

# Keeping Posted



Volume XLVIII, No. 1

Spring 2021

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## Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

Every March we undertake our most important responsibility to our residents – the annual budget process where we appropriate funds to operate the Village for the next fiscal year. This process involves forecasting revenue to meet our debt and pension obligations and provide adequate funding for day-to-day operations. As in past years, the focus is on continued capital investments in our infrastructure, maintaining strong public safety services and protecting the vitality of our local economy. The budget gives us a clear picture of our anticipated expenditures to make sure that we are meeting the needs and expectations of our residents without the use of a property tax.

This year is extra challenging as, just like so many of you, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on our revenues. We continue to cut non-essential expenses and invest wisely in strategic opportunities. I encourage you to read the proposed budget which is available on our website. These are your tax dollars, and we want you to be confident that we use them wisely to provide services. If you do not have time to read the whole budget book, I highly recommend focusing on Sections 1, 5, 6 and 7 to have a thorough understanding of the Village's budget and how we plan to weather the long-term impacts of COVID.



We also have local elections on April 6th. With over 20 years in public office, I have had the opportunity to work with many elected officials at every level of government. In my experience, what truly makes elected leaders effective is a combination of "soft" skills. They have deep roots in a community or organization, are lifelong learners, curious, open-minded and have a commitment to execute flawlessly. We all know there are a lot of great policy ideas out there but the ability to take an idea, rally the necessary resources and manage it through to implementation is key to getting things done. In addition to these attributes, I believe the most important quality is a servant's heart. Being elected is about serving selflessly through the sacrifice of personal time, the willingness to listen and the passion to act where needed. There are many choices on the ballot for Village, park, schools and library districts. Please take a few moments to do your homework on each candidate and then think about who will best deal with the thousands of decisions, different issues known and unknown and the unanticipated events that come up over a four-year period. Your local elected officials have the greatest impact on your day-to-day life.

And with that said, this is the last Mayor's Message I will write. I've personally written every one of my messages over the last 16 years with each from the heart. It always made me smile when I thought about you reading it when it arrived in your mailbox. The last 16 years have been an incredible experience and the greatest honor that I will ever have in my lifetime serving each of you. I cannot possibly find the words to thank you for your trust and confidence in my ability to lead the Village. Together we accomplished so many great things that make this Village the wonderful community it is to live, work and play. Vote wisely so that the future remains bright and vibrant for Gurnee! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

**THE VILLAGE OF GURNEE**

325 N. O'Plaine Road • (847) 599-7500 • [www.gurnee.il.us](http://www.gurnee.il.us)

## Upcoming

### Village Meetings

#### Village Board

March  
**1**  
7:00 p.m.

March  
**15**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**12**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**19**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**26**  
7:00 p.m.

#### Planning & Zoning

March  
**3**  
7:30 p.m.

March  
**17**  
7:30 p.m.

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

#### Other Boards

March  
**23**  
7:00 p.m.

April  
**27**  
7:00 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 purple are Civil Service meetings.

### Community Events & Updates

#### Gurnee Park District

The Hunt Club Aquatic Center will be open in 2021! The aquatic center will open with 50% capacity. Purchase season tickets at [www.gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com).

#### WNPL Creative Writing Contest

The Friends of the Warren-Newport Public Library are hosting their 28th annual Creative Writing Contest! Deadline is Sun. March 7th. Learn more at [www.wnpl.info](http://www.wnpl.info).

#### Looking for more events?

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

## #BackTogetherGurnee Dine Local Challenge

10 weeks starting March 4th!

Show support for Gurnee restaurants, share your favorites and be entered to win! \$50 to \$100 in Gift Cards will be given away weekly and several Grand Prizes – including an overnight stay and dinner for the family at Great Wolf Lodge – will be selected May 12th from all valid entries.

Each week: Spend at least \$25 at any qualifying Gurnee restaurant(s). A list of qualifying restaurants is available at [www.gurnee.il.us/dine-local](http://www.gurnee.il.us/dine-local). Then, post as many times as you want! **Each unique Facebook post = one entry.** Winners chosen on Wednesdays.

**How to enter:** (1) post on our Facebook page Gurnee's Got It; or (2) tag us; and/or (3) use #BackTogetherGurnee on your own timeline post. For this promotion, 'qualifying' restaurants are those without a drive-thru.

**What to post?** A video or selfie of you enjoying a qualifying Gurnee restaurant. Tell us about your dish, why it's delish, pose with the wait staff, show us the menu, tag a friend who should try it, etc. – get creative!

**Need ideas?** Follow **Gurnee's Got It on Facebook** for theme weeks and play along! Not on Facebook? Entry details at [www.gurnee.il.us/dine-local](http://www.gurnee.il.us/dine-local).



