

Keeping Posted

GURNEE

Volume XLIV, No. 5

December 2017

What's Inside

Page 2 - Village Updates



Page 3 - Christmas Tree Pickup



Page 5 - Fire Extinguisher Recall



Shop Local, Dine Local, Give Local

The Canadian Pacific Holiday train rolls into town on Saturday, December 2nd – its only stop in Illinois! In partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, this event helps to feed our neighbors in need while providing a festive way to kick off the holiday season!

Here's how you and your family can enjoy this big event:

- Witness the magic when the Holiday Train pulls in to Viking Park: Scheduled arrival is 3:50 p.m. This is a free family-friendly event, featuring a rockin' good holiday-concert-on-the-rails with Kelly Prescott and Colin James, and a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus! Gather early on Depot Road, north of Old Grand Avenue.
- Please remember to bring along nonperishable food or cash donations for the Northern Illinois Food Bank!
- Use the Park & Ride. Park free at Riverside Plaza or Saratoga Square shopping centers, located at Rt. 21/Milwaukee Avenue and Washington Street and catch a (warm!) shuttle bus to and from the train. Service runs continuously beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- Shop Small and Dine Small – make a day of it! December 2nd is the last day for Small Business Saturday special deals, extended by businesses throughout Gurnee to celebrate the Holiday Train and all it means to our community. It's also the last day to enter to win \$500 in local gift certificates. For a list of participating businesses, deals, and how to enter, please visit www.gurnee.il.us/small-business-saturday.

Gurnee Mills Offers Holiday Experience

Gurnee Mills is celebrating the holidays with a myriad of merry activities for families to enjoy this season! Visit Santa through December 24th or pop a letter into his special mailbox through December 16th to let him know your Christmas wishes; be there for a caroling competition and the official tree lighting with 102.3XLC and Lake County officials on December 8th; bring your furry family members to Pet Photo Night with Santa on December 10th; and so much more! For a complete list of extended holiday hours and special seasonal programming, visit www.gurneemills.com.

THE VILLAGE OF GURNEE

325 N. O'Plaine Road • (847) 599-7500 • www.gurnee.il.us

Upcoming Events

Village Meetings

Village Board

Dec.
4
7:00 p.m.

Dec.
18
7:00 p.m.

Jan.
8
7:00 p.m.

Jan.
22
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

Dec.
6
7:30 p.m.

Dec.
13
7:30 p.m.

Jan.
3
7:30 p.m.

Jan.
17
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

Dec.
19
7:00 p.m.

Dec.
21
5:30 p.m.

All Village meetings are held at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change. Meetings in red and outlined in black are Committee of the Whole meetings where no formal action is taken. Meetings in green are Economic Development Committee meetings, and meetings in purple are Civil Service Meetings.

Community Events

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train

Saturday, December 2nd
3:50 p.m.
Viking Park
(See front page for details)



Frosty Fest 2018

Saturday, January 13, 2018
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bittersweet Golf Course



Looking for more events?

Check out the Gurnee Park District (www.gurneeparkdistrict.com), Warren-Newport Public Library (www.wnpl.net) and Warren Township (www.warrentownship.net) websites for even more events and information!

News Around the Village: Updates and Projects from 2017

Village Departments presented updates on current and future projects during the November Chamber of Commerce's Annual Luncheon to the Gurnee residents and businesses in attendance. The below tables highlight some of the projects that have been completed in 2017, and a few of the projects that are on the horizon for 2018.

Administration

- Developed a recommendation plan for how to improve walkability in Gurnee.
- Installed a system-wide financial software upgrade that will include increased online water billing services in 2018.
- No New Taxes/Fees, AAA Bond Rating.

Public Information

- Launched a new website that is mobile friendly and includes more transparent access to important documents and information.
- Transferred the municipal code to an online format to make finding Gurnee ordinances easier than ever.
- Social Media growth on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and NextDoor.

Fire

- Coordinated the 2017 July Flooding Event Response.
- Added a 5th ambulance to the rotation.
- Analyzing the feasibility of a third fire station in partnership with the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District to improve response times.

Police

- Consolidated 911 with the City of Zion to increase service levels and curb redundancy.
- Implemented body cameras to increase transparency and protect officers.
- Developing an inline storefront in Gurnee Mills to increase police presence at the mall.

Public Works

- Upgraded 225 Streetlights to LED technology.
- Treated 1,008 Emerald Ash Borer Infected Trees as part of the two-year rotation to treat the Village's 2,000+ remaining Ash trees.
- Finished flow testing all Village hydrants to help with insurance ratings.

Engineering

- \$4.8 million dollar investment in transportation system financed by sales tax.
- Restoring the concrete medians along Grand Avenue near Gurnee Mills and areas east of US-41.
- 2018 plans to install a pedestrian path along Knowles Road to connect residents to the Rollins Savanna.

