

NEWS RELEASE

Date: For Immediate Release

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The Fine Art of Fitness

Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association Hosts Fun and Fitness Art Walk

Mount Prospect, Ill., April 30, 2007 – The third annual Mount Prospect Fun and Fitness Art Walk will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The walk kicks off from the Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson (Emerson Street and Central Avenue). This free spring event is sponsored by the Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association.

During the walk, more than 25 merchants in downtown Mount Prospect will host local artists who will showcase their work. Businesses include retail shops, restaurants, specialized services and civic organizations. Walkers will be given the opportunity to visit these neighborhood merchants while meeting the talented artists.

The artists will be on hand to talk about their creative projects including pastels, oils, watercolors, pencil sketches, manga art, mixed media, children's artwork, photography, fused glass sculptures and jewelry, ceramics and decorative art. Artwork will be available for purchase. In addition, two locations will feature upbeat music by highly acclaimed jazz bands.

Coinciding with this year's Fun and Fitness Art Walk will be the New Resident Welcome, which takes place from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the Village of Mount Prospect, 50 S. Emerson Street. Following the welcome event, new residents are encouraged to walk the art route to acquaint themselves with all downtown Mount Prospect has to offer. Walkers are invited to stop into village hall to see displays by local civic groups and village departments who contribute to the vitality of the community.

Another notable stop will be the Mount Prospect Historical Society. The society has gathered an array of paintings created in the 1950s and 1960s by area artists. Walkers will get the chance to experience these masterpieces from the past.

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There will be plenty of prizes for walkers throughout the day. Participants will receive promotional bags at the beginning of the walk, giveaways at many businesses during the walk, and raffle prizes at the conclusion of the walk.

“The art walk offers both fun and fitness for the entire family,” says Cindy Higdon, chairperson of the art walk committee. “Our purpose is to recognize the quality businesses and extraordinary artists in Mount Prospect. As merchants and artists, we continually strive to create greater awareness of who we are and what we do.”

Participating in the Art Walk

Art walk participants will gather beginning at 8:45 a.m. on the steps of the Mount Prospect Public Library. No advanced registration or entrance fee is required. Walkers will receive a detailed map showing the locations of the downtown businesses hosting an artist. A treat bag filled with small gift items and coupons will be distributed to the first 200 participants.

Walkers can stroll from business to business in any order they choose along the three-mile route. Participants are encouraged to visit all stops and talk with the artists there.

Giveaways, gift certificates and refreshments will be available at various locations. Several food establishments will be offering walk-day specials so participants can take a break as they make their way through downtown Mount Prospect.

Upon completion of their visit, businesses will stamp or initial the maps of the art walkers. All participants who return to the library with their maps stamped or initialed by every business by 3 p.m. will be eligible for a valuable raffle drawing. Prizes include a fresh flower arrangement, home serenity basket, tickets to a Schaumburg Flyers game and an all-wood dollhouse.

Come and enjoy a leisurely stroll through the streets and shops of downtown Mount Prospect and take in the beautiful art on display from local artists. For more information about the Fun & Fitness Art Walk, please visit www.mpdma.com.

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