaines

Founder's Memorial Concert; 7:30pm

PR Civic Orchestra @ Pickwick Theatre

16 Thursday

Preschool Open House; 10:00am & 6:30pm

PR Park District @ Maine Park

East of the Sun, West of the Moon; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium (also 02/17-18)

23 Thursday

SDB Showcase; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium

March**3 Friday**

"Spring Cleaning & Organizing;" 12:15pm

PR Panhellenic Club @ PR Country Club

Muskingum University Choir Concert; 7:30pm

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

6 Monday

Band Concert; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium

7 Tuesday

Orchestra Concert; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium

8 Wednesday

"Ukes Tones;" 11:30am

21st Star NSDAR @ PR Country Club

"Annie" The Musical; 1:00pm

St. Andrews School (3/9 & 3/10 @ 7:00pm)

9 Thursday

Choir Concert; 7:30pm

Maine South Auditorium

12 Sunday

"David Taylor, Brahms & Tchaikovsky;" 2:00pm

PR Civic Orchestra @ North Shore Performing

Arts

20 Monday

District 64 Spring Recess thru 3/24

31 Friday

Percussion/Jazz Night; 7:30pm

Maine South Student Café

SAVE THE DATE**Youth Services Commission
Dodgeball Tournament**

Saturday, February 4
Centennial Fitness Center
1515 W. Touhy Avenue
Registration: 6 pm
Tournament begins: 7 pm

- Entry fee—one canned good
- Donations benefit the Maine Township Food Pantry
- High School & Middle School divisions
- T-shirt and Pizza provided (while supplies last)

Contact Brigid Madden at 847/318-6721 with any questions.

Winter Preparedness

With the extreme low temperatures already among us this season and the potential for more snow, the City wants to make sure all residents are well prepared. Avoid all unnecessary travel and try to limit your exposure outside whenever possible.

If you lose electrical power or heat in your home and you have nowhere to go to stay warm, you may seek shelter at the Park Ridge Public Library located at 20 S. Prospect during its normal business hours, which are 9 am—9 pm Monday through Thursday, 9 am—6 pm Friday, 9 am—5 pm Saturday, and Noon—5 pm on Sunday. Maine Township Town Hall located at 1700 Ballard Rd on Monday to Friday from 9 am—5 pm is also available.

If you require assistance at other times, you may go to the Park Ridge Police Department located at 200 S. Vine and let them know you have no heat in your home.

This is also a good time to make sure you have an updated emergency kit in your home that has enough supplies to take care of you and your loved ones for at least three days. You can find more information about assembling a kit at <http://www.ready.gov/kit>. Also make sure you have an emergency plan in place, so that you know who you can call and where you can go in the event that you need to leave your home.

Monthly Sharps & Rx Disposal

CFL's, household batteries, and mercury thermometers are also collected

January 5, February 2, & March 2

8 am—11 am in the lobby at City Hall

The Police Department has a drop box for the disposal of solid forms of prescription medication available 24/7 located inside its lobby. **No liquid meds or sharps in this box, please!**



POSTAL CUSTOMER
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Park Ridge, Illinois
Permit No. 491

VOLUME 44 NO. 1

PAGE 8

You're invited by the members of Go Green Park Ridge to the Wild Things Community. Wild Things is recognized as one of the nation's largest networks of people engaged with nature. The Wild Things Community comes together bi-annually at its Wild Things Conference. The next conference is schedule for

February 18, 2017 | 9 am–6 pm | UIC Forum 725 W Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL

Sign up at www.wildthingscommunity.org Don't miss the early bird special of \$30 before Jan 11. Registration closes February 8. This is sure to be an inspiring day of presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities designed to protect nature. Please email gogreenparkridge@gmail.com if you would like to coordinate a carpool.



Save energy and reduce costs

The cold weather has finally arrived with frigid cold. Why not participate in a FREE home energy assessment? You can lower your energy bills, see increased savings, improve home comfort, increase home resale value, uncover hidden problems, and last but certainly not least....protect the environment! Visit ComEd's website, www.comed.com, for more information about ways to save.

A message from City Clerk Henneman

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The snow has finally laid its blanket over Park Ridge adding to the beauty of our City. Holiday lights twinkle thanks to donations made by many to the Holiday Light Coalition. It's a wonderful time to spend with family and friends remembering our earlier snow angel days.

As we move into February, "Volunteer Appreciation Month," we must recognize volunteers and those that serve us, making our lives easier in many different ways. Please remember to share a Valentine of thanks with those who help make our community welcoming and safe, or if able, shovel an extra walkway this winter.

In March, we once again approach the Consolidated Election which will be held on April 4, 2017. Candidates for City Council, School Boards, Park Board, and the Township Board will all be counting on your vote. These are the people who help solve your local issues in various forms of government. Please get to know your Park Ridge candidates and show your support by attending a candidate forum and voting for the candidate you believe will represent you and the community to the best of their ability.

The last day to register for the Consolidated Election is March 7. Early voting will take place March 20—April 3. We will release the location as soon as we are notified. Voting on Election Day will be in your usual polling location. As always, the Clerk's office will be available to answer your questions, or you can visit www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Keep warm and be happy!

City Clerk Betty



Winter Fire Prevention Tips

Cooking, heating, holiday decorations, and candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire during the winter months. Please make sure to be aware of all of these potential fire hazards in your home or business. Make it a habit to test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors regularly and replace the batteries when needed.

This is also a good time to make sure you and your family are prepared for winter storms. Winter weather can potentially cause disruptions to your power and ability to heat your home. If you have a fireplace, make sure it is clean and ready to use, along with an adequate supply of firewood. You should have a professional clean and inspect your fireplace and chimney on an annual basis. If there are cracks or gaps in the flue or chimney, it could start a fire in your home. You should also check to ensure you have plenty of blankets in your home and a plan for what you will do in case of a prolonged utility outage. Additionally, you should have an emergency kit ready to use in your home, including enough food, water, and medication that will last for at least three days for each person in your house. For more information, go to

<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.