

FALL 2023

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MAYOR

Thomas B. Hood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes

Greg Garner

Quin O'Brien

Cheryl Ross

Karen Thorstenson

Kevin Woodside

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Patrick Muetz

VILLAGE CLERK

Andy Harris



VILLAGE OF GURNEE

325 N. O'PLAINE RD.

Village Hall: **847-599-7500**

Utility Billing: **847-599-7525**

Community Dev.: **847-599-7550**

Police Non-Emergency: **847-599-7000**

Public Works: **847-599-6800**

www.gurnee.il.us



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This newsletter is published by the
Village of Gurnee. To provide
feedback, please contact:
Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

This summer I have enjoyed seeing many residents out experiencing all that Gurnee has to offer. I appreciate the residents that say hello to me when I am out and about in the Village— whether it is at a sporting event, Gurnee Days, a local park or school event, Gurnee Mills or a grocery store, I enjoy speaking with our residents and encourage you to introduce yourself when you see me. At least once a quarter, I host a Coffee with the Mayor, Pizza with the Mayor, Ice Cream with the Mayor—you get the idea—in various businesses in town. This provides an extended time to share your ideas, encouragements and concerns with me.

In this issue, I would like to focus on those that have served in our armed services now and in years past. I have found Gurnee residents to be very respectful in honoring our veterans. As a Village we are going to make a special effort to show our appreciation for men and women who have chosen to serve in the military, allowing us the freedoms that we enjoy today.

We all know that freedom isn't "free". This appreciation that our current freedoms were won in past generations came into focus for me this spring when Pam and I were vacationing in France. We visited a town in France near where my great uncle James Binnie Jr. had died in military action. A Scotsman, he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders regiment in 1914 when he was 20 years old. The Scots came to the aid of the French in 1915 to fight the Germans who were encroaching upon their land. On September 26, 1915 at the Battle of Loos, my great uncle was killed in action.

I was relating this story to a bar owner in France, and he turned to me and shook my hand with a genuine thank you for the sacrifice that my great uncle had made, which resulted in his freedom today. He had no trouble making the direct connection from an event that happened over one hundred years ago, acknowledging that he was a free man in part because of the actions of a young Scotsman.

On November 6, 2023, at the regular Village Board meeting, I would like to offer that same opportunity for our residents to honor those that are currently serving or have served in the military. More details to come.

On another note, I would like to place the spotlight on a committee that I formed in 2020 called the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC). Initially, the formation of this Committee was due in large part to the discovery of ETO emissions in the Village. Since that time, the Committee has expanded to be involved in educating residents in recycling, sponsoring recycling events, giving awards to Gurnee businesses that stand out for environmental advances in their industries and searching for ways in which we as a Village can operate in such a way that would be more environmentally friendly. Trustee Karen Thorstenson leads the charge with 6 other members from the community along with Assistant to the Village Administrator Austin Pollack.

I would encourage you to offer your suggestions on how we can be more environmentally friendly.

I pray that this year we enjoy all that God has gifted us and to especially appreciate those that He has placed in our lives.

I hope you enjoy the fall.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

GURNEE NEWS



COPS AND BOBBERS REELED IN THE FUN

On Wednesday July 26th, the Gurnee Police Department and the Gurnee Park District hosted the Cops and Bobbers fishing event at Hunt Club Park. The evening began with anglers of all ages casting their lines and within no time reeling in some big winners. Besides the big catches of the evening, the Warren-Newport Public Library brought out the bookmobile, and the Gurnee Pageant Queens stopped by to help pick out the raffle winners. The Village would like to thank everyone who came out to make the Cops and Bobbers event a success, especially the Gurnee Park District and the Warren-Newport Public Library!

