

FALL 2025

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

I just wanted to give you a quick update on a couple initiatives. First, our Neighborhood Block Party Grant Program continues to grow! Neighborhoods can receive a \$500 grant for each block party, up to three per year, along with visits from the Police and Fire Departments and myself. We've already supported 30 block parties this year and look forward to even more.

Secondly, the Village has launched a new emergency alert system powered by Regroup. Get real-time notifications by phone, text, or email to help keep your family safe. Please sign up today at www.gurnee.il.us/alerts. If you were enrolled in our old system you'll need to re-register.

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 RECOGNIZES HOMETOWN HEROES

This past May, the Veterans Commission, Mayor Tom Hood and the community recognized Gurnee’s Hometown Heroes by presenting them and their families with their distinguished banners! The program was launched last fall to honor and recognize veterans and service members from the Village of Gurnee who have served in the US Armed Forces or are currently serving, protecting our nation, preserving our democracy and defending the ideals we hold dear. The banners serve as living tributes to honor the past and present members of the Armed Forces.


MORGAN GHYS AWARDED 2025 GURNEE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This year Morgan Ghys was announced as the 2025 Gurnee Youth Scholarship Award Recipient. This prestigious award, given through the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative (GYLI) 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 collaborated with the non-profit Caring for Kids for the past nine years, hosted six clothing drive events that yielded over 6,000 items and served as Miss Gurnee by attending a variety of special events. Through this peer-awarded scholarship, she received a \$1,000 award, which will go towards her majoring in Human Development and Family Studies at Iowa State University with the goal of becoming a bilingual Child Life Specialist.



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GURNEE DAYS

This August, the Gurnee community celebrated Gurnee Days at Viking Park with ribs, live music, fireworks, art, games and a parade. Highlights included the Gurnee Exchange Club’s Rib Fest and “Rib Eating Contest,” won by District 56, a Community Art Show featuring over 350 local artists and a Bags Tournament won by Throw Down Bound. Sunday brought the Farmer’s Market, a 300-car show and a parade led by Honoree Martha Welton-Schmidt, with over 50 entries from local groups and businesses. Nearly 30 vendors participated across the weekend, while thousands enjoyed food, entertainment and camaraderie.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: HANNA BLOCKINGER

Hanna Blockinger has been a familiar face at community events over the past several decades. She was a renowned and much-loved music teacher at Gurnee District 56. To this day, families and former students recall the outstanding elementary music programs, and the high energy with which she led the performances. While still teaching she began a long history of volunteering for community organizations and activities. She was a member of the Gurnee Days Corporation for many years and among other things is remembered by the community for organizing the youth talent show and booking stage acts. Hanna is a long-time member of the Gurnee Exchange club fulfilling many roles, including: organizing the Youth Scholarship awards, planning the bake sale for Salad in the Park, coordinating the One Nation Under God prayer breakfast, and is at Rib Fest from early morning until after the clean-up. She is also famous for bringing the Mac N Cheese to events. She is a dedicated family member with her husband Jim, three adult children and their spouses, six grandchildren, and many others that she welcomes into their circle along the way. Hanna’s energy, generosity and dedication to service embodies the very best of the Gurnee community.

NEW BUSINESSES

Alleviating Minds Therapy
5465 Grand Ave.

**AZ Polymers
(Additional Warehouse)**
740 Tri-State Pkwy.

**Miss A, Boot Barn (relocation)
Fashion Q**
Gurnee Mills

Illinois Bone & Joint Institute
202 S Greenleaf St.

**WAW Athletics/
Ruffcutt Fitness**
726 S Rte. 21

**Ten Hotel & Convention
Center with New
Restaurants Inside:**
Twyla’s Lounge / FORE
Golf Sim &
Limocello Cafe
6161 W Grand Ave.

COMING SOON:

Bank of America
6340 Grand Ave.

Eli Lilly & Company
5605 Centerpoint Ct.

Haraz Coffee House
5572 Grand Ave.

SkyZone, Primark
Gurnee Mills

**Gurnee Glen Apartments
Clubhouse**
1 Woodlake Blvd.

Lake Harbor Treatment
3915 Oglesby Ave.

Lesly Flowers
3540 Grand Ave.

Muller Honda (Expansion)
7000 Grand Ave.

Performance Eurowerks
3901 Grove Ave.

Star Capital Management
167 N Greenleaf St.

Wally Walls LLC
905 Lakeside Dr.

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board

September 22
September 29
October 6
October 20
October 27
November 3

Planning and Zoning Board

September 17
October 8
October 22
November 5

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

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



POPCORN WITH THE MAYOR

Saturday, October 4

10am - 12pm

Brittane's Event Center
5101 Washington St., Ste. 30



HALLOWEEN FALL FEST

Saturday, October 11

1pm - 4pm

Hunt Club Park Community Center
920 N. Hunt Club Rd.