## Vice Mayor's Message

As of May of this year, Mayor Kristina (Krysti) Kovarik will retire as mayor, having served us for 16 years. I have had the pleasure of serving with Krysti these last 8 years and have witnessed her work tirelessly with passion and dedication as the mayor of the great Village of Gurnee. Much of the work done by Krysti has been behind the scenes with little fanfare, yet she approached each assignment with everything she had. Some would say, "She left everything on the court." I'd like to recognize her sacrifice and service—Gurnee is a better place to live and enjoy because of her. Well done Krysti!



In my last message, I spoke of the Village's Strategic Plan coming this fall and gave everyone a "heads up" that I'd be seeking input from the residents of Gurnee. Over the past few weeks there have been dozens of contributions and conversations in person and on Facebook sites discussing ideas for improvements to our Village. I have enjoyed the interchange of ideas—our Village is filled with creative, talented people who have much to offer both in ideas and community action. We as a Village are looking to tap this resource for the benefit of us all and to provide a place to collect ideas and for residents to take action in the Village.

In keeping with these goals, I would like to announce the "It Takes a Village" - Resident Contribution of the Year award. Every year, a person will be selected and recognized for providing an idea or making a positive contribution that improves the Village of Gurnee.

Please submit your ideas for the improvement of the Village of Gurnee or the nomination of a person that has made a positive contribution that has improved the Village of Gurnee to: [vicemayor@village.gurnee.il.us](mailto:vicemayor@village.gurnee.il.us).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Vice Mayor Tom Hood



# 2021 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. 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 selection 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 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 55' wide at maturity) medium growing, broad spreading and majestic native oak with yellow fall color.
	<i>Autumn Blaze Maple</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 40' wide at maturity) a fast growing, hybrid maple tree with showy orange red to red fall color. Pest and disease resistant.
	<i>'Triumph' 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>'Renaissance Reflection' Paper Birch</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (50' tall x 25' wide at maturity) tall, fast-growing tree with striking bark that displays dark green foliage throughout the season, changing to a golden color in the fall. Resistant to bronze birch borer.

Indicate tree location noting objects in area

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return form with payment by April 1, 2021 to Gurnee Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Road

## Village Reminders

### Unlimited Land Waste Weeks

Continuing for 2021 is TWO weeks of unlimited spring cleanup! Waste Management will collect unlimited containerized landscape waste at no charge to current customers the weeks of April 5th and April 12th. These dates are weather-dependent, so make sure to check the Village website closer to the date to ensure it has not been delayed. These collections 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 two feet in diameter by four feet long, no heavier than 60 lbs., with no individual branch greater than three inches in diameter. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6:00 a.m.

Regular landscape waste collection through Waste Management's subscription service or sticker program will begin on April 19th. Visit [www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape](http://www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape) for more information.

### FY21/22 Annual Budget

The Village is currently working on a proposed annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2021 and ending April 30, 2022. The proposed budget can be viewed online at [www.gurnee.il.us/FY22Budget](http://www.gurnee.il.us/FY22Budget) or in person at Village Hall. The initial budget hearing will take place on Monday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m. The final budget/appropriation will tentatively be presented to the Village Board for a public hearing on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:40 p.m. at Village Hall, with approval at the regular Village Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The proposed annual FY21/22 budget includes no new taxes or tax increases. The Village continues to navigate COVID-19 revenue shortfalls with actions such as strategically filling certain vacant positions, reducing seasonal employees, delaying capital projects and cutting nonessential spending.



# Seasonal Reminders

## Fire Department Spring Checklist

Spring is around the corner which means many of us will focus our attention on spring cleaning. The Gurnee Fire Department wants to make sure you have these fire safety tips on your to-do list:

- Change your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries
- Clean the dryer duct annually
- Clear clutter from any furnace or heat generating equipment
- Store flammable liquids safely and properly
- Have a home fire escape plan ready

For more fire safety tips and for help building a home fire escape plan, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/firesafety](http://www.gurnee.il.us/firesafety).

## Spring Building Permits

Spring is coming! Do you know when a permit is required for your project?

Many home projects require building permits. Are you planning a deck, fence, patio, window/door replacement, shed, pool/hot tub or other project?

Permits are required for these types of installations. Information can be found on our website at [www.gurnee.il.us/permits](http://www.gurnee.il.us/permits) or you can always contact our office at (847) 599-7550 and we will be happy to assist you with what is required.