GURNEE DAYS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

This past August, the Gurnee community came together to celebrate the end of summer and the 50th year of Gurnee Days! Saturday morning started at Hunt Club Park with the Gurnee Days SUPER 70s Race. Runners and walkers enjoyed the morning with a 10k or 5k run. Festival grounds at Viking Park opened Saturday at noon. Gurnee Exchange Club's Rib Fest and "Rib Eating Contest" was back again. Also live music and fireworks were enjoyed by all. The parade was celebrated on Sunday for the 50th year of Gurnee Days with a SUPER 70s theme. The parade was led by Gurnee Days Honorees, Mark and Rose Froseth. After the parade, guests enjoyed Patch 22's petting zoo and pony rides, children's activities, as well as more delicious food, Exchange Club of Gurnee's beer garden and local vendor booths. "School of Rock Libertyville" took the stage and closed out Gurnee Days 2023.



VILLAGE STAFF PRESENT PROGRESS REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN

At the August 28th Committee of the Whole Meeting, staff formally presented on the progress that has been made on the 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan. Under the six key strategic priorities: Fiscal Sustainability, Well-Maintained Infrastructure, Effective Communication, a Stable, Well-Trained Workforce, a Safe Community and Lifestyle Vitality, staff provided an update on the status of each initiatives' action plans. These strategic action plans will serve as the guide of operations for the Village over the next three years. Many of the target dates in the plan are scheduled for the future, so staff will continue working on each initiative and update the Village Board and the public at the next progress report meeting that will occur in early 2024. You can view the full progress report at <https://www.gurnee.il.us/strategicplan>

NEW BUSINESSES

**All State Insurance,
The Schmeissing
Allstate Agencies**
4343 Old Grand Ave.

Cinnabon
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

**Farmers Insurance,
Patricia Poplowski**
5101 Washington St.

Gurnee Balloons
4655 Old Grand Ave.

HOTWORX
6641 Grand Ave. Ste. B

Integrity Workforce
5101 Washington St.

Lovisa
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

Powerhouse Exteriors
4606 Old Grand Ave.

Shoe Carnival
6539 Grand Ave.

TCBY/Mrs. Fields
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

TLC Massage and Spa
726 Milwaukee Ave.

Waukegan Computer
263 Ambrogio Dr.

Zoha Boutique
5101 Washington St.

COMING SOON:

AngelsTat2
3701 Grand Ave. Ste G

**Beauty by Gerda
Esthetics**
1790 Nations Dr.
Ste. 109

Discount Tire
1508 Nations Dr.

**Forest Orthodontics
& Pediatric Dentistry**
7500 Grand Ave.

**Imperfect Harmony
Counseling**
495 N. Milwaukee Ave.

LovSac
6430 Grand Ave.

Michoacan Ice Cream
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

Mochinut
7105 Grand Ave. Ste. 2B

Olivia's Restaurant
750 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Natural Stone Inc.
4310 Lee Ave.

Provida Family Health
1425 Hunt Club Rd.
Ste. 204

Spencer's
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

Trio Car Wash
3419 Grand Ave.

Under Armour
6170 Grand Ave.
(Gurnee Mills)

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board

October 9
October 23
October 30
November 6
November 20

Planning and Zoning Board

October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15

All Village meetings are held at the Gurnee Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road). Village Board meetings begin at 7:00pm on Mondays. Planning and Zoning Board Meetings begin at 7:30pm on Wednesdays. Schedule subject to change.

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



HALLOWEEN FALL FEST

Saturday, October 14
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Viking Park
4374 Old Grand Ave.



29TH ANNUAL JON CALLAGHAN TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN AND WALK

Thursday, November 23
Check In 7:00am
Fire Station 1
4580 Old Grand Ave.
Registration form on back page
or online at www.eventbrite.com

Upcoming Events

Paper Shredding and Recycling Event

Saturday, September 30, 11:00am to 2:00pm

Baxter Credit Union and the Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Shred Event on Saturday, September 30th from 11am to 2pm at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. The event is limited to Gurnee residents and is free of charge. Any documents from businesses or commercial institutions will not be accepted. As a sustainable event, all materials will be recycled and diverted from landfills. Get your documents together and we hope to see you there!

Bonfire & Brews: Taste of Gurnee

Saturday, September 30, 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Join the Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Park District at Bittersweet Golf Club for our first "Bonfire and Brews: Taste of Gurnee" event! Unwind by the fire and enjoy the live music of Matt Meyer while tasting your favorite adult beverage, the flavors of local food vendors and chatting with friends! Or compete with friends at Axe Throwing, Giant Jenga and Giant Connect 4! Drinks and food will be available for purchase from local brewers and food vendors at this **adult-only (21 and up)** event!

Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, October 7, 10:00am to 1:00pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, October 7th from 10am to 1pm at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. Only clean, dry and #6 labeled polystyrene products will be accepted. Packing peanuts will not be accepted.

If you are unable to attend, you may drop off your Styrofoam at Village Hall on Friday, October 6th. If you are unable to make both days, the City of Highland Park's Recycling Center located at 1180 Half Day Rd. offers free Styrofoam recycling to all Lake County residents every Tuesday & every 1st Saturday of the month.

Trick-or-Treating 2023

Sunday, October 29, 2:00pm to 5:00pm

The Village of Gurnee encourages the community to have fun this Halloween and to celebrate safely. Should your family choose to trick-or-treat or pass out candy this year, please keep in mind the following:

- Stay on sidewalks and streets. Do not take shortcuts through alleyways or across lawns.
- Watch for traffic, obey all traffic signs, look before crossing the street and never cross between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Children should always go Trick-or-Treating with a trusted adult.
- Only go to familiar houses and never go into people's homes. If someone asks you or your child to enter their home, politely decline.
- Remain outdoors when distributing treats and provide individually packaged treat bags for children to collect.
- Check your child's treats before they eat them.

Pumpkin Composting Event

Saturday, November 4, 9:00am to 12:00pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a pumpkin composting event in coordination with SWALCO. The event will take place on Saturday, November 4th from 9 a.m. to noon at Gurnee Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. The event will also take any other organics including gourds or hay bales. Please remove all candles before composting your pumpkins. All material collected is used to create compost and divert organics from the landfills.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!



METAL

Steel & aluminum containers and foil



PAPER

Cardboard (flattened), office paper, newspaper, magazines



GLASS

Bottles & jars only



PLASTIC

Bottles, tubs, & jugs only

Clean & Empty
LEAVE CAPS & LIDS ON



FOOD & BEVERAGE CARTONS

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables



No Plastic Bags or Product Wrap
Return clean to retailer



No Tangles
Hangers, hoses, wire, cords, ropes or chains



No Food, Liquid, Diapers, Batteries, or Needles



No Big Items

Electronics, wood, propane tanks, scrap metal or styrofoam

For other options, visit swalco.org for our online "Where Do I Recycle This?" guide



No Clothing, Textiles or Shoes

Visit swalco.org for a list of Clothing & Textile or Reuse-A-Shoe collection drop-off sites

3 Basic Rules for Success

- 1 Recycle what is acceptable such as paper, steel/aluminum containers and foil, plastic bottles, tubs, and jugs only, glass bottles and jars, and food and beverage cartons.
- 2 Keep food and liquids out.
- 3 Do not bag your recyclables or place plastic bags or wraps in the bin.





VETERANS SERVICES GUIDE



Gurnee American
Legion Post 771



LakeCounty
Veterans Assistance Commission

Gurnee and the surrounding area is home to a range of services and resources designed to support veterans and their families. This one-page guide offers a concise overview of the key veteran services available in the Gurnee area.

Gurnee American Legion Post 771: Offers support and advocacy for veterans. This is a place where veterans can gather and build connections and support the community. For more info, visit www.gurneeamericanlegion.org or call 847-244-9282.

Friends of Gurnee American Legion: Offers direct support and resources to active duty military, POW/MIAs, veterans, and their families that are needed during deployment, transition to civilian life, and end of life. Membership in the Friends of Gurnee American Legion is open to the public. For more info, visit www.gurneelegionfriends.org or call 847-984-3500.

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC): Provides support to veterans and eligible dependents who reside within Lake County. This includes VA benefits, job coaching, and emergency financial assistance. For more info, visit www.vacilc.org or call 847-377-3344.

Lovell Veterans Clinic (North Chicago): The clinic located at 3001 Greenbay Rd. offers a range of healthcare services for veterans, including primary care, mental health, and specialty services. Visit <https://www.va.gov/lovell-federal-health-care-va/make-an-appointment/> for appointment scheduling or call 800-393-0865.

Veteran Crisis Line: For veterans and their loved one in times of crisis such as mental illness, homelessness and more are encouraged to dial 988, then press 1.

More Resources

Lake County Veterans and Family Services Foundation: Connects Service Members and their families with each other and to the resources and benefits they earned and deserve, free and confidentially regardless of discharge status. Through trained Veteran Peer Specialists, they provide "help from those who've been there" for support services, counseling, program resources, and a sense of hope and purpose. For more info, visit www.lcvetsfoundation.org or call 847-986-4622.

Lake County Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court: Veterans Treatment and Assistance Courts (VTACs), also known as Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) or Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) programs are specialized court programs designed to address the unique needs of military veterans who have become involved in the criminal justice system. These courts focus on diverting veterans away from incarceration and providing them with access to treatment, support, and resources to address the underlying issues that may have contributed to their criminal behavior. For more info, call the Lake County State's Attorney's Office at 847-377-3000.

Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs: For more info, visit veterans.illinois.gov, call 847-948-6981 or email Lake County Veteran Service Officer Walter Wilson at Walter.Wilson@illinois.gov

Illinois Joining Forces Care Coordination Center: Staffed by veterans ready to provide integrated, holistic case management and resource navigation. For more info, visit illinoisjoiningforces.org or call 833-463-6464.

Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network: Provides free legal aid for Illinois Armed Forces by calling 855-452-3526.

The Road Home Program at Rush: The National Center of Excellence for veterans and their families. For more info, visit www.roadhomeprogram.org or call 312-942-8387 (VETS).

Veterans Business Project: Helps veterans get into business. For more info, email Dale Eisenberg at deisenberg@veteransbusinessproject.org or call 800-383-5150.

Illinois Governor's Challenge: Prevents suicide among service members, veterans, and their family members. For more info, visit governorchallenge.illinois.gov

National Guard Family Assistance: This Family Assistance Center understands the unique challenges and needs of service members and their families. For more info, call 309-567-5605.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2023 Leaf Collection Program will begin Monday, October 16th, and run through Friday, December 8th. Waste Management will be completing a rotation throughout the entire Village with residents required to have their leaves to the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Monday of their tentative scheduled pick up week. The speed of the collection is based on weather conditions such as if a large volume of leaves come down in a short amount of time or if rain or snow occurs, therefore the rotations may take more than a week to complete. As a result, the Village offers two options for leaf collection: bagged weekly collection or traditional bi-weekly vacuum service.

To ensure weekly or bi-weekly collection, residents are strongly encouraged to bag leaves in yard waste bags, which will be picked up free of charge on their regularly scheduled garbage collection day. Bagged service is not impacted by weather like vacuum services and bagging results in eight collections versus just four vacuum collections.

Tentative Leaf Vacuum Schedule:

East of I-94 (Odd weeks)

Week 1: October 16 – October 20

Week 3: October 30 – November 3

Week 5: November 13 – November 17

Week 7: November 27 – December 1

West of I-94 (even weeks)

Week 2: October 23 – October 27

Week 4: November 6 – November 10

Week 6: November 20 – November 24

Week 8: December 4 – December 8

Bagged Collection (Strongly Encouraged)

- Picked Up Weekly on Regular Garbage Day
- Unlimited Number of Bags Picked Up
- Not Impacted by Volume of Leaves or Weather
- 8 Free Collections

***Residents who choose the vacuum service should be aware that leaves may not be vacuumed during the scheduled week if the volume is too large to be collected. In this case, Waste Management will work to complete that side of town before starting the next side of town.**

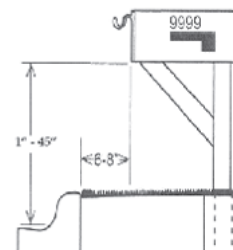
Vacuum Service Program Rules:

- Raked leaves should be placed at the curb line by 6:00 a.m. on Monday during the week of pick up.
- Please do not push leaves directly in the street or sidewalk as this may cause your leaves not to be picked up.
- Only rake leaves to the curb. Grass, branches and other yard waste are NOT permitted and will damage the equipment.
- In the event of rain, you should still place your leaves on the curb. Leaves will be collected as soon as possible.

