

FALL 2024

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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 with supporting photos from
the Gurnee Park District. To provide
feedback, please contact:
Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

It seems it was just a few days ago that I was talking to you about summer coming and now it is fall. Fall is my favorite time of year as the cool nights begin and the leaves start to turn. The children are back in school and the hint of the holidays are around the corner.

To enjoy what the season has to offer, here are a few upcoming events: Halloween Fall Fest (October 12th), the Turkey Trot (November 28th), the Holiday Lights (December 5th) and the Holiday Train (December 7th). It is a great time for the Village to come together and enjoy each other and all that we have to offer.

Whether it is attending an organized event in Gurnee, attending block parties or going to church with your neighbors, it is worth it to intentionally slow down and enjoy those around you. Years ago, I remember simpler times in a much smaller Gurnee. It was Christmas Eve at Bethel Lutheran Church where my family attended, and I have fond memories of Christmas music and warm gatherings. I remember watching Mr. Gillings cleaning up after the church service. Mr. Gillings was the Mayor of Gurnee from 1949 to 1973 and, at the time, I didn't fully realize that his leadership was being demonstrated through his service to others. Yet, his actions were not lost on a young boy as I remember those details more than 50 years later. Just because we are bigger today, it does not mean that we have to lose those small hometown relationships.

A big part of enjoying where you live is carrying out your passions. Over the last several years, I have worked at developing those opportunities. It brings me tremendous satisfaction to see community members working together towards a common goal while excelling at something that matches their talents. As I am fond of saying, "More, More, More."

I will spend the next few paragraphs on some of those opportunities that have been created and then invite you to speak to me about some of your passions to see if we can create some more opportunities. It was about ten years ago when I partnered with Don Henderson, my stepfather, to initiate the Gurnee Teacher of the Year Awards. Don is a generous man who is passionate about education. It has been enjoyable for me to see each school district select an excellent teacher to be honored. Every year in April, those awards are made and Don and my mom come to Village Hall and truly enjoy honoring the teachers with their colleagues, friends and family present.

Another opportunity that I created several years ago was the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC). There are many in Gurnee that have made our environment a top priority in their lives. If our environment is poor, it affects every area of our life. I have appointed a number of residents to the ESC including several Warren Township High School students all the way to retirees, with Trustee Karen Thorstenson providing leadership to the Committee. This group has championed a variety of projects to improve our environment.

There have been many other opportunities that I have created such as the Veterans Commission, the Gurnee Mayor's Golf Outing for the benefit of special needs adults at BiG Great Lakes, the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative (GYLI), the East Side Resident Group, business awards and more. When you have 30,000 residents and the creativity and talent that exists throughout Gurnee, the opportunities are endless.

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

As always, please feel free to reach out to me to discuss whatever you have on your mind.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

GURNEE NEWS



GURNEE QUEENS RECOGNIZED AT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

At the September 23rd Village Board Meeting, Mayor Tom Hood and the Village Board recognized the 2024 Gurnee Community Pageant titleholders. Miss Gurnee, Morgan Ghys, a Triple Crown Winner, continues her community work through her platform Caring For Kids Clothing. Junior Miss Gurnee, Anabelle Herod, and Little Miss Gurnee, Quinn Andersen, both show a passion for volunteerism and leadership, inspiring their peers. Tiny Miss Gurnee, Palmer Rose Khayat, brings her youthful enthusiasm to community projects. These young women are committed to making Gurnee a better place through service and leadership.

HANNAH LINNA AWARDED GURNEE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Also at the September 23rd Village Board Meeting, Hannah Linna was announced as the 2024 Gurnee Youth Scholarship Award Recipient. This prestigious award, given through the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative in partnership with the Village, recognizes a recently graduated high school senior for their exceptional leadership, community involvement, and dedication to service. Specifically, she has coached the Viking Middle School color guard for three years, including choreographing multiple routines and teaching the children. Through this peer-awarded scholarship, she received a \$1,000 scholarship award, which will go towards her studying Special Education at Illinois State University.

MAYOR HOOD HOLDS TOWN HALL ON EAST SIDE CONCERNS

On September 30th, Mayor Hood held a Town Hall event with residents and businesses regarding the far east side of the Village, the area generally located east of Route 41. The Police Department made a brief presentation on traffic safety, neighborhood crime and crime prevention. The Department also shared information on what residents can do to assist in addressing issues. The Village Board and staff heard concerns and gathered information that will be combined with the expected recommendations of a recently formed resident group, who will aid in developing an action plan in the coming months. The recording of the town hall meeting can be found on the Village's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/VillageofGurnee>.



NEW BUSINESSES

Destino Ristorante
5101 Washington St.

Ramen Ya
Gurnee Mills

Divine Radiance
Bellewater Suites

**Rock America
(Relocation)**
Gurnee Mills

Farmers Insurance
Windsor Court

**Truly Title
(Relocation)**
Bellewater Suites

**Gracefully
Beyoutiful Skin**
Windsor Court

IKEA Kiosk
Gurnee Mills

Lash Corral
Windsor Court

McCullough Kubota
7225 Grand Ave.

Midway Staffing
4949 Grand Ave.

Mr. Appliance Center
3608 Grand Ave.

COMING SOON:

Aesthetic Aromatics
Gurnee Mills

**AZ Polymers
(Expansion)**
740 Tri-State Pkwy.

Bank of America
6340 Grand Ave.

