

SPRING 2023

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MAYOR

Thomas B. Hood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes

Greg Garner

Quin O'Brien

Cheryl Ross

Karen Thorstenson

Kevin Woodside

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Patrick Muetz

VILLAGE CLERK

Andy Harris



VILLAGE OF GURNEE

325 N. O'PLAINE RD.

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

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

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

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

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

www.gurnee.il.us



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Nextdoor, Twitter and LinkedIn!

This newsletter is published by the
Village of Gurnee.

To provide feedback, please contact:
Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

As winter wanes and we enter into spring, Alexander Pope's words come to mind: "Hope springs eternal". It seems that as we emerge from winter our hope of new things is reflected in nature and in our mounting expectation of what lies ahead. We in the Village of Gurnee, known as the "Community of Opportunity", harbor this same hope and expectation as we look ahead to the coming months. We're expanding the Sounds of Summer offerings held at Viking Park and will also continue to enjoy Gurnee Days in August. In the early fall, the Gurnee Police, Fire and Public Works will be at a park near you to allow an up-close and personal look into their operations. We are also in the process of planning a fall Oktoberfest-like event. The Village and its partners are working to expand community events for Gurnee residents so that we can continue to enjoy each other's company.

Spring brings a very practical reality for us at the Village. Our finances operate on a fiscal year that begins on May 1, 2023. As a result, the work on this year's budget began last fall. With my collaboration, Pat Muetz, the Village Administrator, and Brian Gosnell, the Finance Director, lead the charge in laying the groundwork for a successful budget. In keeping with my desire to pull back the curtain on Village operations, the next paragraphs are dedicated to describing the budget process and our current financial condition. I hope you find it informative and helpful.

Budget construction starts at the department level, where each department—fire, police, public works, community development and administration—works with its departmental leaders to determine the needs in personnel, equipment, inventory, facilities and scheduled projects for the upcoming fiscal year. Each department head and management team makes a presentation to the Village Administrator and Finance Director who then leads a healthy discussion over the needs, outcomes and alternatives to determine cuts and investments. The Finance Director conservatively estimates revenues for the coming year and balances the budget.

The staff's budget rough draft is then presented to the trustees two at a time for input. Each trustee's input is considered in making changes to the budget. The next draft of the budget is presented in a series of budget hearings. Each department head presents their budget both to the trustees and to me at a public meeting. Further revisions are made before the budget is finally presented at a public hearing to the trustees for a vote; if a majority approves the budget, it is then put in place on May 1, 2023. The draft and final budgets are available online prior to the workshop and public hearing.

Because we rely on very elastic revenue sources, the Village maintains a strong reserve of more than 30 million dollars, which is 70 percent of budgeted expenditures. All this has been done while maintaining a AAA bond rating since 2014, and the Village is nearly debt free, as we have recently paid off the debt for Fire Station 3.

I am thankful for the Village's strong financial position, but as is true of anything these days, change can quickly occur. A constant monitoring and conservative approach is necessary to maintain the strong Village services that we all enjoy.

As always, I am available at my regularly scheduled coffees, by telephone, via e-mail or through in person visits. Please introduce yourself and let me know of any questions, concerns or things you enjoy in the Village.

I pray that this year we enjoy all the good things God has gifted us; that we appreciate those He has placed in our lives; and that despite any adversity we may face, we remember that "hope springs eternal".

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

GURNEE NEWS

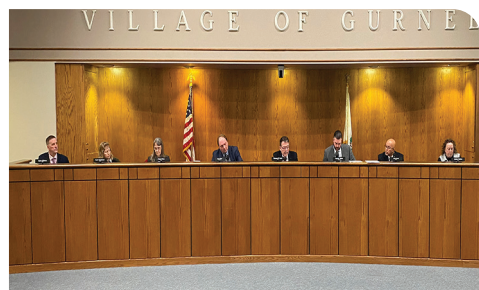


GURNEE POLICE DEPT. AND MAYOR HOOD DELIVER VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS TO SENIORS

The Gurnee Police Department organized the 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors Program. This program encourages the community to create Valentine's Day cards to be delivered to each senior citizen facility in Gurnee on Valentine's Day. With the help of new School Resource Officer Detective Hansen who coordinated the effort, the Police Department received over 5,000 valentines - a new record! The Gurnee Police Department, as well Mayor Tom Hood and students from the Junior National Honor Society, delivered these cards to each senior citizen facility in Gurnee. A special thank you to all of the organizations that participated.

FASTLANE LUBEMASTERS AWARDED THE FIRST GREEN GURNEE AWARD

At the February 20th Village Board meeting, Mayor Tom Hood presented Fastlane Lubemasters' owner, Morris Clement with the first Green Gurnee Award – Bronze Level. This award recognizes businesses in our community that have taken significant steps to reduce their environmental impact and promote sustainability. Fastlane Lubemasters of 6280 Grand Ave. has demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability by implementing many environmentally friendly practices including using a waste oil furnace to heat service bays, procuring Mobil 1 products in 55 gallon barrels to avoid generating plastic waste and developing low speed electric vehicles for customer transport, in addition to many others. Fastlane Lubemasters is an excellent example of the kind of responsible business practices that the Village encourages in our community.



VILLAGE BOARD APPROVES EXPANSION OF SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

On February 20th, the Village Board voted to approve the expansion of the Small Business Capital Investment Grant Program. The purpose of this program aims to assist eligible small business owners in making capital investments that they may not have been able to accomplish otherwise. To date, 36 small businesses have successfully obtained \$318,691 in grant funding from the Village that when combined with the businesses' investments resulted in a community investment of \$2,070,922; this includes 16 restaurants, 19 retail businesses and one amusement business. Not only will the expansion allow for greater funding opportunities, it also allows

previous awardees with multiple projects on the horizon to reapply for grant funding. As continual business growth is important, the retention and reinvestment into the small business community is vital to the Village of Gurnee. Small business owners in Gurnee that are looking to make capital improvements into their business location are encouraged to apply for the Small Business Capital Investment Grant Program by visiting www.gurnee.il.us/smallbusinessgrant.

NEW BUSINESSES

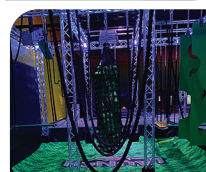
Adam's Plastics
4070 Ryan Rd.
Distribution

Keifer USA
1225 Tri-State Pkwy.
Sports Flooring



Elite Auto Body
3816 Grandview Ave.
Autobody Repair

Launch Gurnee
880 Lakeside Dr.
Entertainment



Executive Barbershop
1810 Delany Rd.
Barbershop

Life into Art
4606 Grand Ave.
Photography

FedEx
6641 Grand Ave.
Shipping Services

Maureen McLaughlin
Acupuncture
15 Tower Ct.

United Stone Works
1514 St. Paul Ave.

The Grind TCG
401 N. Riverside Dr.
Trading Card Shop

Panache Hair Studio
5101 Washington St.
Hair Salon

Vibrant Integrative
Psychiatry Services
1761 Dilleys Rd.

COMING SOON:

Anthony Auto Group
5589 Northridge Dr.

Bella Dental Studios
1761 Dilleys Rd.

Brake Parts Inc.
3800 Swanson Ct.

Bubble Tea Lab
4949 Grand Ave.



Caribana Isl. Bar & Grill
5250 Grand Ave.

Children's Dentistry
of Lake County
5384 Grand Ave.

Dan's Deals
3701 Grand Ave.

Diamond Dae Beauty
1761 Dilleys Rd.

Discount Tire
1508 Nations Dr.

European Wax
6447 Grand Ave.

Farmers Insurance
4606 Old Grand Ave.

Logan's House Gurnee
401 N. Riverside Dr.

Lyte Technology
1486 St. Paul Ave.

Pips Meadery
1350 Tri-State Pkwy.

Restaurant Depot
1501 Tri State Pkwy.

Royal Beauty Nails
3900 Washington St.

Taco Pros
6681 Grand Ave.

US Flag Maker
1960 Swanson Ct.

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board

March 20
March 27
April 10
April 24
May 8
May 22

Planning and Zoning Board

March 15
March 29
April 19
May 3
May 17

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 7:30pm on Wednesdays. Schedule subject to change.

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Saturday, March 11
10am - 12pm
Riverside Cafe
401 N. Riverside Dr.



COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

Thursday, April 27
Start Time 6pm
Warren Township Center
17801 W. Washington St.

Upcoming Events

Styrofoam Recycling Event Taking Place Saturday, March 18th

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, March 18th from 10am to 1pm at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. Only clean, dry and #6 labeled polystyrene products will be accepted. Packing peanuts will not be accepted.

If you are unable to attend, you may drop off your Styrofoam at Village Hall on Friday, March 17th. **If you are unable to make both days, the City of Highland Park's recycling center located at 1180 Half Day Rd. offers free styrofoam recycling to all Lake County residents every Tuesday & every 1st Saturday of the month.**

Early Voting for the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election Begins March 20th at the Village Hall

Early Voting for the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election will take place at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. from Monday, March 20th through Saturday, April 1st. 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. **Exercise your right to vote and vote early today!**

Shred Event Taking Place on Saturday, April 8th at Village Hall

BCU (Baxter Credit Union) and the Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Shred Event on Saturday, April 8th from 9am to 12pm at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. The event is limited to Gurnee residents and is free of charge. Any documents from businesses or commercial institutions will not be accepted. As a sustainable event, all materials will be recycled and diverted from landfills. **Get your documents together and we hope to see you there!**



The 2023 First Responder Expo is Happening at Gurnee Mills on Saturday, May 20th!

You will not want to miss your chance to see police cars, fire trucks, ambulances and more all in one location. The family-friendly event will feature Police & Fire Departments from across the region with live demonstrations, interactive fire safety & crime prevention displays and free giveaways. **Don't miss your opportunity to attend the largest First Responder event in the region. Join us Saturday, May 20th from 10am to 3pm at Gurnee Mills!**

2022 VILLAGE OF GURNEE YEAR IN REVIEW

A YEAR OF SUCCESS AND DEDICATED SERVICE

This past year, the Village of Gurnee continued to maintain the lowest debt burden of any Illinois municipality with a population over 25,000. As a result, the Village of Gurnee does not have to levy a property tax or even a utility tax.

This means a savings of approx. \$6,500 for residents over 10 yrs.

**Based on the avg. home value of \$330,000 and the tax levy of neighboring communities.*



SERVING AND PROTECTING



Largest Training in the Park Event



Implemented Advanced K-9 Program



Launched State of the Art Flock Cameras

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

98 New Businesses

including Cooper's Hawk, Lou Malnati's, Crumbl Cookie and CLC Advanced Tech Center

6.5 Miles of Roadway
rehabilitated as part of the
Largest Capital Program
in Gurnee's History

\$96.9 M
in Private Construction
issued in building permits making
this year the highest value of
construction investment in 10 yrs.

MAKING GURNEE GREENER



TREE CITY USA®

Community for
25 Consecutive Years



Ranked in the EPA's
Top 100 Green Power
Communities



National Solar
Friendliness Designation



Public Works installed approx. 5,232 high tech Orion water devices that communicates water data via a cellular network and eliminates the need to drive around to collect data.



The Village launched the Green Gurnee Awards to incentivize businesses to make positive environmental impacts. First Award Winner - Bronze Level Fastlane Lubemasters.

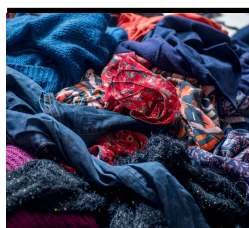
Learn more at www.gurnee.il.us

GURNEE RECYCLING & SAFE DISPOSAL GUIDE

Item

Drop-Off Location

Important Details



Clothing & Textiles

Gurnee Fire Station #2
6581 Dada Dr.
Gurnee, IL

Open 365 Days, 24/7

- Clean, dry clothing & textiles, new and gently used, will be accepted as reuse and worn items will be recycled. Secure in a plastic bag before placing in bin.
- **NOT ACCEPTED Items Include:** Mattresses, rugs, carpet, cushions, pillows, wet items and fabric.
- A full list of acceptable & non-acceptable items can be found at www.gurnee.il.us/residents/recycling



Electronics

Grayslake Public Works
585 Berry Ave.
Grayslake, IL

Monday - Friday, 8am - 3pm
Saturdays, 8am - 12pm

- Residents are limited to seven items per visit.
- Accepted Items Include: TV's, computers and more.
- **NOT ACCEPTED Items Include:** Batteries, appliances, humidifiers, air conditioners and more
- A full list of acceptable & non-acceptable items: www.swalco.org/162/Accepted-Non-Acceptable-Items



Household Chemical Waste

SWALCO
1311 N. Estes St.
Gurnee, IL

Appointment ONLY

- **Available by appointment only.** Schedule your appointment at www.swalco.org.
- Items Include: CFL bulbs, unwanted prescription, over-the-counter medicines and supplements, household cleaners, gasoline, garden chemicals, pesticide, oil-based paints and varnishes.



Medication Disposal

Walgreens
7501 Grand Ave.
Gurnee, IL

Monday - Friday, 9am - 9pm
Saturday - Sunday, 9am - 5pm

- Dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication.
- Accepted Items Include: Prescriptions, OTC medications, supplements, ointments and pet meds.
- **NOT ACCEPTED Items Include:** Needles and thermometers, hydrogen peroxide and illegal drugs.
- Only open during pharmacy hours.



Plastic Bags

In Gurnee:
Kohl's - 6120 Grand Ave.
Jewel - 6509 W Grand Ave.
Target - 6601 Grand Ave.
Walmart - 6590 Grand Ave.
Mariano's - 6655 Grand Ave.

- Clean and empty plastic bags should be stuffed into one bag and tied closed then recycled at a participating retailer.
- **DO NOT** place plastic bags in your recycling container.



Polystyrene Styrofoam

Highland Park's Recycling Center
1180 Half Day Rd.
Highland Park, IL

Every Tuesday & Every 1st Saturday of the Month, 7am - 1pm

- Only clean, dry and #6 labeled polystyrene products will be accepted.



Sharps

Gurnee Village Hall
325 N. O'Plaine Rd.
Gurnee, IL

Monday- Friday, 7am - 4pm

- Sharps include syringes and lancets to inject medications.
- **All sharps must be in an enclosed 1.4 quart sized container or smaller.**
- If the kiosk is full, please do not stack sharps containers outside the kiosk and simply come back.



Shoes

Gurnee Village Hall
325 N. O'Plaine Rd.
Gurnee, IL

Monday - Friday, 7am - 4pm

- All types, sizes and brands are accepted.
- **NOT ACCEPTED Items:** Ice skates, rollerblades, winter boots, moldy shoes or badly damaged shoes in pieces/missing soles.
- If a pair, please keep shoes paired by tying, banding, or bagging them together.

All services are free of charge to residents.
Businesses/institutions are prohibited.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

SPRING FLOODING: PROTECTING YOUR HOME

Springtime is often associated with warmer weather and the start of new growth, but it also brings the risk of flooding. With heavy rains and melting snow, the increased runoff can lead to rising water levels in rivers and streams, especially in areas near the Des Plaines River (with 235 sq. miles of drainage upstream) as well as contribute to localized flooding throughout the community. To help protect your home and family from the dangers of spring flooding, it's important to take a few simple proactive measures.

Know Your Flood Risk: Before the flood season begins, contact the Village with any questions or concerns that you may have at 847-599-7550. Professional staff are available to assist property owners with drainage or flooding problems, flood map interpretation, flood insurance requirements, building protection guidance, and will also be available to visit a site upon request.

Keep Your Drainage System Clear: Make sure storm sewers, ditches and streams are free of debris. Also check your home's sump pump and make sure it is in good working condition. 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 will be fined. If you see this occurring, please contact the Gurnee Police Department at 847-599-7000.

Protect Your Property: If you are a property owner in the floodplain, you potentially need flood insurance. Renters in the floodplain can also purchase a 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 Village for inspection. Also the Village keeps on file historical information for residents such as assessment data, flood maps and photos.

Prepare a Flood Emergency Kit: Keep a supply of emergency essentials on hand, including water, food, first-aid supplies and flashlights in a waterproof container.

Create a Flood Action Plan: Make a plan with your family for what to do in case of a flood emergency. Designate a safe place to go and determine the best escape routes.

Stay Informed: During a flood event, stay informed by monitoring local news and weather reports. Follow any evacuation orders if issued and avoid driving through flooded areas.

By taking these simple steps, you can help protect your home and family from the dangers of spring flooding. More information can be found at www.gurnee.il.us/flooding.



Parkway Tree Planting 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.

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> - 2½" 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" caliper (55' tall x 55' wide at maturity) medium growing, broad spreading and majestic native oak with yellow fall color.
	<i>Bald Cypress</i> - ½" caliper (60' tall x 25' wide at maturity) medium to fast growing pyramidal tree with fernlike leaves that turn a striking russet fall color.
	<i>Triumph Hybrid Elm</i> - 2½" 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>Eastern Redbud</i> - 2½" caliper (20'-30' tall x 20'-30' wide at maturity) native ornamental tree with a rounded canopy, heart shaped leaves and distinct pink-purple bloom in early spring.
Indicate tree location noting objects in area.	

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Return form with payment by April 7 to Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL 60031



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

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

This summer, the Village's contractor will be carrying out the annual Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement Program in the general area of Grand Ave. south to Washington St. and from Hunt Club Rd. west to Almond Rd./Vineyard Dr. Residents in this area that are planning on having driveway work completed can check with Public Works to see if they will be impacted by this project. If so, residents may want to postpone their driveway work until after the sewage treatment plant program is completed. Additionally, the removal and reinstallation of brick pavers or decorative bricks adjacent to sidewalk squares are the responsibility of the homeowner. Residents will be notified via door tag 48 hours in advance of any work commencing. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Department at 847-599-6800.



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.



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 or you can always contact our office at 847-599-7550 and we will be happy to assist you with what is required.