Building / Planning

- Issued 2,127 permits for a combined value of \$65M (up 20% over 2016 and 132% higher than 2014).
- Finalizing the presentation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update, which guides the Village's development policy decisions. The plan was last updated 20 years ago.

Economic Development

- Welcomed new businesses, including Chick fil A & Chicago Woodfire Pizza.
- Major expansions from Gurnee employers including Nypro, Wieman Products, and Kloss Distributing.
- Great Wolf Lodge Resort underway.
- East Grand Merchants Committee led to improving landscaping in the corridor and a \$50 weekly giveaway.

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents:

The holidays are a special time of year when we reflect upon the past, share special moments with our family, and look ahead to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. We have the Holiday Train coming to town on the 2nd, a public Menorah Lighting on the 12th, and Breakfast with Santa is offered several times this month.



In this season of hope and joy, we gather to celebrate life, embrace our differences, and give thanks for the many gifts we often take for granted – peace, family and friendship, health, and happiness. We also pause to remember the brave men and women in uniform serving in lands far from home protecting our country and defending our liberty. I was honored to host the Great Lakes Training Division, 84th Training Command Dining Out event this past month. Hearing from the men and women who risk their lives to provide us the freedom we enjoy during the holidays warmed my heart and reminded me of all we have to be thankful for.

As Mayor, I am grateful to the residents and businesses of Gurnee for their participation, passion, and commitment to making our Village the best it can be. I am deeply thankful to each Village employee for their dedication, sacrifice, and service to our community.

During this season of giving, we are also reminded of our responsibility to help those in need, and our community has so many who have reached out to the less fortunate. Your volunteer efforts have helped nurture those who are sick, comfort those who suffer, feed those who are hungry, and bring hope for those who despair. You truly make a difference in the lives of those around us by spreading goodwill, and we thank you for your generous efforts.

As the New Year approaches, the Village looks ahead with great optimism and anticipation. We remain committed to meeting the diverse needs of our residents and businesses, maintaining an outstanding quality of life, and working to ensure that all residents share in our success. There are many new and exciting development opportunities that are being discussed and presented that will keep the Village a regional destination and economically viable. Please don't forget to shop and support our local businesses, big and small. The Village's daily operations that we all value are almost entirely funded through sales tax revenue, including all our road maintenance programs.

December is full of local events to celebrate the season and I hope to see many of you there. This is a magical time of year. Gurnee has shopping, dining, entertainment, and recreation for everyone. That's why we like to say "Gurnee's Got It" every chance we get. On behalf of myself, the Village Board and Village Staff, we sincerely wish everyone in our community a most happy and joyous Holiday season spent safely with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

Seasonal Reminders

Adopt-a-Hydrant

The Fire Department is looking for volunteers for its "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program. Residents can "adopt" a fire hydrant near their home and ensure it is visible throughout the year in case of a fire. For more information, visit www.gurnee.il.us/adopt-a-hydrant

Holiday Waste Management Schedule

All solid waste and recycling collection will be delayed by one day following the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Holidays will be observed on December 25 and January 1, therefore there will be no solid waste or recycling collection on both Mondays. All collection will be delayed one day from customer's normal pickup day.

Christmas Tree Collection

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 3, 2018
- Wednesday, January 10, 2018
- Wednesday, January 17, 2018
- Wednesday, January 24, 2018

In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the edge of the street by 7:00 a.m. on the pick-up day. All lights and decorations must be removed. Failure to remove decorations or placing the tree in a plastic bag will result in the tree not being collected that week and, consequently, the resident will have to wait until the following week. Trees placed out after January 24, 2018 will not be collected.

Drunk Driving Awareness

To ensure that everyone has a safe holiday season, the Gurnee Police Department will be increasing enforcement during December's "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. Ensure holiday guests have a safe ride home.

Plowing Reminders

Keeping the Village's roads and sidewalks safe and clear of snow and ice is a major job. While the Public Works Department does most of the work, a little help from everyone can make a major difference. Below are some friendly reminders on what to do (and not do) during a snowstorm:

Clear Your Sidewalk

The biggest obstacles after a winter storm, aside from the unplowed streets, are impassable sidewalks. While the Village does not require shoveling within a certain time frame, all residents should recognize that shoveling is an important part of keeping sidewalks safe for the public and that the Village strongly encourages residents to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall.

Place Shoveled Snow On Your Yard

The Village's plowing system is designed to handle most snow and ice events with relative ease. However, one variable that even the best system cannot control is when snow is thrown back in the street. This works against plowing and can lead to hazardous, icy conditions for drivers and pedestrians. Please place snow from your driveway and sidewalk on your lawn or parkway instead of in the street. Failure to do so may result in warnings or fines. Residents wishing to report thrown snow can report it to the Code Enforcement Division at (847) 599-7550.