**Boot Barn
(Relocation)**
Gurnee Mills

Buona Beef/Rainbow Cone
7360 Grand Ave.

**Blurry Blendz
Barbershop**
3701 Grand Ave.

Creative Rehab
Windsor Court

Kyoto Ramen
4949 Grand Ave.

**Edward Jones
Investments**
6071 Washington St.

Hey Dude
Gurnee Mills

Hometown Veterinary Partners
1333 N. Delany Rd.

Johana's Beauty Salon
3608 Grand Ave.

Lake Harbor Treatment
3915 W Oglesby Ave.

Miss A
Gurnee Mills

Reliable Technologies LLC
Windsor Court

Trio Car Wash
3419 Grand Ave.

**Landtrust National
Title Services**
Windsor Court

**Muller Honda
(Renovation/Addition)**
7000 Grand Ave.

ReClectic
Gurnee Mills

Texas Roadhouse
6060 Gurnee Mills Cir.

The UPS Store
5250 Grand Ave.

The Wing District
1810 N Delany Rd.

XYip Acquisitions, LLC
905 Lakeside Dr.

Yolanda's Hair Studio
3567 Grand Ave.

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board

October 21
October 28
November 11
November 25
December 2

Planning and Zoning Board

October 9
October 30
November 6
November 20

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 12
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Hunt Club Community Center
920 N. Hunt Club Rd.



30TH ANNUAL JON CALLAGHAN TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN AND WALK

Thursday, November 28
Check-in 7:00am

Fire Station 1
4580 Old Grand Ave.

Registration form on back page
or online at www.eventbrite.com

Upcoming Events

Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, October 12, 10:00am to 1:00pm

The Village will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, October 12th from 10am to 1pm at the Gurnee Public Works Facility located at 1151 Kilbourne Rd. Only clean, dry and #6 labeled polystyrene products will be accepted. Packing peanuts will not be accepted.

The Village will NOT be accepting day before drop off that has been done in the past. If you are unable to attend, 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 and every 1st Saturday of the month.

Gurnee and LRS Launch the Hefty ReNew Orange Bag Program

The Village of Gurnee, in partnership with Hefty, SWALCO and LRS, has launched the Hefty ReNew "orange" Bag Program. Jewel, Menards, Ace Hardware and participating retailers are anticipated to start carrying orange ReNew Bags. Residents can simply put their plastics that are not accepted in recycling into these orange ReNew bags and then place in their recycling container. These plastics include Styrofoam, food storage bags, candy/bar wrappers, chip bags, bubble wrap, packing peanuts and more. A full list of what's accepted and more information on the program can be found at www.gurnee.il.us/heftyrenewprogram.

Early Voting for the November 5, 2024 General Election

Monday, October 21 - Saturday, November 2

Early Voting for the November 5, 2024 General Primary Election will take place at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. from Monday, October 21st to Saturday, November 2nd. Voting hours will be Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays from 9am to 2pm.

For a complete list of voting locations, voting questions and early voting hours, visit LakeCountyClerk.info. Please note, the Village Hall is NOT a Voting Day location.

Trick-or-Treating

Sunday, October 27, 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 2, 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 2nd from 9am to noon at the 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 recyclables or place plastic bags/wraps in the bin, unless they belong in the Hefty ReNew bag.



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 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.vacalc.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 ones 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 2024 Leaf Collection Program will begin Monday, October 14th, and run through Friday, December 6th. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will be completing a rotation throughout the entire Village with residents required to have their leaves to the curb by 6:00am on Monday of their scheduled pick up week. The speed of the collection is based on weather conditions such as if a large volume of leaves fall 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: free bagged weekly collection or traditional bi-weekly vacuum service.

Leaf Vacuum Schedule:

East of I-94 (Odd weeks)

Week 1: October 14 – October 18
Week 3: October 28 – November 1
Week 5: November 11 – November 15
Week 7: November 25 – November 29

West of I-94 (even weeks)

Week 2: October 21 – October 25
Week 4: November 4 – November 8
Week 6: November 18 – November 22
Week 8: December 2 – December 6

Free Bagged Collection

- 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, LRS will work to complete that side of town before starting the next side of town.**

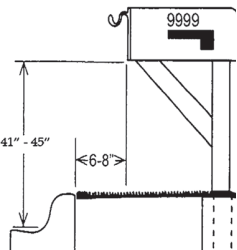
Vacuum Service Program Rules:

- Raked leaves should be placed at the curb line by 6:00am 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 you may see LRS trucks completing leaf collection practice runs during the week of October 7th. **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.

LAST WEEK OF LANDSCAPE WASTE COLLECTION TAKING PLACE NOVEMBER 25TH - 29TH

Subscription and stickered landscape waste collection will conclude for the year the week of Monday, November 25th through Friday, November 29th.

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/landscapewaste.

HOLIDAY REMINDER: WASTE COLLECTION AND OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, if your garbage/recycling collection occurs on Thursday, November 28th, it will be delayed by one day. Additionally, Village Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28th (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday, November 29th.



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

POSTAL PATRON

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

30TH 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 28
- 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 25th, 2024.
After 11-25-24 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 gurneeturkeytrot2024.eventbrite.com



— FORM MAY BE COPIED FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRANTS —

Waiver: In consideration of my participation in the “30th 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 “30th 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