## Stearns School Road Closure

As part of an I-94 widening project from the Illinois Tollway, Stearns School Road will be closed from Hunt Club Road to Dilley's Road for all but local traffic starting on March 1st. The bridge structure over I-94 is being removed and replaced with a longer span that will include pedestrian crossings over I-94 on both the north and south sides of Stearns School. The closure is anticipated to last until October/November.

To keep up on all construction projects impacting Gurnee, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/construction-updates](http://www.gurnee.il.us/construction-updates).

# Spring Code Enforcement Reminders

Village Code Enforcement conducts inspections of properties for compliance with Village ordinances. These regulations and inspections were established for the general health, safety and welfare of Gurnee's residents. The following are the three most common violations Village inspectors find, as well as a brief explanation of the Village's regulations:

1. Tall Grass/Weeds: Property owners must keep weeds or grass less than eight inches in height on their property.
2. Vehicle Parking: It is illegal to leave vehicles, boats, campers and other recreational vehicles at any residence where it is not on gravel, pavers, concrete or asphalt.
3. Yard Waste: Property owners must remove brush from their property in a timely manner.

If a violation is noted during a property inspection, the property owner will be provided a notice and must remedy the violation by the stated deadline. After the deadline, the property will be reinspected. Outstanding violations are subject to penalties as provided in the Village Code. Residents who witness code violations should report the violations directly through the Gurnee OneStop website, located at <https://onestop.gurnee.il.us> or by calling (847) 599-7550.

## Spring Flooding and How You Can Protect Your Home

### Flood Hazards

With spring showers on the horizon, the potential for riverine or localized 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 which can lead to riverine flooding. If you are a property owner in the flood plain, you potentially 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 localized flooding. To report debris in one of the Village's waterways, please contact the Gurnee Public Works Department at (847) 599-6800. 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.

### 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 at (847) 599-7550. Qualified staff is also available to visit a site upon request.

### 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. Information on flooding in Gurnee and preventative tips can also be found at [www.gurnee.il.us/residents/safety/flooding-in-gurnee](http://www.gurnee.il.us/residents/safety/flooding-in-gurnee).



# Fix a Leak Week: Leaks Can Run, but They Can't Hide!

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste nearly one trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, and ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

Determine whether you are wasting water and then identify the source of the leak. Here are some tips for finding leaks:

**Toilet:** There are a number of signs that a toilet needs repairs, but many toilets leak without conspicuous indications of trouble. Here are some of the more obvious signs of a leaking toilet:

- If you have to jiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.
- If you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty.

**Repair:** The cause of most toilet leaks is a worn out flapper. A new flapper is relatively inexpensive and easy to replace. Flappers can be found at local hardware and home improvement stores. Be sure to bring your old flapper when purchasing a new one if you are unsure of the size.

**Bathroom, Kitchen and Outdoor Faucets:** Most faucet leaks are plainly visible as drips coming out of the faucet aerator. Occasionally, faucets may leak in other places such as the on/off handle(s) or in the pipe below the basin. You may have a leak in the piping if there are visible drips coming from the piping or if there are wet, damp areas underneath the sink.

**Repair:** Faucets typically leak because of bad rubber washers, old gaskets or O-rings and corroded valve seats. If you decide to fix the faucet yourself, make sure you bring along the old faucet and parts when visiting the hardware or appliance store. A repair kit will have the key parts to replace.

**Bathtub Faucets and Shower Heads:** Most bathtub leaks are visible by drips coming from the tub spout. Occasionally, bathtub faucets may leak in other places such as the hot and/or cold water handle(s). Most shower head leaks are visible by drips coming from the shower head.

**Repair:** If you find a fixture that is leaking, turn off the water shutoff valve for that device and then locate the leak. Next, try to tighten any fittings that leak. A quarter or half turn with a wrench might do the trick. Be careful not to over-tighten fittings.

Another tip to see if you are wasting water is to check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.

## Leaks Still Flowing?

If you have determined you have leaks and you find these repair solutions are not enough to stop them, it might be time to contact a licensed plumber to assist you with the necessary repairs.

More info can be found at [www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week).

**CONSERVATION TIP:** If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the shower head with a water-efficient model.

## How Do I Recycle That?

### Needles and Medications

Needles and sharps can be dropped off at the Waste Management Sharps container at Village Hall (325 N O'Plaine). Make sure any sharps are in a secured container, which can be purchased at your local pharmacy.

Prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be disposed of at a bi-monthly SWALCO Household Chemical Waste (HCW) Event. Register at [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org). DEA controlled substances can only be dropped off at a designated secured police facility. The nearest facility is the Grayslake Police Department (200 E Cook Ave., Grayslake, IL 60030)

### Vehicle Fluids

Vehicle fluids such as motor oil, antifreeze and brake fluid are some of the worst culprits that end up in our streams and rivers. To avoid these fluids from being dumped into our waterways, instead store safely and dispose of the remaining materials at a SWALCO HCW event.

