

Keeping Posted

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Mayor's Message

Dear Residents:

The Village is off to a fast start for 2016. We've been extra focused on some exciting new projects, especially in the area of economic development. With a relatively mild winter behind us, the Village is gearing up for another huge capital improvement program, topping last year's historic program by \$300 thousand. The 0.5% sales tax dedicated solely to roadway repairs and maintenance will allow the Village to continue with rebuilding Belle Plaine and Magnolia Avenues on the east side, while expanding our maintenance program in other residential areas such as Bittersweet Woods, Brookhaven, Concord Oaks, Country Trails, Ravinia Woods, and Stonebrook to name a few. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is available on the Village website and will be voted on by the Village Trustees in March. Now more than ever, shopping local is important as it is funding continued investment in our community.



March also marks the start of our Budget Hearings, and your involvement and feedback is always needed. We will be entering our 16th consecutive year without a property tax imposed on our citizens. This means that none of your property tax dollars go towards funding Village services, pensions or long-term bond obligations. The Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Proposed Budget does not include any new fees or taxes. Just like we all have to do with our household budgets, there are tough choices each budget cycle to balance the need to meet service expectations in the areas of Community Development, Public Safety and Public Works with the anticipated revenue from volatile sources dependent on consumer spending. The Board and I would certainly like to know what is most important to you so that we spend our resources in the appropriate areas.

Later this month we will complete the update to our Strategic Plan. A lot of exciting feedback and ideas came out of the focus groups and staff has worked diligently to pull it all together into a plan of action that will guide the Village over the next 5 years. While a variety of themes came out of the exercise, one that staff is already in the process of working on is improving communications. We've heard from our residents that you want more ways to engage with us rather than just the traditional methods. We've significantly expanded our social media presence, are redesigning and relaunching our website to be more interactive and user-friendly and added a slick new logo that works better in digital media.

The Budget Hearings and Strategic Plan Update are both great opportunities for the community, but the thing I'm most excited about the recent work by the Economic Development Committee. Their focus has been on stimulating a better business climate on the east side along the Grand Avenue Corridor. We have had an overlay district since the early 2000's with some small, but positive results. However, no one is happy with slow progress so we've decided the best way to approach this is to go bold! We've applied for technical assistance from the Urban Land Institute (ULI). The assistance includes...
(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

Village Meetings

Village Board

March
7
5:00 p.m.

March
21
7:00 p.m.

March
28
7:00 p.m.

April
4
7:00 p.m.

April
18
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

March
2
7:30 p.m.

March
16
7:30 p.m.

April
6
7:30 p.m.

April
20
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

March
15
7:00 p.m.

March
17
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.

Community Events

Coffee with the Mayor

Saturday, March 19, 2016
10 a.m. - Noon
Panera Bread
6557 Grand Avenue
www.gurnee.il.us/village_board/coffee



2016 Fire Expo

Saturday, May 14th
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Gurnee Mills
www.gurnee.il.us/fire_expo



Looking for more events?

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

Mayor's Message (cont.)

(continued from page 1)a development study of what has the greatest market appeal in today's economic and consumer driven climate to jump start and reinvigorate the East Grand corridor. The study is conducted by cross-section of industry experts including developers, architects, commercial real estate attorneys and advisors, engineers, and planners. With a steep financial barrier for new small businesses or start-up's being a key roadblock to revitalization, the study will give us a workable plan to make the right investments to attract new retail uses. If we are selected, ULI will spend several days in the Village interviewing staff, businesses and residents about their vision for the east side retail corridor and complete an extensive due diligence on market conditions, appeal and feasibility. Having a plan to take to the development market to attract businesses we want in the Village will put us in the driver's seat rather than waiting for the market to come to us. Our continued capital investment in the infrastructure on the east side will further enhance these opportunities and benefit the entire community. Stay tuned for more updates!

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

Proposed Budget FY 16/17

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2016/2017 (for the period covering May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017) is now available for public viewing on the Village's website (www.gurnee.il.us/finance/budget_2016-17_proposed) and at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road). The budget is a critical guiding document and outlines how public funds are used throughout the fiscal year. The public is invited to comment and give feedback through the Village's online commenting system (www.gurnee.il.us/comments) or by attending one of the budget hearings being held in the month of March. A full list of budget hearings can be found on Page 3 of the newsletter. Please contact the Village Hall at (847) 599-7500 with any questions.

Gurnee Releases Strategic Plan

The Village of Gurnee has released the first draft of the Fiscal Years 2017-2021 Strategic Plan for review. The strategic plan is a public document that will provide Village Board and staff with key priorities to accomplish by 2020.

The FY 2017-2021 strategic plan is an update to the Village's 2008 strategic plan. To provide the update, the Village sought input from residents and community members during focus group sessions. The common goals and themes identified during the sessions were developed in to "key priorities" for the Village of Gurnee.

