

SPRING 2025

# Keeping Posted >



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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,

I trust "Spring is just around the corner," even as the plow trucks thunder down my street. Times like these remind me of all that the Gurnee Public Works does for us: providing water to our homes, clearing roads of snow, maintaining Village-owned infrastructure and much, much more.

As Mayor, I have been given a unique opportunity to empower those around me. As one example, I have challenged Village staff to dream and think outside the box—a practice that is now part of our yearly budget planning process. This infuses future decisions with innovation and creativity, and I have greatly enjoyed seeing this develop with true teamwork.

An example of innovation was presented at a recent Village Board meeting by Deputy Chief Jeremy Gaughan. He proposed that the Village hire criminal justice students from the College of Lake County to provide support to internal public safety operations as Gurnee transitions to the new state-of-the-art LakeComm Consolidated Dispatch Center. This would allow the Police Department to couple administrative tasks with law enforcement functions to evaluate these student employees' capacity to serve as future police officers, which is a critical hiring need. This proposed program is one-of-a-kind and believed to be the only one in the country.

Additionally, I have formed a number of groups and initiatives that empower residents to excel in a variety of areas. A few of those groups are the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission, the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative, the Gurnee Teacher of the Year Awards and most recently the Arts Commission and the Care Commission. The members are given the opportunity to steer the direction of the group while gathering with like-minded people in order to make the difference that our community needs.

The Gurnee Teacher of the Year Awards are a prime example of where my original vision has been greatly expanded by those participating. The Superintendents from each school district took the Gurnee Teacher of the Year Award and utilized it in their district to show all of the teachers what administration believes to be an excellent teacher and then recommends that teacher to be honored by the Village.

Most recently, the commission that I have a great deal of excitement about is the Arts Commission. I am looking to encourage the arts to flourish in Gurnee including: music, theater, dance, painting and more. Please contact Matt Trujillo, the Community Engagement Coordinator, for more information. Also, feel free to accept this as an invitation to participate in any one of these initiatives or groups, or contact me if you have an idea for one that you would like to start.

Being Mayor is a multifaceted role that continually presents unique opportunities for me to connect and engage residents in enhancing our community life. I will be highlighting those many different aspects of the position of Mayor in my next "From the Mayor's Desk" message posted on Facebook and Instagram.

I pray that this year we enjoy all that God has gifted us and to especially appreciate those that He has placed in our lives.

May you enjoy the spring.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood



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

The Gurnee Police Department organized the 5th Annual Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors Program. This program encourages the community to create Valentine's Day cards to be delivered to seniors showing the community's respect and support. With the help of School Resource Officer Detective Hansen who coordinated the effort, the Police Department delivered over 4,000 valentines! The Gurnee Police Department, Mayor Tom Hood and students from the Woodland National Junior Honor Society delivered these cards to each senior living community in Gurnee. A special thank you to all of the organizations that participated!

## STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS CELEBRATES COMMUNITY PROGRESS AND FUTURE PLANS

On Monday, January 27, Gurnee hosted the State of the Village event at the Village Hall. The evening, led by Mayor Tom Hood, began with an open house and celebrated the community's collective accomplishments while unveiling exciting plans for the year ahead. During the address, Mayor Hood highlighted the Village's various achievements from the past year, ranging from infrastructure improvements and public safety initiatives to strides in economic development and community engagement. Also during the event, Gurnee Mills was presented with the Pinnacle Performance Award, which recognizes businesses that have excelled as top performers among their peers. Mayor Hood closed by outlining ambitious plans for 2025, emphasizing collaboration, growth and innovation. View the full State of the Village Address at [www.youtube.com/@VillageofGurnee](https://www.youtube.com/@VillageofGurnee).



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: TRUSTEE JEANNE BALMES

Village Trustee Jeanne Balmes has been a pillar of the Gurnee community for decades, dedicating her time and leadership to ensuring that the Village thrives. First elected to the Board of Trustees in May 2001, Jeanne has remained steadfast in her commitment to civic service. When asked about her motivation for getting involved in municipal government, she shared, "I love the Village of Gurnee. I've been involved in several organizations and had a business in town. I wanted to keep the Village going in a positive direction and a leading community in the county and felt the need to become an active member of the Village Board." Beyond her role as a trustee, Jeanne has been deeply involved in various community organizations. She has served on the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce, the Gurnee Days Committee, the Breakfast Exchange Club, and the Gurnee Women's Business Association. She also was selected as the Gurnee Days Honoree in 1996 for her many years of community involvement. Her service has been instrumental in strengthening the fabric of the local community, fostering collaboration and enhancing the quality of life in Gurnee. Also for many years, Jeanne was a nationally recognized florist and successful business owner in Gurnee. As she remains a key member of the Village

Board, she serves as alternate Director for the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency and on the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce. Jeanne Balmes has played an integral role in shaping the Village of Gurnee into a thriving community. Her years of dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment serves as an inspiration to all.

