

# Keeping Posted

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## Shop and Dine Local this Holiday Season

With the holiday season upon us, the search for great deals and savings is on. However, before you look online, make sure to visit Gurnee businesses first.

According to research firm Civic Economics, for every \$100 you spend at a locally-owned store or restaurant, \$68 of that remains in the community and supports everything from jobs to government services (including police and fire services and road maintenance). Almost every dollar spent online leaves the community and has no direct benefit to you after you spend it. So, make a wise investment and ensure that your dollars keep working for you - shop and dine local this holiday season and see the dividends pay out throughout the entire year.

For a searchable list of local businesses, visit the Village's website at [www.gurnee.il.us/business/directory/list](http://www.gurnee.il.us/business/directory/list). Also, view Gurnee's independent restaurant guide at [www.gurnee.il.us/IndependentRestaurantGuide](http://www.gurnee.il.us/IndependentRestaurantGuide).

## Small Business Saturday Recap

Saturday, November 26th, was officially proclaimed Small Business Saturday in the Village of Gurnee. This year, we celebrated with local businesses that participated in a special promotion.

Seventeen different independent restaurants and retailers offered something special to customers that day - discounts, refreshments, live demonstrations and more. Additionally, participating businesses collected canned goods for local food pantries and housed a collection box for customers to enter to win \$250 in gift cards from up to five independent businesses of choice. The winner will be announced at the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train on December 5th.



Mark your calendars for Small Business Saturday in 2017, and remember to shop and dine small in the Village of Gurnee! Visit [www.gurnee.il.us/smallbusinessaturday](http://www.gurnee.il.us/smallbusinessaturday) for more information.

# Upcoming Events

## Village Meetings

### Village Board

Dec.  
**5**  
7:00 p.m.

Dec.  
**19**  
7:00 p.m.

Jan.  
**9**  
7:00 p.m.

Jan.  
**23**  
7:00 p.m.

Feb.  
**6**  
7:00 p.m.

### Planning & Zoning

Dec.  
**7**  
7:30 p.m.

Dec.  
**21**  
7:30 p.m.

Jan.  
**4**  
7:30 p.m.

Jan.  
**18**  
7:30 p.m.

### Other Boards

Dec.  
**15**  
5:30 p.m.

Jan.  
**24**  
7:00 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

Monday, December 5th  
3:50 p.m.  
Viking Park  
(See back page for details)



### Frosty Fest 2017

Saturday, January 14, 2017  
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Bittersweet Golf Course



### Looking for more events?

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

# Long-Range Financial Planning a Key Component of Gurnee's Operations Plan

Due to the Village's reliance on economically sensitive revenue sources, the Gurnee Village Board has made long-range financial planning an integral part of the municipal operations. As part of this process, the Village has begun developing a wide range of financial plans and procedures to prepare for a variety of scenarios and events. Below, we highlight these plans and their impact to the Village. To view these plans, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/finance](http://www.gurnee.il.us/finance)

## Strategic Plan

The first step in the development of a long-term financial outlook is the development of a strategic plan. In 2015, the Village developed a strategic plan based on feedback from residents and businesses to serve our stakeholders in five key areas: Exceptional Village Services and Staff, Fiscal Sustainability, Well-maintained Infrastructure, Safe and Livable Community, and High Quality Lifestyle. Priority items under each of these categories were identified as targets to be completed during the five year plan.



## Multi-Year Financial Forecast

Using the goals identified in the Strategic Plan, the Village needed a way to budget long-term for the priority items identified. This led to the development of a Multi-Year Financial Forecast. The Multi-Year Financial Forecast is a five year projection of revenues and expenditures based on multiple scenarios: Increase, no change, or a decrease in revenues. This allows the Village to be able to identify the impact of changes in resources.



## Multi-Year Capital Plan

With revenue estimates provided by the Multi-Year Financial Forecast, the Village is able to attach a funding mechanism to infrastructure priorities identified by the Engineering Division and Public Works Department. This schedule of repairs and improvements allows the Village to take a proactive approach to planning for large scale capital purchases and projects. The Multi-Year Capital Plan allows the Village to project capital investments five years in advance.



## Fiscal Contingency Plan

Despite our attempts at predicting our financial future, sometimes things do not go as planned. There are a variety of unpredictable factors that could impact the Village's budget that would be unpredictable: State-intervention of revenues, severe economic decline, and natural disasters, to name a few. To prepare for these scenarios, the Village is in the process of developing a Fiscal Contingency Plan. This plan will be an innovative outlook for how operations would respond to unforeseen financial challenges.