Park Vehicles Off Village Streets

Under Village Code, it is illegal to park a vehicle on a Village street within 12 hours of a two-inch snowfall OR until snow has been removed from Village streets. This is done to ensure that plowing can be done as quickly and efficiently as possible and to minimize unnecessary damage to property. Any vehicle found to be in violation of this ordinance may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

Understanding the Village's Snow & Ice Control Program

Each year, long before snow and ice begin falling, the Public Works Department is diligently preparing for the snow season. Winter storms impact all Village residents, businesses, institutions, and the motoring public, and the safety and well-being of the general public is highly dependent on the work of the Department before, during, and after each storm event. Understanding how plowing works can be a great help in navigating winter weather. This article is intended to give the public a snapshot of the work that goes into managing roads during each winter event.

Planning for a storm event can begin several days in advance of the first snowflakes falling. Since each event is unique, the Department modifies its strategy depending on variables such as the type of snow (sleet, wet snow, or fluffy flakes), temperature (rising or falling as well as air temperature versus surface temperature), time of day (day, night, weekend, and/or rush hour), event duration, and post-storm weather predictions. The general goal, however, remains the same for each event during the winter.

During an event, the Department will clear the Village's roads using a pre-defined route plan. Each route divides the local streets into three categories: collector streets (first priority roads such as Almond, Dada, Lawson, Southridge, Manchester, and Belle Plaine), local streets (second priority), and cul-de-sacs and dead-ends (third priority). Typically, depending on the event, a full run of each route takes between four to six hours. In heavy snowstorms, however, crews will make two passes down each street and a single pass into cul-de-sacs to make streets and cul-de-sacs accessible. Final clean-up operations, such as cleaning from curb to curb, are normally completed after storms begin to diminish.

It is important to understand that the Village manages only Village-owned streets as part of the snow plan. Plowing of major roads such as Grand Avenue (Rt. 132), US 41, and IL Route 120 are managed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and roads such as Washington St., Delany Rd., O'Plaine Rd. and Hunt Club Rd., are managed by the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT).

During and after a snow event, the Department's goal is to keep roads open and passable to the greatest extent possible. This means that while motorists will be able to travel on roads, these roads may not be completely clear of snow or ice, especially in extremely cold conditions. Again, the Department manages its resources wisely and encourages all drivers to build in extra travel time and drive safely and slow when the snow starts to fly.

For any questions, see the full Snow & Ice Control Plan on the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/public_works/street/plowing or contact the Department at (847) 599-6800.



Gurnee's Snow Plow Fleet is ready for the winter season. The Village Snow Fleet includes 22 trucks on 11 routes and 4 trucks on standby

Timothy O'Toole's Pub Gurnee Recognized for "Best of Gurnee" Award

"Best of Gurnee" is a campaign started by the Economic Development Committee that recognizes Gurnee businesses and awards them for altruistic and community-building behavior. Establishments can be awarded under two categories: the "Bringing Me Home" award recognizes businesses that foster community pride by infusing excellence into its operations with evidence of long-term, sustained commitment to their customers and the community; the "Pay It Forward" award recognizes businesses that address community needs – in Gurnee and beyond – and meet them with compassion, generosity, and courage.



Mayor Kovarik presents the "Best of Gurnee - Pay It Forward" award to Timothy O'Toole's owners Sara McKinnon and Humberto Martinez Jr.

After considering many worthy nominees, the Review Committee felt that the nominations for Timothy O'Toole's in both categories made a strong case to select the establishment as the sole winner for this round of awards based on the support they provide for organizations like the American Legion Post 771 and the Lake County Honor Flight.

The next round of Best of Gurnee awards will be presented in Spring 2018. Nominations are accepted year-round, and all previous nominations are considered. To nominate a business for a Best of Gurnee award, fill out the application at www.gurnee.il.us/bestofgurnee.

Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall

The Gurnee Fire Department asks that you check your home, vehicle, and business extinguishers due to a recent recall of extinguishers. The Kidde Fire Extinguisher Company has recalled approximately 40 million extinguishers that may not work properly. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, one death has been reported due to extinguisher failure.

According to the recall notice, the extinguishers can become clogged and fail to activate during an emergency. In addition, the nozzle may detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard. Kidde is aware of a death involving a car fire after a crash. There have been approximately 391 reports of failed or limited activation or nozzle detachment including the fatality, 16 injuries, and 91 reports of property damage.

The extinguishers were made between 1973 and this year. They were sold in most major department stores, online, and sold with commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, and personal watercraft.