## NEW BUSINESSES

**Beds in a Box**  
3515 Grand Ave.

**Verdure Counseling, Primerica, Station Ten**  
Bellewater Suite - 1761 Dilleys Rd.

**Blurry Blendz Barbershop**  
3701 Grand Ave.

**Dream Car Chicago**  
1351 Estes St.

**El Paisano Todo Servicios**  
3567 Grand Ave.

**E&O Therapeutic Services**  
6475 Washington St.

**Fenix Martial Arts Academy**  
101 Ambrogio Dr.

**Johana's Beauty Salon**  
3608 Grand Ave.

**Kyoto Ramen**  
4949 Grand Ave.

**Texas Roadhouse**  
6060 Gurnee Mills Cir.

**The UPS Store**  
5250 Grand Ave.

**Within Holistic Counseling,**  
Windsor Court - 495 Rte. 21

**Wordup Bible Bookstore**  
1333 N Delany Rd.

**Yolanda's Hair Studio**  
3567 Grand Ave.

## COMING SOON:

**Ashley HomeStore**  
6050 Gurnee Mills Cir.

**CarWise Gurnee**  
6460 Gurnee Mills Cir.

**Buona Beef/Rainbow Cone**  
7360 Grand Ave.

**Miss A**  
Gurnee Mills: 6170 Grand Ave.

**Muller Honda (renovation/expansion)**  
7000 Grand Ave.

**Riverside Café (expansion)**  
401 N Rte. 21

Please visit [www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress](https://www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress) for more info on new businesses and projects taking place in the Village.

## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

March 3 (5:30pm)

March 17

April 7

April 21

April 28

May 5

May 19

### Planning and Zoning Board

March 5

March 19

April 2

April 16

May 7

May 21

Village Board and Planning and Zoning Board meetings are held at the Gurnee Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) and begin at 7pm.

Village Board meetings take place on Mondays and Planning and Zoning Board meetings on Wednesdays (Schedule Subject to Change).

## MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



### COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Saturday, March 15

10am - 12pm

Starbucks - Gurnee Mills

6170 Grand Ave., Entry F



### BUNNY BASH

Saturday, April 12

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 April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election

Monday, March 17 - Saturday, March 29, 9am to 5pm (Saturdays until 2pm)

Early Voting for the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election will take place at the Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. from Monday, March 17 through Saturday, March 29. 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!**

### Paper Shredding and Recycling Event

Saturday, April 12, 10am to 1pm

Baxter Credit Union (BCU) and the Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Shred Event on Saturday, April 12 from 10am to 1pm at the Gurnee 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!**

### Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, April 19, 10am to 1pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting a Styrofoam Recycling Event on Saturday, April 19 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 18 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.**

### Bonfire & Brews: Food Truck Frenzy

Saturday, May 3, 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 various food trucks, dancing to live music and, for added fun, competing in games with friends. This event is FREE to attend and will be hosted at the spacious Viking Park in collaboration with the Village of Gurnee and community partners. Drinks and food will be available for purchase at this adults-only (21+) event!

### 2025 First Responders Expo

Saturday, May 17, 11am to 3pm

Mark your calendars for the First Responders Expo this May! On Saturday, May 17, from 11am to 3pm, the parking lot at Gurnee Mills will be filled with exciting exhibits, hands-on activities and an opportunity to meet our everyday heroes.

The Tunnel to Towers Never Forget Mobile Exhibit will be on display all weekend, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Don't miss this moving tribute on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18.

### Youth Citizens Police Academy

Monday, June 23 - Friday June 27, 8am to 4pm

Are you a Gurnee high school student interested in law enforcement? Don't miss the Gurnee Youth Citizen Police Academy, a free, weeklong opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at policing in our community! Interact with Gurnee officers and participate in hands-on activities like traffic stops, criminal investigations and more. The academy runs from 8am to 4pm daily, June 23 through June 27. For more information and to sign up, please visit [www.gurnee.il.us/citizenspoliceacademy](http://www.gurnee.il.us/citizenspoliceacademy).



# GURNEE RECYCLING & SAFE DISPOSAL GUIDE

## Item

## Drop-Off Location

## Important Details



### Clothing & Textiles

**Gurnee Fire Station #2**  
6581 Dada Dr., Gurnee, IL  
**WTHS O'Plaine Campus**  
500 N. O'Plaine Rd., 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., Gurnee, IL  
**Mariano's**  
6655 Grand Ave., Gurnee, IL

- 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.
- If you have LRS as your recycling hauler, styrofoam can be recycled through the Hefty ReNew Orange Bag Program. For more info and how to participate, please visit [www.gurnee.il.us/heftyrenewprogram](http://www.gurnee.il.us/heftyrenewprogram)



### 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** leave sharps containers outside the kiosk and simply come back.