## Mayor's Message

Dear Residents:

What a wonderful time of the year with the Holidays upon us. It's festive and bustling with just the right amount of chill in the air.

It was another big year for our community with lots of successes to reflect on! We are making quick progress on many of the initiatives identified by the community in our five-year Strategic Plan. This year's Capital Improvement Plan surpassed 2015 as the largest in the Village's history, with next year's shaping up to be just as significant. The Village also made great strides related to planning for our future, ensuring our first responders are properly prepared and equipped, partnering with the business community to meet its needs and improving our outreach efforts to keep residents *in the know*. All of this has been accomplished while continuing to rely on visitor spending to fund municipal operations. Investing in our community is what will keep Gurnee an attractive place to live, work and play. I am very proud of the hard work the Village Staff put in this year to keep our business community thriving, our neighborhoods safe and our infrastructure and services operating optimally 24/7/365 days this year.

All of us are looking forward to spending and enjoying time with our families and friends this holiday season. It's part of what makes Gurnee great; close friends in the neighborhoods and the proximity of several generations in our families. I can tell you, however, that there are those in our community that don't have family in the area, are alone or cannot afford to celebrate the traditions of the Holiday. I would ask each of you to take a moment to be extra kind to those less fortunate and go out of your way to make sure the young and the old in your neighborhood are included rather than left alone. I ask that we make sure everyone in our community is heard, feels valued and is treated with dignity and respect. We are only 14 1/2 square miles, but together we can make it the kindest 14 1/2 square miles in the State of Illinois. It's often said that the extra minute you take to talk or listen to someone is the most rewarding minute of the whole day. It's true and I'm very fortunate that I get to experience it every single day as Mayor.

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/](http://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 26 and January 2, 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 4, 2017
- Wednesday, January 11, 2017
- Wednesday, January 18, 2017
- Wednesday, January 25, 2017

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 25, 2017 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.

## Protect Your Home from Cold Weather

As a friendly reminder from the Building Safety Division and Fire Department, winter can be extremely hard on your home. To help protect your property, take the following steps before temperatures sink below freezing:

- If you have a programmable thermostat, put it to good use. Set it to make sure your home is comfortable when you are home but never less than 55 degrees when you are away to prevent your pipes from freezing and bursting.
- If using a fireplace, have it inspected. When it's in use, keep the glass doors open and the spark arrester closed to help provide proper air flow to the fire.

For any questions, contact the Building Safety Division at (847) 599-7550.

# 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 hard at work 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 public is highly dependent on the work of the Department before, during and after each storm. 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 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 versus surface), 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: main lines (essential, first priority roads such as Almond, Lawson, Southridge, Manchester and Belle Plaine), secondary 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 clearing operations, such as cleaning from curb to curb, are normally completed after storms begin diminishing.

It is important to realize that the Village manages only Village-owned streets as part of this plan. Plowing of major roads such as Grand Avenue, Washington Street, US 41, IL Route 120 and others are managed either by the Illinois Department of Transportation or Lake County Division of Transportation.

During and after a snow event, the Department's goal is to keep roads 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 attempts to use its resources wisely and encourages all drivers to build in extra travel time and take it 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](http://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 23 trucks on routes and 4 on standby

# "Best of Gurnee" Awards Ceremony

At the annual Mayor's Luncheon on November 16th, 2016, two local businesses were awarded as the "Best of Gurnee" for Fall 2016. After collecting numerous nominations, The Shipping Point and Six Flags Great America were chosen.

"Best of Gurnee" is a new campaign started by the Economic Development Committee that recognizes Gurnee businesses and awards them for altruistic 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 meets them with compassion, generosity and courage.



Shipping Point owner Jim LoMonaco with his award



Mayor Kovarik presents Six Flags Great America's Award

The Shipping Point was selected as the first winner of the "Bringing Me Home" award for its commitment to customers and community service. "Pay It Forward" winner Six Flags Great America was recognized for its community service, which included opening up the Park for a Community Day on September 17th to support WTHS and the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce.

## Ten Holiday Safety Tips from the Gurnee Fire Department

- 1. Have your furnace checked.** It's worth the money to hire a professional to inspect and service your furnace once a year.
- 2. Have your chimneys and vents checked.** Fireplaces produce creosote which can ignite. If you light fires frequently, you need a chimney sweep service once a year.
- 3. Test smoke alarms.** Make sure batteries are fresh. Place smoke alarms in the kitchen, laundry room and in bedrooms.
- 4. Cover the fireplace with a screen.** Tempered glass or a metal screen helps protect sparks from leaving the fireplace.
- 5. Beware of lit candles.** Light candles only when you're around to watch them and blow them out when you're ready to leave the room.
- 6. Beware of space heaters.** Don't put space heaters near curtains, tablecloths or other fluttering fabrics.
- 7. Know how to put out kitchen fires quickly.** Water doesn't help a grease fire, which can get out of control. Keep salt and baking soda on hand to sprinkle on pan fires.
- 8. Practice an escape route.** Businesses have fire drills, your family should, too. Teach your family to crawl to the nearest exit from every room. Show them how to drop and roll if their clothes were ever to catch on fire.
- 9. Fire extinguishers can be life-savers.** Store one under the kitchen sink, and in the hall closet near the bedrooms.
- 10. All household members should know 911.**

## How Do I Recycle That?

### Pet Medications

Pet medications can cause problems for the wastewater stream, so it is recommended that residents safely dispose of expired or unneeded pet medications in the same way they do for humans. They are accepted at SWALCO household chemical waste events. Visit [www.SWALCO.org](http://www.SWALCO.org) or call (847) 336-9340 to schedule an appointment for a bi-monthly chemical waste event.

### CFL Lamps and Tubes

Switching to longer lasting LED bulbs and have CFL lamps or tubes to get rid of? CFL bulbs can be recycled at a SWALCO household chemical waste event, Ace Hardware (4806 Grand), Home Depot (6625 Grand) or Lowe's (7735 Grand) in Gurnee.

### Expired Fire Extinguishers

It is important to make sure that your fire extinguishers are replaced per their manufacturer's recommendations. Dependable Fire Equipment in Waukegan (60 Le Baron St., Waukegan, IL), or Extinguish Fire Protection in Wadsworth (847-693-9036 for appointment) will recycle expired fire extinguishers.

### 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                      Cheryl Ross  
Greg Garner                      Karen Thorstensen  
Thomas Hood                      Don Wilson

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](http://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

## Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Information

As mentioned on page 2, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be arriving at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave) on Monday, December 5, 2015 at 3:50 p.m. This year's event will feature performers Kelly Prescott and Colin James. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to see the train pull in. Those attending the event are also encouraged to bring a non-perishable food or cash donation to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank. For more information, visit the Village's website at [www.gurnee.il.us/holiday\\_train](http://www.gurnee.il.us/holiday_train).

## 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.

### Village Negotiating Contract to Provide Dispatch Services for the City of Zion

In the summer of 2015, the Illinois General Assembly adopted Public Act 99-0006, which required municipalities with populations of less than 25,000 to consolidate their emergency call answering systems with other communities. Due to Gurnee's size, the Village was not required to consolidate but viewed this as an opportunity to take on a partner community. The City of Zion expressed interest in this opportunity, and was identified as a good fit for Gurnee due to their proximity, size, and organizational structure. Currently the two communities are negotiating a contract by which the Village would provide Police and Fire dispatching for Zion. By providing dispatch services to Zion, the Village will be better prepared to handle large scale emergencies due to the increased number of dispatchers that will be on duty at the 9-1-1 center. Residents will not notice any change in the level of service they receive and they will still speak to a Gurnee dispatcher when they dial 9-1-1.

## 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:

- Carhartt (7055 Grand Avenue Ste. 4A)
- Dickey's Barbecue Pit (6681 Grand Avenue Ste. A1)
- Alist Ave Salon (726 Route 21 Ste. D)
- T-Mobile (6447 Grand Avenue Ste. D)
- Ralph Lauren (Gurnee Mills Entry F)
- Kelly's Cajun Grill (Gurnee Mills Food Court, Entry J)

### Coming Soon:

- Floor & Décor (Gurnee Mills Entry G and H) - coming soon!
- Sam's Club Fuel Station (6560 Grand Avenue)- opening soon!

### Comprehensive Plan Update

- The Village is updating our Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a community vision that will guide Gurnee for the next 20 years by directing policy for future growth and development. To find out more about the Comprehensive Planning process and to get involved, visit the plan website at [www.hlplanning.com/portals/gurnee/](http://www.hlplanning.com/portals/gurnee/)