Key priorities of the strategic plan include:

- Improved pedestrian solutions, including sidewalk extensions along Route 21 between Grand Avenue and Washington Avenue.
- Development of a body camera solution for the Gurnee Police Department.
- Attract and retain boutique and small business stores/restaurants.
- Identify strategies to redevelop the East Grand corridor.
- And more!

To view the plan and provide feedback, visit the Village website at www.gurnee.il.us/strategicplan

Water Quality: Common Questions

With concerns in the media over issues with water quality, the Village has received questions from residents and businesses regarding the Village's water safety process. Here are a few facts about Gurnee water that should reassure you that the water is extremely safe.

Where our water comes from:

Our Village purchases water from the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). CLCJAWA is an inter-governmental cooperative, formed by the communities it serves: Grayslake, Gurnee, Lake Bluff, Libertyville, Mundelein, Round Lake, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Heights, Round Lake Park, and Lake County representing the unincorporated areas of Knollwood and Roundout, Vernon Hills and Wildwood.

Our Treatment Process:

Our water is pumped from Lake Michigan and treated at CLCJAWA's Paul M. Neal Water Treatment Facility in the Village of Lake Bluff. The enhanced water purification process used by CLCJAWA is unique. First, the water is treated with ozone to kill organisms and break down contaminants. Ozone is produced on-site from air, bubbled into the water, and then converted back into oxygen. The water is then mixed with coagulant to remove sediment and other material from the water. Once clarified, the water is further refined as it passes through filters containing activated carbon and fine sand. Next, the water is treated with ultraviolet light to inactivate any remaining organisms. Finally, the purified water is treated with chlorine to protect it as it travels through the water main, fluoride for dental health, and a small amount of an often used food additive called phosphate. Phosphate protects the water from the metals found in our homes' plumbing systems.

CLCJAWA's Treatment Plant is a 10-time Excellence in Water Treatment award winning facility. CLCJAWA was the third facility in the nation to achieve this distinction presented by the Partnership for Safe Water. This voluntary water quality program, sponsored in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, holds its awardees to higher standards than required by current drinking water regulations.

Lead Concerns:

The Village's water main lines are lead free. The use of lead in many systems was once a common practice, but the Village has replaced all lead lines in Gurnee. The only identified risk of lead in the Gurnee water system is from your own home due to the lead alloy that was sometimes used to solder pipes together in homes built between 1983 and 1986. For more information on lead concerns, visit CLCJAWA's website at www.clcjawa.com

Chlorine Smell:

One thing that can cause a chlorine smell from the water is the temperature differential this time of year. Water arriving from Lake Michigan is very cold. Cold water dissolves more air than warm water. Tap water entering the home often warms. As water warms, the dissolved air comes out of solution when pressure is relieved (the tap is opened). This is similar to carbon dioxide bubbles appearing in soda when the cap is opened.

This action of air coming out of tap water can drive some chlorine out of the water. This can give you the sense that chlorine levels are high without an increase in chlorine levels.

If the problem persists or you feel that the chlorine smell gets stronger or continues to increase, please call Public Works at 847-599-6800 and we can send someone to inspect your system.

Community Reminders

Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The spring 2016 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." The trajectory of many serious crimes, including acts of terrorism, have been deflected by citizens seeing something, then saying something. 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 for your neighborhood's meeting date.

Budget Hearings

The Village has scheduled the following dates for budget hearing for the fiscal year 2016/2017 (May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017) at Village Hall in the Council Chambers:

- Monday, March 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. (if needed).
- Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. - Final budget/appropriation presented to Village Board for Adoption.

Lake County Voting Information

Voting information for the March 15, 2016 primary election can be found on the Lake County Clerk's website at www.countyclerk.lakecountyil.gov, or by calling 847-377-2400. Voters can visit www.LakeVoterPower.info to view their personalized ballot information and learn more about their elected officials.

Seasonal Reminders

Unlimited Landscape Waste Collection

Waste Management will collect unlimited containerized landscape waste at no charge to current customers the week of **April 18th to April 22nd**. 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 25th. Visit 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 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.

Spring Flooding

Flood Hazards

With snow on the ground and spring 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 occurring 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.

Hoverboard Safety Advice

Lately the media is in a whirlwind of "hoverboard explosion" and "hoverboard fire" stories. What exactly is happening here? Can hoverboards be used safely? These were questions asked of Gurnee Fire Inspector Katie Hammond:

Q: What causes these fires?

A. The fires start in the battery pack. Lithium ion batteries contain different cells at 4.20V each. Sheets of Polypropylene or Polyethylene (electric insulators) separate the individual cells. When one or more of the separating sheets are compromised through impact or overcharging, a short circuit occurs. The large current flowing through raises the temperature to the flash point of lithium, and an intense, flaring fire ensues. Most of the fires seem to happen during charging, because Lithium ion batteries cannot accept overcharge. Your hoverboard's charger features a cut-off mechanism which detects when the battery is charged, and stops the charging process automatically. Defects in this cut-off mechanism may lead to overcharging of the cells and to a fire.