Please be advised that Waste Management will be completing leaf collection practice runs during the week of October 9th. During this time, you may see trucks traveling throughout the community. As a friendly reminder, the Village prohibits leaf burning.

MAKE SURE YOUR MAILBOX IS PREPARED FOR WINTER

With the winter season quickly approaching, residents are reminded that mailboxes must be properly positioned. In October, plow trucks will drive through snow routes, making note of right-of-way hazards and improperly placed, leaning or damaged mailboxes. Residents with mailboxes having these issues will be sent a letter asking for their cooperation in bringing the mailbox into compliance with USPS standards. Residents who receive a letter and fail to repair the mailbox will not be eligible for reimbursement of damage caused by snow and ice control operations. If you have questions regarding your mailbox placement, please contact Public Works at 847-599-6800.



KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN

The Village would like to remind the community that dumping any liquid other than water into a storm drain inlet is illegal and strictly prohibited. Even though this may occur by accident, the dumping or accidental discharge into a storm drain inlet is punishable by fine. The reason is that the substance (whether it is oil, grease, paint, solvents, or runoff from washing equipment during maintenance/cleanup operations) will eventually make its way to streams, rivers and waterways, thus polluting and contaminating the environment.

LANDSCAPE WASTE COLLECTION ENDS NOVEMBER 25

Subscription and stickered landscape waste collection will conclude for the year the week of Monday, November 20th through Saturday, November 25th.

Landscape waste pickup takes place on the same day as your regular trash/recycling collection. Any landscape waste placed at the curb after this week, with the exception of leaves, will not be picked up. For more information visit www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape

HOLIDAY REMINDER: WASTE COLLECTION AND OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, if your garbage/recycling collection occurs on Thursday, November 23rd or Friday, November 24th, it will be delayed by one day. Additionally, Village Offices will be closed on November 23rd (Thanksgiving Day) and November 24th.



Village of Gurnee
325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

POSTAL PATRON

PRSRT STD
ECRWS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID Gurnee, IL
Permit No. 45

29TH ANNUAL JON CALLAGHAN MEMORIAL TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN & WALK

Sponsored by the Gurnee Police Department and the Gurnee Fire Department, come join us in this annual fundraiser! Proceeds from entry fees will be split between the Jon Callaghan Memorial Fund and the Gurnee Community Church Youth Work Camp.

RUN INFORMATION

- Date:** Thanksgiving Day—November 23
- Start Time:** 8:00 am “sharp”
- Starting Line:** In front of Insurancenter, Stolarick & Company, Inc.,
4673 Grand Avenue, Gurnee
- Check-in Time:** 7:00 am—The Gurnee Old Grand Ave. Fire Station,
4580 Grand Avenue, Gurnee
- Entry Fee:** \$30.00 registration fee
(age 10 and under runs/walks FREE!)
Pre-registration ends November 20th, 2023.
After 11-20-23 please register race day at
the fire station.
- T-shirts:** Provided to the **first 350 paid participants
to check in on race day**
- Payment:** (Make checks payable to the Gurnee Turkey Trot)
Mail check and completed waiver form to:
The Gurnee Turkey Trot
325 North O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
- Web site:** For more info and downloads go to gurneeturkeytrot2023.eventbrite.com



— FORM MAY BE COPIED FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRANTS —

Waiver: In consideration of my participation in the “29th Annual Village of Gurnee Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk,” I, for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge all race organizers, sponsors, volunteers, and benefactors of the “29th Annual Village of Gurnee Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk,” and hold and save them harmless for and against any and all actions, claims, liabilities, loss damage, expense of whatever nature, including attorney fees, which may at any time be incurred by my preparation for aforesaid race. I attest and verify my knowledge of the risks involved in this event and am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

PLEASE PRINT NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

(IF UNDER 18, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN)

CITY, STATE

ZIP CODE

☐ CHECK ☐ CASH Please specify your payment method