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From Milwaukee, south of which the wall will be on the east side of Des Plaines River Road until Euclid Avenue. Design of the project was begun in 1999 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in response to devastating flooding in 1986.

Federal and state funds will pay for construction, but once completed in late 2000, Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights must maintain the flood wall and other flood-control systems, said Atom Bocca, Prospect Heights director of engineering and public works.

In a memo to the council, Pam Arrigoni, Prospect Heights city administrator, said the project would provide flood protection for 600 homes and scores of businesses in the two communities.

**COMMUNITY BRIEFING**

**NORTHWEST SUBURBS**

**DES PLAINES**

Mayor breaks tie to pass '08 budget

A divided City Council has adopted a $133.8 million budget for next year, with Mayor Tony Arredia casting the tie-breaking vote.

The budget includes $3 million for the Des Plaines Public Library and funding for special taxing district projects, the city's emergency communications system and building projects. But the largest portion of the budget approved Monday night is $55 million for general fund spending.

Arredia also voted to break a 4-4 tie as the council approved a new sewer fee that is expected to raise about $2 million in 2006 and cost residents about $80 a year. Aldermen voted by wider margins to increase the city's telephone tax, which is expected to generate an extra $1.5 million, and hotel tax, which is expected to raise an additional $150,000. The $4 million in new fee and tax revenue is expected to bolster the budget cushion in the general fund.

*Mark Shuman*

**PROSPECT HEIGHTS**

City agrees to work with village on levee

The Prospect Heights City Council agreed this week to cooperate with neighboring Mt. Prospect in a flood-control project designed to protect homes and businesses along the Des Plaines River.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring on a 1/4-mile flood wall, known as Levee 37, on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue from Palatine Road until Des Plaines River Road splits from Mt. Prospect, south of which the wall will be on the east side of Des Plaines River Road until Euclid Avenue. Design of the project was begun in 1999 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in response to devastating flooding in 1986.

Federal and state funds will pay for construction, but once completed in late 2000, Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights must maintain the flood wall and other flood-control systems, said Atom Bocca, Prospect Heights director of engineering and public works.

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**PALATINE**

State fire marshal to inspect elevators

The Village Council has agreed to hand over elevator inspection duties to the Illinois state fire marshal's office.

New Illinois regulations call for more stringent inspections but give communities the choice of enforcing the rules or turning over inspections and enforcement to the state.

Under the regulations, about 65 of Palatine's 162 elevators would need costly upgrades, Village Manager Rod Ottesen said at a council meeting Monday. He said the work could cost $100,000 per elevator.

"We don't want to get involved in the court costs and shutting down elevators that enforcing this would involve," he said.

Palatine now hires a contractor to do inspections and collects a fee from building owners that covers the village's costs.

*Jeff Borgardt*