### Latex Paint

Latex-based paint is not accepted at SWALCO HCW events because it is not considered hazardous. Consider trying to reuse paint or find a new project to use the paint. You can also dry out the paint with cat litter or saw dust and then throw the dried paint cans in the trash.

### Household Electronics

Household Electronics are currently only accepted at four locations in Lake County. The closest location to Gurnee residents is the Grayslake Public Works Facility (585 Berry Avenue, Grayslake, IL), which is open to all Lake County residents. The hours for the facility are Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon. A limit of seven items per visit may be dropped off. Appointments are not required during the public drop off hours.



# Keeping Posted

KRISTINA M. KOVARIK, MAYOR  
Andy Harris, Clerk

## VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes                      Quin O'Brien  
Greg Garner                      Cheryl Ross  
Thomas Hood                      Karen Thorstenson

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  
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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Permit No. 45

## Postal Patron

## April 6th, 2021 Consolidated Election

Exercise your right to vote in the consolidated election on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021. This year, the following positions are up for election: Four-year term Mayor (1), Four-year term Clerk (1), Four-year term Trustee (3). Gurnee Village Hall (325 N O'Plaine Road) will be an early voting location for all Lake County residents beginning on Monday, March 22nd until Monday, April 5th. On election day, Tuesday, April 6th, residents will vote at their designated precinct. For a complete list of voting locations, voting questions and early voting hours, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/2021consolidated election](http://www.gurnee.il.us/2021consolidated election).

## What's New

### Now Open in Gurnee:

**Abbott Laboratories** (605 Tri-State Pkwy) - rapid COVID-19 test kit manufacturing • **Accurate Pool Service** (200 Ambrogio Dr) - relocation, in-ground swimming pool service • **Amoore Consulting** (83 Ambrogio Dr) - food/alcohol processing and packaging • **Global Security Group** (83 Ambrogio Dr) - security contracting office • **KPF Electrical Supply Co.** (4210 Grove Ave) - electrical prefabrication • **LA7** (Gurnee Mills Entry B) - women's fashion • **Laboratory Corp. of America** (200 Greenleaf St) - relocation, medical laboratory/offices • **Lawrence E. Grandt, CPA** (4343 Old Grand Ave) - relocation, accounting office • **Magic Garden/Brown Sugar** (3575 Grand Ave) - body sculpting & massage • **Northwestern Medicine** (6155 Grand Ave) - professional medical office building • **One on One Sports** (101 Ambrogio Dr) - small group baseball training • **Perfect Bodies** (Gurnee Mills Entry D) - compression garments for men and women • **Poke Bros.** (6310 Grand Ave) - Hawaiian-style fresh fish poké bowl restaurant • **Shipping Point** (6615 Grand Ave) - relocation, shipping and printing services • **Superior Medical Solutions** (401 N. Rt. 21) - medical staffing agency • **Tank Traders Midwest** (3895 Clearview Ct) - propane exchange • **Tax & Beyond** (3608 Grand Ave) - tax/accounting services • **Teriyaki Madness** (6409 Grand Ave) - Asian fusion restaurant • **Top Shelf Ice Arena** (Gurnee Mills near Entry H) - ice rink under new ownership & hockey training facility • **uBreakiFix** (7105 Grand Ave) - same-day electronics repair

## Be in the Know

### Coming Soon to Gurnee:

**Air Force/National Guard** (Gurnee Mills) - recruiting office • **AZ Polymers** (5675 Centerpoint Ct) - high grade polycarbonate sheet production • **Dairy Queen** (401 N. Rt. 21) - relocation, soft serve ice cream and restaurant • **Gurnee Fire Station #3** (5330 Manchester Dr) - new station, anticipated opening Fall 2021 • **Hanger Clinic** (35 Tower Ct) - prosthetic/orthotic fittings • **Papo's Express** (6498 Washington St) - express car wash • **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers** (6415 Grand) - quick service restaurant • **Riccino Optical** (4070 Ryan Rd) - optical products/lens distributor • **Taco Bell** (6360 Grand Ave) - remodel • **Trio Car Wash** (3419 Grand Ave) - full service car wash on site of former Citgo • **U-Haul** (3801 Grandview St) - remodel for U-Box storage/rental • **WoodSpring Suites Hotel** (5742 Northridge Dr) - extended stay, 114-room hotel

For all the latest new and upcoming businesses in Gurnee, make sure to check our monthly edition of Projects in Progress on social media or at [www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress](http://www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress).