

# Keeping Posted

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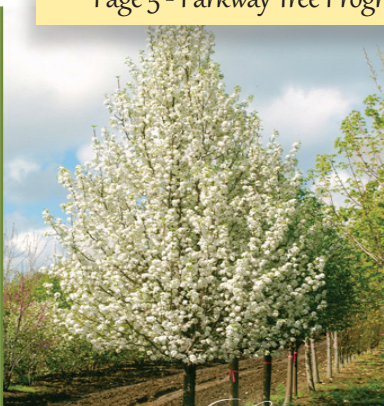
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## Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

It is VERY important to me, the Village Board and the Village Staff that we have an engaged and informed community. We try hard to be transparent and proactive in communicating but there is always room for improvement. We have come a long way in the last five years in adopting and adapting to new avenues to reach our residents, but I realize there are still many who aren't engaged or receiving information. The newsletter is only published five times a year so we do rely on other methods to get timely information out. I do know that every household does get the newsletter so I'm dedicating a portion of the newsletter to highlight all the ways you can keep up with Village news and, even better, engage with us. We welcome your feedback, ideas, suggestions and hearing from you when you have a concern. It is a representative form of government but only works when we all participate and communicate with each other. So, sign up, like us, follow us, subscribe, add us to your "favorites" and get engaged through any of the following:



CTY - sign up for emergency alerts, community alerts or important community events. You can receive information on your landline, mobile phone or even through email. We have the ability to tailor these short recorded messages to a street, subdivision, neighborhood, or the entire Village. This rapid dial method makes thousands of calls in a matter of minutes.



NextDoor - almost all of our neighborhoods and subdivisions have access to this Village provided social media application. Only those in the neighborhood can see what is posted or you can choose to post to multiple neighborhoods. The Village can make an informational post relevant to a neighborhood or the whole Village (but we can't see what the neighbors post among themselves).



Facebook - The Village ([facebook.com/villageofgurnee](https://www.facebook.com/villageofgurnee)), Police Department ([facebook.com/gurneepd](https://www.facebook.com/gurneepd)) and I ([facebook.com/MayorKristinaKovarik](https://www.facebook.com/MayorKristinaKovarik)) have accounts. The pages are public and we stay pretty active with news and other interesting topics. Follow us and you will also be able to ask questions directly to the Village.



Twitter - the Village has a Twitter account if that's your preferred social media source. It is primarily the same information found on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter (@VillageofGurnee).



YouTube - you can watch all of the governance meetings held by the Village usually within a week of the date it's held.



ListServ - we publish a weekly electronic newsletter. It has events planned for the upcoming week, recently passed new business and each department includes a short paragraph of their recent or upcoming activities. You can also sign up for the Road Construction ListServ that is published in the summer.

*(Mayor's Message Continued on Page 4)*

# Upcoming Events

## Village Meetings

### Village Board

March  
**20**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**3**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**17**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**24**  
7:00 p.m.

### Planning & Zoning

March  
**15**  
7:30 p.m.

April  
**5**  
7:30 p.m.

April  
**19**  
7:30 p.m.

### Other Boards

March  
**21**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**20**  
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.

# Technology Improvements Coming Soon

As part of the Village's 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, a wide range of technology upgrades were targeted as key priorities across departments. The Village's Information Systems Division is hard at work to help implement these initiatives to improve Village services and increase the customer service experience of residents. Here is a snapshot of a few projects underway.

## Police Officer Body Cameras

The Gurnee Police Department made the initial recommendation to the Village Board to consider the use of body-worn cameras for officers. The GPD supported the use of the cameras as an extra step of transparency and provides officers with additional support for complaint resolution and training feedback. The Police Department launched the body-worn cameras for the entire police force on Friday, March 3rd.



## New Village Website

The Village is entering in to the beta testing phase of a brand new website, with the goal of releasing the new website to the public before Summer 2017. The new website will help residents, businesses, and visitors become more connected with the Village and easily find information they are searching for.



## Community Events

### Coffee with the Mayor

Saturday, March 18th  
10 a.m. - Noon  
Chicago Grill and Bagel  
3900 Washington St, Ste D  
[www.gurnee.il.us/village\\_board/coffee](http://www.gurnee.il.us/village_board/coffee)



### 2017 Fire Expo

Saturday, May 13th  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Gurnee Mills  
[www.gurnee.il.us/fire\\_expo](http://www.gurnee.il.us/fire_expo)



## Online Water Bill Portal

As part of the Village's Financial Software update, the Village will be rolling out a new Online Self-Service Center that will allow residents to view their consumption history, track payments and login to their account 24/7 to make any needed changes. This service is expected to be released in 2018.



## Report-a-Problem

Residents frequently contact the Village regarding problems they come across, whether it is a burned out streetlight or a an issue with their trash. To make this reporting process easier, the Village is currently exploring an online customer relationship management application that will allow residents to easily snap a picture of an issue and send it to the Village. This project is in the development phase, with no timeline yet for launch.



## 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!

# Village of Gurnee Fire Hydrant Flushing

## Q&A

### **How many fire hydrants are there in the Village of Gurnee?**

There are over 2,500 fire hydrants in the Village of Gurnee and annually during the Spring the Utility Division flushes out each of these hydrants and the attached underground pipes.

### **Why are hydrants flushed every year; isn't it wasting water?**

There are two main reasons fire hydrants are flushed every year. First and foremost, it ensures the hydrants are operating properly and that there is sufficient water flow and pressure for the Gurnee Fire Department if needed. The second reason is to flush naturally occurring sediment out of the underground pipes connected to the fire hydrant.

### **How is a fire hydrant turned on; where is the water coming from?**

Each fire hydrant you see is connected to an underground pipe carrying water. It is the same water coming into your home or business. A hydrant wrench is used to open a "port" where the water comes out, similar to the faucet in your home. The same wrench is used to turn the "operating nut" located on the top of the hydrant. The operating nut allows water to come up the barrel and flow out of the openings, similar to your faucet's hot and cold knobs.

### **How does the Gurnee Fire Department use a hydrant to fight a fire?**

Water comes out of the fire hydrant at the same pressure you experience in your home. However, firefighters require adequate pressure and high volume to fight fires. In order to have enough volume, the firefighters will open the large cover and connect a 3 or 5-inch hose from the hydrant to their fire engine. The fire engine contains a pump increasing the pressure of the water. The firefighters then connect smaller hoses to the engine which are used to actually fight a fire.

### **During hydrant flushing, will I see any changes to my water service?**

During flushing, water may become temporarily discolored due to material being removed from water mains. The water is safe to drink during this time, but residents may notice that their water pressure will fluctuate while hydrant flushing is occurring in their area.

### **If a car were to strike a hydrant, would the water really gush out like it does in the movies?**

Normally, no. As long as a hydrant is off, water should not gush out if struck. All the fire hydrants you see around the Village are "dry barrel hydrants" which means there is no water sitting in the upper portion of the hydrant when it is turned off. The valve controlling the flow of water is actually below ground and there is a long stem connecting the valve to the operating nut. Near the base of that valve are weep holes. When the operating nut is used to turn the hydrant off, it opens those weep holes and allows the water to drain out of the hydrant and the stem. Incidentally, this is also a very important mechanism to avoid water freezing in the hydrant during the winter months.

## Village Reminders

### Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The Spring 2017 Neighborhood Watch meetings will begin in early March. In addition to reviewing crime statistics specific to your neighborhood, the Police Department will give a presentation to educate residents about suspicious activity reporting. Many times residents are hesitant to call police about things they observe that "just don't seem right" We'll take some of the mystery out of this topic and share specific and practical recommendations designed to help residents who may struggle with the decision to call. Check out [www.gurnee.il.us/police/neighborhood\\_watch/schedule](http://www.gurnee.il.us/police/neighborhood_watch/schedule) for your neighborhood's meeting date.

### FY17/18 Annual Budget

The Village is currently working on an updated annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2017 and ending April 30, 2018. The first Budget Workshop for the upcoming budget was hosted on Monday, March 6th. The video of the budget workshop is available online at [www.youtube.com/villageofgurnee](http://www.youtube.com/villageofgurnee). The proposed budget can also be viewed online at [www.gurnee.il.us/FY18Budget](http://www.gurnee.il.us/FY18Budget). The final budget/appropriation will be presented to the Village Board for adoption on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

### Address Numbers Must Be Visible

The Community Development Department is sending out notices to properties not in compliance with the Village's requirement of having address numbers prominently displayed on their house. The ordinance requires that address numbers be affixed to the house in a contrasting color and no less than 4" in height and 1/2" in width. Numbers on mailboxes are helpful but can be buried in snow during winter months and therefore do not satisfy the ordinance. This requirement is in place to ensure that emergency responders can quickly locate an address in an emergency. To find out more about the requirement, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/community\\_dev](http://www.gurnee.il.us/community_dev)

# Seasonal Reminders

## Unlimited Yardwaste Collection Week

Waste Management will collect unlimited containerized landscape waste at no charge to current customers the week of **April 3rd to April 7th**. This collection will take place on your regular pickup day. This service is for Village residents only. Collection requires that landscape waste be containerized in a Kraft-type paper bag not to exceed 45 lbs.; a rigid can not to exceed 32-gallons; and/or bundles of brush not to exceed 2 feet in diameter by 4 feet long, no heavier than 60 lbs., with no individual branch greater than 3 inches in diameter. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6:00 a.m. Failure to have materials out at this time could result in waste not being collected. As a result, you will have to wait until regular landscape waste pickup resumes the following week.

Regular landscape waste collection through Waste Management's subscription service or sticker program will begin on April 10th. Visit [www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape](http://www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape) for more information.

## Spring Building Permits

Spring is just around the corner and, with that, so are the home improvement projects. Please remember to check the Village's website at [www.gurnee.il.us/community\\_dev/building\\_safety/building\\_apps](http://www.gurnee.il.us/community_dev/building_safety/building_apps) to verify when permits are required. Contact the Building Safety Division at (847) 599-7550 with any questions.

## Reminder: Dogs Must be Leashed

When out for walks this Spring, remember that Village ordinance requires all dogs on a leash. The age, breed, or temperament of the dog does not exclude them from the requirement, so ensure that the leash is on at all times.

# Mayor's Message (continued from Page 1)

Village Website – the current one is cumbersome and it is not easy to find information. We found it cumbersome too. For the last year, staff has been working with a prominent web design service to completely redesign it from a user perspective and is in the process of moving all the content over into the new format. It will have lots of new content such as a "Transparency Portal", visitor information, and is mobile friendly. We hope to launch in the coming months.

Coffee with the Mayor – once a month I hold a coffee for two hours at a local business. You can ask anything, bring a concern or issue to me, or just stop and chat about what might be on the drawing board. I vary the location month to month and its always published on our social media accounts and the Village Website.

While we know there is room for improvement, the Village is working hard on reaching each resident and making sure that the information that is important to you is available and accessible. Please don't ever hesitate to use the old-fashioned method either with a phone call (847-599-7510) or letter too.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

# Spring Flooding and How You Can Protect Your Home

## Flood Hazards

With spring showers on the horizon, the potential for flooding in the community is very real. The area upstream of the Village of Gurnee that is tributary to the Des Plaines River is about 235 square miles. This is a large area that will melt and drain through our community this spring. If you are a property owner in the flood plain you need flood insurance. Renters in the flood plain can also purchase a contents policy to protect their assets.

Anyone who experiences flooding or seepage into their home or business is encouraged to take pictures of the area during the event and contact the Engineering Division (847-599-7550) to inspect and evaluate the cause. Many times a simple grading change can make a huge difference.

## Drainage System Maintenance

Keeping storm sewers, ditches, and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as reduce the chance of a blockage that can contribute to flooding. Please note that it is illegal to dump materials into a waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone dumping, please contact the Gurnee Police Department at (847) 599-7000. To report debris in one of the Village's waterways, please contact the Gurnee Public Works Department at (847) 599-6800.

## Flood Protection Assistance

The Village has professional staff available to assist property owners with drainage or flooding problems, flood map interpretation, flood insurance requirements and building protection guidance. Please contact the Engineering Division with any questions or concerns that you may have.

## Historical Information

The Village of Gurnee maintains historical flood information from the 1986 Des Plaines River flood through the present day. Damage assessment data and photographs are available to be viewed at the Village Hall during normal business hours.

# 2017 Parkway Tree Program

## THE PROGRAM

As part of the Village's ongoing environmental effort and to increase the number of trees in town, the Village will share the cost of about 60 new parkway trees. The Village will contribute 50% of the cost of the trees with residents providing the remaining \$175.00. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary and is limited to owner-occupied homes. Trees will be planted in May (as weather permits) and our certified arborist will monitor the health of the tree during the initial growing season.

## PLACEMENT

Each new parkway tree must be placed midway between the curb (or pavement edge) and the sidewalk (or 7' from the pavement for locations without a sidewalk), at least 30' from any other parkway tree, at least 10' from a driveway and at least 45' from an intersection. Due to their low mature height, the **Chanticleer Ornamental Pear** can be used near power lines.

Every attempt will be made to locate the tree as indicated on the order form; however, locations will be reviewed for suitability and to avoid utility conflicts. Please make your drawing as clear as possible, noting the location of your house, curb, sidewalk, driveways, intersections, existing trees, fire hydrants or any other objects in the area.

Choice	Description
	<i>Exclamation Planetree</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (60' tall x 30' wide at maturity) medium growing hybrid specimen of London Planetree selected for its uniform, upright-pyramidal habit and resistance to anthracnose. Attractive, exfoliating bark of cream, olive and light brown color.
	<i>Swamp White Oak</i> - 2" caliper (55' tall x 55' wide at maturity) medium growing, broad spreading and majestic native oak with yellow fall color.
	<i>Chanticleer Ornamental Pear</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (35' tall x 16' wide at maturity) medium growing tree with pyramidal shape, white flowers in April and an attractive red/purple fall color
	<i>Heritage River Birch</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (50' tall x 50' wide at maturity) medium to fast growing attractive, exfoliating bark ranging from salmon-brown to cinnamon-brown to grey-brown. Yellow fall color.

Indicate tree location noting objects in area

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return form with payment by April 5, 2017 to  
Gurnee Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Road

## Community Updates

### Community Volunteer Fair

In an effort to help connect residents and local nonprofit organizations in need, the Village hosted a volunteer fair on February 28th that had over 100 interested volunteers meet with local organizations. The organizations in attendance ranged from veteran's seeking volunteers to a Gurnee teenager looking to start a group to clean up litter in the community. Due to the success of the event, the Village is planning on hosting another in the Fall. If you were not able to attend but want to learn more about these groups, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/volunteerfair](http://www.gurnee.il.us/volunteerfair)

### Hunt Club Park Aquatic Passes on Sale

Gurnee Park District's Hunt Club Aquatic Center 2017 season passes are on sale now. For more information, visit [www.gurneeparkdistrict.com/hunt-club-aquatic-center](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com/hunt-club-aquatic-center).

### WNPL Offers Tax Preparation Assistance

Volunteers from AARP will be at WNPL on Mondays and Fridays, from February 3rd through April 17th in Meeting Rooms A&B to offer tax preparation assistance from 9:15 a.m. - noon on a first come, first served basis. They are able to prepare both federal and Illinois state taxes.

### 2017 Craft Beer Tickets on Sale May 1st!

Mark your calendars! The 2017 Craft Beer Fest will be held Saturday, September 16th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Gurnee Mills! Enjoy the late-summer weather while sampling brews from more than 35 top-notch brewers from across the country. A variety of food trucks will offer urban cuisine, and live music will fuel the fest vibe throughout the day. Early bird ticket pricing begins Sunday, April 30th with a kickoff event at Timothy O'Toole's (5572 Grand Ave.) from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All proceeds from the Beer Fest benefit the Gurnee American Legion and Lake County Honor Flight--last year's event raised more than \$23,000! Keep an eye on [www.gurneelegionsofbeer.com](http://www.gurneelegionsofbeer.com) for more info!

# 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

## April 4th Consolidated Election

Exercise your right to vote in the Illinois Consolidated Election on Tuesday, April 4th. This year, the following positions are up for election: Mayor; Four-year term Trustee (3); Unexpired Two-Year Term Trustee (2). New voters may register through Tuesday, March 7th. For information on early voting, grace period voting and other options, please visit the Lake County Clerk's website ([www.lakecountyil.gov/161/County-Clerk](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/161/County-Clerk)) or contact the Clerk's office at (847) 377-2314.

## Village Update

### Best of Gurnee

Best of Gurnee was launched last Fall to recognize businesses - large and small, national and local - for exemplary community building activities. It's sponsored and managed by the Village of Gurnee Economic Development Committee (EDC).



Anyone may submit nominations for a Gurnee business (including their own) through an online form on the Village's website - see [www.gurnee.il.us/bestofgurnee](http://www.gurnee.il.us/bestofgurnee) for the form and details. Nominations on [facebook.com/GurneesGotIt](https://www.facebook.com/GurneesGotIt) will be accepted as well. Nominees will be recognized via the Village's social media channels.

Nominations for the Spring 2017 awards are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17th.

Winners will be selected to receive a Best of Gurnee award, presented by Mayor Kristina Kovarik at the Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Picnic, to be held Wednesday, May 17th at Bittersweet Golf Club.

## 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:

- Floor & Décor (Gurnee Mills Entry G and H)
- Chicago Woodfire Pizza Co. (Gurnee Mills Entry A)
- Sam's Club fuel station (6570 Grand Avenue)
- Wentworth - new ranch homes - models open (491 S. Hunt Club Rd.)

### Coming Soon:

- Cold Stone Creamery (7105 Grand Avenue)
- Chick-fil-A (Walmart/Sam's Club outlot)
- Gelato Mio (Gurnee Mills)
- East Side Dental (5415 Grand Avenue)

### 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).