

SPRING 2024

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**MAYOR**

Thomas B. Hood

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jeanne Balmes

Greg Garner

Quin O'Brien

Cheryl Ross

Karen Thorstenson

Kevin Woodside

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Patrick Muetz

**VILLAGE CLERK**

Andy Harris



**VILLAGE OF GURNEE**

325 N. O'PLAINE RD.

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

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

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

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

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

[www.gurnee.il.us](http://www.gurnee.il.us)



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Village of Gurnee. To provide  
feedback, please contact:  
[Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us](mailto:Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us)

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

We are entering the spring season with much to do outdoors in Gurnee. Over the years, the Village has required developers to dedicate a portion of their development to open space, and this open space has then been transformed by the Gurnee Park District into quality parks in virtually every neighborhood. I am thankful for the many outdoor spaces we do have in Gurnee, and I hope you take the opportunity to enjoy them.

Sometimes I receive questions from residents about decisions that have been made. I would like to share more details with you that would let the community know how we have arrived at a decision and help you understand what is going on behind the scenes. To this end, I have started a bi-monthly social media message titled "From the Mayor's Desk." These messages are intended to address more substantive issues in Gurnee.

The first message that I published was entitled "Addressing Unscheduled Bus Stops for Migrants in Gurnee." You can read or view it on the Village's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofGurnee>. The Chicagoland area has been experiencing unscheduled drop-offs of thousands of migrants. Although Gurnee has not yet experienced this, I did not want to wait until it happened, creating an unsafe and untenable situation for the migrants as well as the community. Therefore, I have worked with Village staff to create an ordinance regulating unscheduled bus stops. This ordinance directs a bus company to file an application with the Village requiring them to provide information about those being dropped off as well as how they're going to be provided for. The Village Board passed this ordinance on January 22, 2024, which you can view in more detail at <https://www.gurnee.il.us/code>.

Our Village has been proactive in planning how we might properly treat these individuals and get them to where they need to go. If the ordinance is violated, we want to provide temporary care for them. Therefore, Village staff has contacted a church to house the migrants on an emergency basis to allow for time to transport them to the processing center in Chicago. Additionally, a busing company will be available to transport, and staff has arranged for food and water to be available if necessary.

We, as a Village, have faced many challenges in the last few years. Strong leadership, skilled employees, excellent training, proper equipment and a strong infrastructure prepare a village for whatever may come. The Village of Gurnee has positioned itself well to do just that.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have released my next "From the Mayor's Desk" message about our successful partnership with Gurnee Mills. Gurnee Mills is flourishing and new tenants such as Texas Roadhouse, Primark and Round One (a large entertainment complex) are anticipated to open in the near future. I hope you take a look at the video on the Village's Facebook page.

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.

I hope you enjoy this spring.

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 4th 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 School Resource Officer Detective Hansen who coordinated the effort, the Police Department received almost 5,000 valentines! The Gurnee Police Department, Mayor Tom Hood, students from the Woodland National Junior Honor Society and BIG Great Lakes delivered these cards to each senior citizen facility in Gurnee. A special thank you to all of the organizations that participated!

## VILLAGE SECURES LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS AS NEW RESIDENTIAL WASTE AND RECYCLING HAULER TO BEGIN IN JUNE

The Village's residential waste and recycling contract with Waste Management (WM) is set to expire at the end of May 2024. WM issued a statement that a contract renewal would include significantly higher rates and no fall leaf vac program. As the Village tries to keep rates down for residents, the Village issued a request for proposal to ensure residents receive the lowest rates and comparable services. With three proposals, the Village Board unanimously approved the contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) as it provided the lowest rates for residents, reliable services, and enhanced environmental sustainability. Further communication from LRS and the Village will follow in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: TRUSTEE KEVIN WOODSIDE

Village Trustee Kevin Woodside was elected to the Board of Trustees in May 2021. When asked what motivated him to become involved in municipal government, Kevin said, "What began as a law enforcement career in the 1980s developed into a love for Gurnee. I believe that a life of significance is a life of service to others and am excited to contribute to my community in this new role on the Village Board." Kevin served in the Gurnee Police Department for 30 years, retiring as Chief of Police in January 2019. He and his wife, Cathy, have raised four great and now adult kids in Gurnee. Kevin also contributes his time and resources by serving as a long-time member of the Gurnee Exchange Club, including two terms as President, and is a member of the Board of Directors of PADS Lake County. Kevin has been active in the church that he and his wife Cathy have attended for the past 20 years, serving on the Board of Elders and volunteering with the food pantry and other ministries. Kevin was also honored as the Gurnee Days Honoree in 2023 for all his service to the community!

## NEW BUSINESSES

**Aapril Tax Service**  
4949 Grand Ave., Ste. 4B

**Angels Tat2**  
3701 Grand Ave., Ste. G

**Apex Pediatric Therapy**  
105 N. Greenleaf St., Ste. B

**ARCOA Group /Waukegan Computer**  
263 Ambrogio Dr.

**Beauty by Gerda Esthetics**  
1790 Nations Dr., Ste. 109

**Discount Tire**  
1508 Nations Dr.

**East Meets West Therapeutics**  
5101 Washington St., Ste. 1103

**Lovesac**  
6430 Grand Ave., Ste. 102

**Mochinut**  
7105 Grand Ave., Ste. 2B

**Mosaic Pathway Counseling**  
1800 Nations Dr., Ste. 111

**Natural Stone Inc.**  
4310 Lee Ave.

**Prorez Coatings**  
173 Ambrogio Dr., Ste. A

**Provida Family Health**  
1425 Hunt Club Rd., Ste. 204

**Taylor's Stop & Shop**  
726 Milwaukee Ave.

**Under Armour**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)

## COMING SOON:

**AR Development**  
1 Woodlake Blvd.  
(Apartments)

**Boot Barn**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)

**Brittane's Event Center**  
5101 Washington St., Ste 29-30

**Bullfrog Spas**  
6961 Grand Ave., Ste. B

**Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry**  
7500 Grand Ave.

**Primark**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)

**Round One Entertainment**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)

**SDM Transport**  
1500 N. Delany Rd.

**Texas Roadhouse**  
6060 Grand Ave.

**Trio Car Wash**  
3419 Grand Ave.



## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

March 11 (5:30p.m.)  
March 25  
April 8  
April 22  
April 29  
May 6  
May 20

### Planning and Zoning Board

March 6  
March 20  
April 3  
April 17  
May 1  
May 15

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 16  
12pm - 2pm

Starbucks - Gurnee Mills  
6170 Grand Ave., Entry F



### BUNNY BASH

Saturday, March 23  
8:30am - 11am

Viking Park Community Center  
4374 Old Grand Ave.  
Registration Required at  
[gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://gurneeparkdistrict.com)

## Upcoming Events

### Early Voting for the March 19, 2024 General Primary Election Begins Monday, March 4th at the Village Hall

Early Voting for the March 19, 2024 General Primary Election will take place at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. from Monday, March 4th through Saturday, March 16th. 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](http://LakeCountyClerk.info). **Exercise your right to vote and vote early today!**

### Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, April 20, 10am to 1pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, April 20th from 10am to 1pm at the 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 at the Gurnee Public Works Facility on Friday, April 19th from 7am to 3pm. **If you're unable to make either day, 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 1st Saturday of the month.**

### Paper Shredding and Recycling Event

Saturday, April 27, 10am to 1pm

BCU (Baxter Credit Union) and the Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Shred Event on Saturday, April 27th from 10am to 1pm at the Warren Township High School O'Plaine Campus at 500 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!**

### Bonfire & Brews: Food Truck Frenzy

Saturday, May 4, 7pm to 11pm

Get ready for a sizzling night of delicious food, refreshing brews, and cozy vibes at our "Bonfire and Brews: Food Truck Frenzy" event, exclusively for adults! As the sun sets and the stars appear, we'll be unwinding by the fire, savoring the delicious flavors of local food trucks and brewers, dancing to live music and, for added fun, competing in games with friends. There will be a cover charge for this event and it will be hosted at the spacious Viking Park in collaboration with the Village of Gurnee and the Village of Gurnee Chamber of Commerce. **Drinks and food will be available for purchase from local businesses and food truck vendors at this adult-only (21+) event!**

### 2024 First Responder Expo

Saturday, May 18, 10am to 3pm

You will not want to miss your chance to see police cars, ambulances, fire trucks 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 18th from 10am to 3pm at Gurnee Mills!**





# 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](http://www.gurnee.il.us/residents/recycling)



### Electronics

**Grayslake Public Works**  
585 Berry Ave.  
Grayslake, IL

**Monday - Friday, 8am - 3pm**  
**Saturday, 8am - 12pm**

- Residents are limited to seven items per visit.
- Accepted Items Include: TVs, 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](http://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](http://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

**Jewel - 6509 W. 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.**



Can't find what you're looking to dispose? Visit [gurnee.il.us](http://gurnee.il.us) or [swalco.org](http://swalco.org)





# 2023 VILLAGE OF GURNEE YEAR IN REVIEW



## Balanced Budget and Minimized Debt:

Continued to pass a balanced budget and decrease debt.



**Provided Value Back:** Through not levying a property tax or even a utility tax, the Village saved residents approx. \$6,500 over 10 years.