Q. How can I prevent Hoverboard fires?

A. Please remember hoverboards are new technology. The best way to prevent hoverboard fires is to buy from a trusted manufacturer that uses high quality components. Make sure the battery and chargers have been safety tested. Another good way is to monitor the charging process, as opposed to plugging it in and going to sleep. A good way to avoid fires is to simply be careful with your hoverboard. Don't drop it, kick it, or hit sharp objects with it. Any of these things may damage the separator sheets in the battery pack and cause a fire. This is extremely unlikely, but if the board's construction isn't solid, it's a possibility.

2016 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 Ivory Silk Tree Lilac 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>Triump Hybrid Elm</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 50' wide at maturity) fast growing tree with shiny dark green leaves turning a nice yellow in fall. Bred for its resistance to Dutch Elm Disease and shows many of the desirable traits of the American Elm.
	<i>Chinkapin Oak</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (60' tall x 60' wide at maturity) medium growing tree with a rounded crown, lustrous green leaves give way to yellow/orange/brown fall color. Pest and disease resistant.
	<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.
	<i>Ivory Silk Tree Lilac</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (20' tall x 15' wide at maturity) slow growing tree of small stature that makes it suitable for planting beneath power lines. Large clusters of creamy white flowers in June.

Indicate tree location noting objects in area

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Return form with payment by April 1, 2016 to
Gurnee Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Road

Community Updates

Check out information from partner agencies in Gurnee.

Hunt Club Park Aquatic Passes on Sale

Gurnee Park District's Hunt Club Aquatic Center 2016 season passes are on sale now. For more information, visit www.gurneeparkdistrict.com/hunt-club-aquatic-center.

WTHS Celebrates 100 Years

100 years after the first class graduated in 1917, WTHS is looking to reach out to alumni to celebrate the occasion. To participate in the celebration and find old classmates, visit the event's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WTHS100/

D50 Fundraiser on Saturday April 2nd!

Come join us for the Woodland Wishes annual fundraiser on April 2nd at 7pm at the Hunt Club Community Center, 920 N. Hunt Club Rd. Enjoy a variety of entertainment options including casino games, wine pull, photo booth, raffle, silent & live auctions, appetizers, and cash bar. All proceeds from this event fund D50 scholarships, technology, and extracurricular activities. Tickets are \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Must be 21+. Free babysitting with advance sign up. All donations are tax deductible. Visit www.dist50.net/FoundationInfo for ticket info and babysitting forms.

2016 Craft Beer Tickets on Sale May 1st!

Mark your calendars! The 2016 Craft Beer Fest will be held Saturday, September 17th from 1pm-6pm 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 May 1st. All proceeds 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 for more info as May 1 approaches.

Keeping Posted

KRISTINA M. KOVARIK, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes Cheryl Ross
Greg Garner Karen Thorstenson
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.

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

Village of Gurnee is Now on Facebook



The Village of Gurnee is now on Facebook! To follow the Village for updates on Village news, economic development updates, or to ask us questions, find us at www.Facebook.com/VillageofGurnee/

If you are not on Facebook, you can find updates from the Village on NextDoor, Twitter, YouTube, or our website at www.gurnee.il.us. Alternatively, you can reach us by phone at 847-599-7500 with questions, or by visiting us at Village Hall (325 North O'Plaine Road).

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.

FY 2016/2017 Infrastructure Program

FY 2016/2017 will mark the second year of the Village's Capital Improvement Program. This program is funded primarily by a 0.5% Home Rule Sales Tax that went into effect on January 1, 2015 and is dedicated by ordinance solely to capital infrastructure improvements.

The highlight of the FY 2016/2017 capital program is 4.52 miles of roadway resurfacing and reconstruction. Reconstruction is planned for portions of Belle Plaine between Keith and Crescent, and Magnolia between Blackstone and Woodlawn, and between Pacific and Glenfora. Resurfacing is scheduled for parts of Bradley, Millstone, Vineyard, and Windemere. In addition to the road improvements, there will be pedestrian sidewalk installations as part of the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.

The Village releases a new version of its multi-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) each Fall, which details the projects that will be undertaken the next construction season. The CIP is available on the Village website. Please contact the Engineering Division at (847) 599-7550 with any questions.

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:

- Shalimar Restaurant: A new restaurant opening at 401 N. Route 21, Suite 18.
- Kihap Martial Arts: A new martial arts studio opening at 3900 Washington Street, Suite R.
- Autumn Leaves of Gurnee: A new assisted living facility specializing in Alzheimer's care opening at 505 Hunt Club Road.

Bittersweet Golf Club

- Dust off your clubs...Bittersweet Golf Club is getting ready for the 2016 golf season! As soon as the course is playable, Bittersweet will open its doors. In the meantime, season passes are on sale—buy now and save money this season! Visit www.bittersweetgolf.com for more info.

Small Business Success in Lake County

- On May 5, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. there will be a Small Business Strategies conference at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Topics include access to capital, cyber security, and international markets. Visit www.clcillinois.edu/events/sbdc for more information and registration.