### Shoes

**Gurnee Public Works Facility**  
1151 N. Kilbourne Rd.  
Gurnee, IL  
**Open 365 Days, 24/7**

- 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)





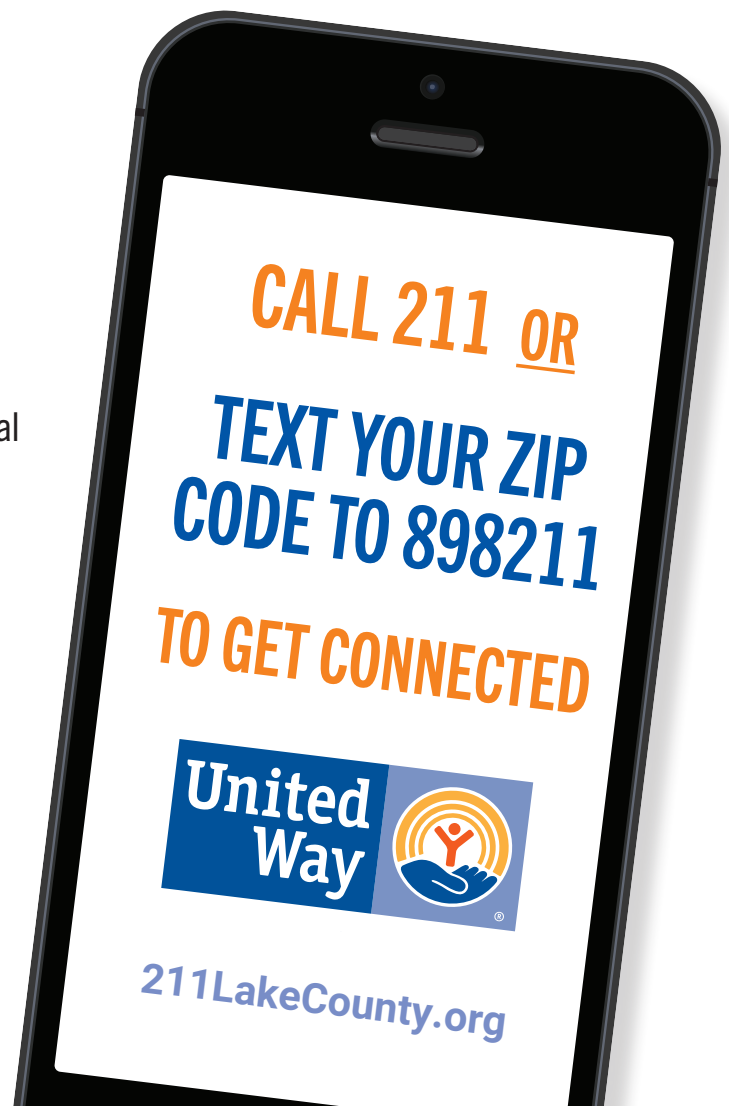
# Need Help? Call 211.

## A CARING, EXPERT NAVIGATOR WILL GUIDE YOU TO THE HELP YOU NEED:

Housing | Utilities | Food | Crisis Help | Mental Health & Addiction | Health Care  
Financial Support | Personal, Child & Family Support | Education | Transportation  
Employment | Legal & Immigration | Government | Volunteering | Disaster Information

## WHY 211?

- **IT'S FREE** - Just call or text to reach a real person who will guide you to real answers.
- **IT'S FAST** - You'll be quickly connected with available resources you need.
- **IT'S COMPREHENSIVE** - 211 is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services. It's Lake County's one-stop shop for help.
- **IT'S CONFIDENTIAL** - You never have to provide your name...just your zip code.





# 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 staff are 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 any 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. In addition, 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 efforts 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 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 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>Bald Cypress</i> - 2.5" caliper (60' tall x 25' wide at maturity) a medium to fast growing pyramidal tree with fernlike leaves that turn a striking russet fall color.
	<i>Redpointe Maple</i> - 2.5" caliper (45' tall x 30' wide at maturity) a fast growing, pyramidal tree with excellent red fall color. A hybrid cross between red maple and freeman maple.
	<i>Ruby Dayze Crabapple</i> - 2.5" caliper (20' tall x 15' wide at maturity) an attractive, purple-leafed variety of crabapple with a tightly branched upright oval form, magenta pink flower and red-orange fall color.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return form with payment by April 4 to Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL 60031

**\*Attach a map indicating the desired location of the tree, noting location of your house, curb/sidewalk, driveways and existing objects.**



325 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031

Postal Patron

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

## PROPOSED BUDGET NOW AVAILABLE AND BUDGET WORKSHOP SET FOR MARCH 3

The Village of Gurnee is committed to transparency and fiscal accountability in managing public resources. The Proposed Annual Budget for the upcoming 2025 - 2026 fiscal year is now available for public viewing at [www.gurnee.il.us/budget](http://www.gurnee.il.us/budget). Residents are encouraged to view the budget and provide any feedback. A budget workshop on the Proposed Annual Budget will take place on March 3 at 5:30pm at the Gurnee Village Hall located at 325 N. O'Plaine Rd. The Village Board will then consider the budget for formal approval on April 7.

## FREE UNLIMITED YARD WASTE COLLECTION TAKING PLACE THE WEEKS OF APRIL 7 AND APRIL 14

For the weeks beginning Monday, April 7 and April 14, LRS will be conducting free and unlimited containerized landscape waste collection throughout the Village for those who do not pay a homeowners association (HOA) for waste collection services. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6am on your regular pick-up day and 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 and fire safety:

- 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 IN NORTH-CENTRAL GURNEE

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 east of I-94 from Washington St. north along Rt. 21 to the Village's northern 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.