Upcoming Events

Bonfires and Brews: A Taste of Gurnee

Saturday, September 20, 7pm to 11pm

Join us at Bittersweet Golf Course for our 3rd "Bonfires and Brews: A Taste of Gurnee" event! Unwind by the fire while enjoying the live music, tasting your favorite adult beverage, the flavors of local food vendors, and specialty drinks for the event and chatting with friends! Or compete with friends at Axe Throwing, Giant Jenga, Spike Ball, Bags, Free Throw and Giant Connect 4. This event is FREE to attend. Drinks and food will be available for purchase from local vendors at this adult-only (21+) event!

Paper Shredding and Recycling Event

Saturday, October 4, 10am to 12pm

Baxter Credit Union (BCU) and the Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Shred Event on Saturday, October 4th from 10am to 12pm at the Village Hall 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!

Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, October 18, 10am to 1pm

The Village will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, October 18th 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.

If you are unable to attend, you may drop off your Styrofoam the day before between the hours of 7am and 3pm. 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.

Trick-or-Treating

Sunday, October 26, 2pm to 5pm

The Village of Gurnee encourages the community to have fun 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.
- 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 1, 9am to 12pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a pumpkin composting event in coordination with SWALCO. The event will take place on Saturday, November 1st 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.



Powered by
Regroup

NEW
Emergency Alert System



EMERGENCY ALERTS & WEATHER

Active shooter, crime in progress, terror threat or severe weather



ROAD CLOSURES & TRAFFIC

Traffic disruptions due to special events or accidents



SERVICE NOTICE

Garbage collection, recycling and mosquito spraying

Sign up for Gurnee's **NEW** emergency alert system at www.gurnee.il.us/alerts. Stay updated on news, alerts and services. Sign up today!



SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2025 Leaf Collection Program will begin Monday, October 13th, and run through Friday, December 5th. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will be completing a rotation throughout the entire Village with residents required to have their leaves to the curb by 6am 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 13 – October 17

Week 3: October 27 – October 31

Week 5: November 10 – November 14

Week 7: November 24 – November 28

West of I-94 (even weeks)

Week 2: October 20 – October 24

Week 4: November 3 – November 7

Week 6: November 17 – November 21

Week 8: December 1 – December 5

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 6am 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 to not 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.

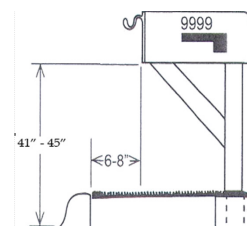
Please be advised that you may see LRS trucks completing leaf collection practice runs during the week of October 6th. **As a friendly reminder, the Village prohibits leaf burning.**

FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Gurnee Public Works Department has begun hydrant flushing in the Village. Hard turning or inoperable fire hydrants can be a serious problem for the Fire Department during emergency situations and any leaks within the hydrant can be a source of water loss and a major cause for hydrant freeze up during the winter months. One of the best ways to ensure hydrants are functioning properly is to flush them annually. The Village's procedure for flushing hydrants involves opening one of the three ports of the hydrant and allowing the water to flow wide open for at least one minute. Crews inspect the caps, chains, marker and shut off valve. Each hydrant is also checked for ease of opening and closing as well as making sure it shuts down completely and water drains from the barrel. If a hydrant does not perform all of these functions, the hydrant must be repaired. Crews will be flushing until all hydrants are flushed or it becomes too cold.

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 24TH - 28TH

Subscription and stickered landscape waste collection will conclude for the year the week of Monday, November 24th through Friday, November 28th.

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.



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

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

POSTAL PATRON

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

HONORING VETERANS AND HOMETOWN HEROES

Veterans Day is a time to honor the courage, sacrifice, and service of the men and women who have defended our nation. This year, the Village of Gurnee invites the community to join us in recognizing our veterans and Hometown Heroes Banner honorees at the Village Board meeting on Monday, November 17th at 7pm.

The Hometown Heroes Program honors service members from the Village of Gurnee by displaying banners on O'Plaine Road featuring their name, image, and branch of service. To apply or nominate a service member or veteran, please visit www.gurnee.il.us/hometownheroes.

We encourage residents to attend as we come together to pay tribute to those who have bravely served our country and celebrate the heroes within our own community.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 31ST ANNUAL JON CALLAGHAN MEMORIAL TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN & WALK

Mark your calendars! Sponsored by the Gurnee Police Department and the Gurnee Fire Department, our community will once again come together for the annual Thanksgiving Day Fundraiser on Thursday, November 28th. This special event not only brings neighbors together on a holiday morning, but also supports two important causes. Proceeds from entry fees will benefit both the Jon Callaghan Memorial Fund and the Gurnee Community Church Youth Work Camp. More details will be shared soon—but for now, save the date and plan to start your Thanksgiving with a tradition that gives back!

WINTER WEATHER PARKING REMINDER

After 2 inches of snow and between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, please do not park your vehicle on the street. This prevents your vehicle from being plowed in or from being ticketed or towed and aids in effectively and safely removing snow.