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

**Senior Homeowner Water Rate:** Discounted rate for senior homeowners for their first 7,000 gal. of water.

## HONORING AND CONNECTING COMMUNITY



Hosted First Cops and Bobbers, Training in the Park and Open Houses



Honored First African American Gurnee Settler Amos Bennet



Established Veterans Commission to Better Serve Local Veterans and Their Families

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**1,233** Licensed Businesses

including Restaurant Depot, Lola's Tacos & Tequila, Shoe Carnival, Pips Meadery, Olivia's Italian Restaurant, and Woody's Buick GMC

**6.5** Miles of Roadway

rehabilitated as part of the Village's Capital Program

**\$3.5M**

in small business project investment

created through providing capital grants to fund improvement projects

## MAKING GURNEE GREENER



**TREE CITY USA®**  
26th Year as Tree City USA



Ranked in the EPA's Top 100 Green Power Communities



**TREE CITY USA®**  
12th Tree City USA Growth Award



Public Works continued to replace water meter reading devices that allow staff to receive consumption data frequently and identify leaks sooner to conserve water.



Village awarded Gurnee Mills Mall the Green Gurnee Award - Gold Level for their sustainability efforts such as chemical free water treatment, electric car charging stations and more.

Learn more at [www.gurnee.il.us](http://www.gurnee.il.us)



# 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](http://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. 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> - 2 ½" 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 ½" caliper (55' tall x 55' wide at maturity) medium growing, broad spreading and majestic native oak with yellow fall color.
	<i>Rugged Ridge Miyabe Maple</i> - 2 ½" caliper (55' tall x 40' wide at maturity) fast growing, adaptable, hardy maple with bright yellow fall color and deeply furrowed, corky bark. Upright oval in shape with no serious insect/disease problems.
	<i>New Horizon Elm</i> - 2 ½" 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> - 2 ½" 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.
Please attach a map indicating the desired location of the tree, noting location of your house, curb/sidewalk, driveways and existing objects.	

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

Return form with payment by April 5th to Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL 60031





325 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031

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

## Postal Patron

### FREE UNLIMITED YARD WASTE COLLECTION TAKING PLACE THE WEEKS OF APRIL 1ST and APRIL 8TH

For the weeks beginning Monday, April 1st and April 8th, Waste Management will be conducting free and unlimited containerized landscape waste collection in the Village. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6am on your regular pick-up day. In order for the landscape waste to be collected, it must be containerized in one of the following ways:

- Kraft-type paper bag not to exceed 45 lbs.
- Rigid cans not to exceed 32-gallons.
- Bundles of brush not to exceed 2 feet in diameter by 4 feet long and weighing no more than 60 pounds with no individual branch being greater than 3 inches in diameter. Must be bundled and tied with twine or string in distinct piles.

Failure to have materials out by 6am on your pick up day will result in the waste not being collected. As a result, residents will have to wait until the next week or when the annual collection program begins.



### SPRING TIME FIRE SAFETY

As longer days and warmer weather nears, the Gurnee Fire Department offers 5 key tips to safely tackle spring cleaning:

- Change your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries.
- Clean your dryer duct annually/twice a year for families with heavier use.
- Keep grills at least 3 feet from a structure and inspect for grease buildup, rust and cracked hoses.
- Properly store gasoline in a tightly sealed and approved container in a detached garage or outdoor shed.
- 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).



### SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM TAKING PLACE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE VILLAGE

This summer, the Village's contractor will be carrying out the annual Sidewalk Replacement Program for sidewalks that meet the criteria for replacement in the general area of Kilbourne Road to eastern Village limits from northern to southern Village limits. Residents in this area who are planning to have 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 sidewalk 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.

### VETERANS COMMISSION SEEKS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission kicked off its inaugural meeting in January, marking the start of a crucial initiative to enhance support for veterans and active-duty personnel in the Village of Gurnee. Scheduled to convene every fourth Thursday of the month at the Gurnee Village Hall from 7pm to 8:30 pm, the commission aims to explore ways to make Gurnee a more veteran-friendly community and to provide support to military families during deployments worldwide. Open to the public, these meetings offer an opportunity for Gurnee citizens to engage in discussions and contribute ideas towards fostering a supportive environment for veterans and active-duty personnel. Community members are encouraged to attend future meetings and lend their voices to this vital cause. For those looking to delve deeper into veterans' issues, a valuable resource is available online at [www.governorschallenge.illinois.gov](http://www.governorschallenge.illinois.gov). For further inquiries or to get involved, individuals can contact Jim Huisel at 847-861-7270 or via email at [jhuisel@post771.org](mailto:jhuisel@post771.org). Join the movement to create a more supportive environment for those who have served!