If you have a recalled extinguisher, Kidde will replace it for you. A complete list of all the recalled extinguishers can be found online at www.kidde.com. Click on "product safety recall" for more information. Kidde can also be contacted toll-free at 855-271-0773 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

How Do I Recycle That?

Needles and Medications

Needles and sharps can be dropped off at the Waste Management Sharps container at Village Hall (325 N O'Plaine). Make sure any sharps are in a secured container, which can be purchased at your local pharmacy. DEA controlled substances can only be dropped off at a designated secured police facility. The nearest facility is the Grayslake Police Department (200 E Cook Ave., Grayslake, IL 60030).

Baby Car Seats

Ensuring that your child has a well-fitting car seat is critical. The Gurnee Police Department will accept used baby and toddler car seats to be recycled, but does not reuse them. To recycle car seats, call ahead to schedule an appointment with an officer at 847-599-7000.

Lead Acid Batteries

Lead acid batteries, or car batteries, are usually accepted at most scrap dealers and auto parts stores. Some stores will require a fee; make sure to check ahead to see if they do. Handle and store lead acid batteries with caution.

Household Electronics

Household Electronics are currently only accepted at four locations in Lake County. The closest location to Gurnee residents is the Grayslake Public Works Facility (585 Berry Avenue, Grayslake, IL), which is open to Lake County residents. The hours for the facility are Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - noon.

Latex Paint

Latex Paint is not accepted at SWALCO HCW events because it is not considered hazardous. Consider trying to reuse paint, or find a new project to use the paint. If that is not possible, Ace Hardware (4806 Grand) will recycle the paint for a small fee.

Keeping Posted

KRISTINA M. KOVARIK, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes Michael Jacobs
Greg Garner Cheryl Ross
Thomas Hood Karen Thorstenson

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Patrick Muetz

VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies: 9-1-1

Police Non-Emergency: 847-599-7000

Fire Non-Emergency: 847-599-6600

Village Hall: 847-599-7500

Utility Billing: 847-599-7525

Community Development: 847-599-7550

Public Works: 847-599-6800

Visit us online at www.gurnee.il.us.

Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Gurnee, IL
Permit No. 45

Postal Patron Gurnee, IL 60031

Small Business Saturdays

In celebration of the Holiday Train this year, two dates - November 25th and December 2 - were officially proclaimed Small Business Saturdays in the Village of Gurnee. 27 different independent restaurants and retailers offered something special to customers on November 25 - discounts, refreshments, live demonstrations, and a chance to win \$500 in local gift certificates. Many of these businesses are also collecting food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. December 2nd is the last day to take advantage of Small Business Saturday deals and enter to win the drawing, so make your plans now! Thank you for shopping and dining small this holiday season in the Village of Gurnee! Visit www.gurnee.il.us/small-business-saturday for more information.

Village Update

For each issue of *Keeping Posted*, the Village will call out one or two exceptional projects, events or employees that epitomize the Village's strategic goals of engaging the public, preserving our community and quality of life or advancing our services in response to public needs.

An Introduction of Village Historian Odie Pahl

Hello, my name is Odie Pahl. I have lived in the Gurnee area for 39 years and Lake County my whole life.

Several months ago, Mayor Kovarik and I met and put our heads together with a plan to celebrate Gurnee's Centennial in 2028. You may think, "Geez, Odie this is a decade away! What is the rush?" Well, great ideas take time.

So, I am honored to be given the title as Village Historian. I will build a story covering the second fifty years (1978-2028), while filling it with facts, people, places, and events.

However, I could really use your help. I am asking for long-time families to allow me to tell your stories. What was Gurnee like in 1978, who made it what it is today, and maybe include what was lost over the years?

I will begin to gather, speak to, and document after the holidays. My email is odiepahl@gmail.com. Please let me know what you remember, who was important, the special events attended, and the gathering places you think can be woven into this collective memory. I can use all the ideas I can get.

Be in the Know

Curious about new businesses or projects in the Village? Be in the know with this listing of new or upcoming projects!

New Businesses:

- Edible Arrangements (4930 Grand Avenue)
- Cold Stone Creamery (7105 Grand Avenue)
- The Gaming Goat (726 Route 21)
- DeVry University (relocated) (1325 TriState Parkway)
- Aspen Dental (6300 Grand Avenue)
- Bickford Senior Living (301 S. Hunt Club Road) - open for tours: 847-281-0780

Coming Soon:

- Dick's Sporting Goods (replacing Sport's Authority) (Gurnee Mills)
- Art Van Furniture (replacing HHGregg) (7105 Grand Avenue)
- Nothing Bundt Cakes (7105 Grand Avenue)

New Village Hall Hours

- In an effort to maximize Village resources, Administration's hours will change to 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018. This change will match hours with the Community Development Department schedule.