

SUMMER 2023

Keeping Posted >

[Mayor's Message](#)

[Gurnee News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Construction Schedule](#)

[Gurnee's Popular Annual
Financial Report](#)

[Service Announcements](#)

[Seasonal Reminders](#)



**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

Like us or follow us on Facebook,
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 I grow older the seasons seem to pass by even faster. We are already approaching summer and so much is available to see and do in Gurnee. I have recently taken advantage of a number of parks in town with my wife, Pam, and our granddaughter, Kayla. The parks have taken on new meaning as we play with Kayla and see life through her eyes. We are blessed as we have another granddaughter, Amelia, just a couple months old and a grandson, Ryan, on the way. It is a great stage of life.

I would like to stop and congratulate the Gurnee Park District for the beautiful parks, spaces and events that they offer to the residents of Gurnee. Susie Kuruvilla, Executive Director, and her team go above and beyond in providing enjoyment for residents of all ages and interests. I would recommend that you take a look at the Gurnee Park District website (www.gurneeparkdistrict.com) and enjoy their offerings.

Many people in the region travel to Gurnee to enjoy what we have in our own backyard. Sometimes I take for granted all that Gurnee has to offer. I am thankful for the businesses that have chosen to locate here and provide us with so much variety. For instance, restaurants are a particular favorite of mine. I would probably qualify as a "foodie" and I really enjoy a good meal at the more than 120 restaurants in Gurnee.

On another note, I would like to take a moment to discuss a subject that I know is weighing heavily on many of the residents of Gurnee. Recently, our real estate tax bill came out, and there was a significant increase. The majority of the increase came as a result of the referendum that was passed for Warren Township High School. It is unfortunate that the State of Illinois has chosen to fund schools largely through real estate taxes. So when you look at your tax bill, you will notice the real estate taxes attributed to the grade school and high school serving our area makes up more than 70 percent of the total. Schools need the funding, but unfortunately it comes from your real estate taxes.

You will hear me talk about how the Village does not contribute to your real estate taxes, unlike most municipalities. The Village of Gurnee has no line item on your tax bill and that is what I can control, along with the Village Board. I am proud of the fact that we run the Village in such a way that it does not add to the already heavy tax burden on residents. Unfortunately, our real estate tax bills are still high. I will continue to search for ways in which Gurnee can lighten the financial load on residents.

Recently, I encouraged staff to look for ways to lighten the financial burden on residents. We have created a senior water rate discount that has recently been put into place. Seniors do not have to apply for the discount as it's automatically applied to your bill if you qualify. As a Village, we strive to increase revenue, reduce costs and intelligently invest our funds so that the benefits can be maximized for the Village.

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 the summer.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood



Trustees Cheryl Ross, Greg Garner and Quin O'Brien Take Oath of Office

At the May 8th Village Board meeting, Trustees Cheryl Ross, Greg Garner and Quin O'Brien were officially administered their oath of office by Judge James K. Booras for their new terms. Trustees Cheryl Ross and Greg Garner have been serving on the board since 2007, while Trustee Quin O'Brien has been serving since 2019. The Village is proud and honored to have a group of such dedicated and passionate trustees!

They will each be serving four-year terms that expire April 30, 2027. You can view their biography information online and get in contact with them at www.gurnee.il.us/government/village-board.

GURNEE MILLS AWARDED THE GOLD LEVEL GREEN GURNEE AWARD

The Village is proud to announce that Gurnee Mills has become the first business to win the highest Green Gurnee Award – Gold Level. At a recent board meeting, Mayor Hood recognized Gurnee Mills and the significant steps they have taken to reduce their environmental impact and promote sustainability. They have demonstrated their commitment to environmental sustainability by implementing many environmentally friendly practices including utilizing ProMoss - chemical free water treatment with more than 5 million gallons of water saved, installing electric car charging stations, making significant energy-efficient facility upgrades, and purchasing 30% of recyclable materials corporate-wide. The Village is proud to have such an environmentally conscious partner such as Gurnee Mills in town.



GURNEE'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SETTLER AMOS BENNETT HONORED WITH PLAQUE DEDICATION

On Wednesday, May 10th, the Village of Gurnee and the Warren Township High School Black Student Union dedicated a plaque honoring Amos Bennett at the Mother Rudd Home.

Amos Bennett was the first African American settler in Gurnee and all of Lake County. He was born to freed slaves, was a landowner, and was the First African American to run for public office in Lake County. Mayor Tom Hood, Trustee Quin O'Brien, Gurnee Resident George Serdar and Zach James of the WTHS Black Student Union spoke about the importance of recognizing Amos Bennett. The event concluded with the unveiling and reading of the new plaque.

VILLAGE HONORS 2023 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

The Village of Gurnee is proud to announce the 2023 Gurnee Teacher of the Year Awards. The recipients are Anthony Nelson (Warren Township High School District 121), Gloria Tinucci-Frank (Woodland District 50) and Randy Luce (Gurnee District 56). These annual awards were created through the collaboration of the Village, the school districts and local business owner Donald Henderson under the leadership of Mayor Tom Hood. The awards recognize the distinguished accomplishments of a peer-nominated recipient from each district in service to their students, school and school district. To view the full press release, please go to www.gurnee.il.us.



REMEMBERING MAYOR GORDON D. GILLINGS

Gordon Gillings was born in 1907 in a house on O'Plaine Rd, just north of the high school, and lived there until his death, except for the years during World War II when he served in Europe. He and his wife Carol raised their daughters Lynn and Cheryl in that house. He worked at Warren Township High School for over 40 years. His family, friends and fellow volunteer firemen encouraged him to run for mayor in 1949. He was re-elected six times, retiring in 1973. In that year, he was selected as the first Gurnee Days Honoree. During his tenure as mayor, Gurnee grew from about 900 to 3500 residents. Gordon's hope for Gurnee was that it would grow as a planned and balanced community. He loved Gurnee and had many hard-working partners with him as the community developed, including Village Attorney Howard Swanson and the first Village Administrator Robert Trigg. Some noteworthy accomplishments include overseeing the beginning of the municipal water and sewer system, negotiating to bring Marriott's Great America to Gurnee and, along with other longtime residents, starting the Historical Society. He had a great sense of humor and wasn't afraid to ask for help when it was needed. In 1962, Gordon along with Leon Hubert was seriously injured when a semi hit a Gurnee Fire Truck at the intersection of Delany Road and Route 41, causing it to roll three times. In 1971, he appointed Dick Welton to a vacancy on the Village Board and in 1973 encouraged him to run for mayor. After retiring as mayor, Gordon continued to serve as chairman of the Zoning Board and was happy with the leadership and direction of the Village. He passed away in February of 1980. Fire Station #1 was completed in 1981 and dedicated in his memory.



VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Board

June 12
June 26
July 10
July 24
July 31
August 7

Planning and Zoning Board

June 7
June 21
July 5
July 19
August 2

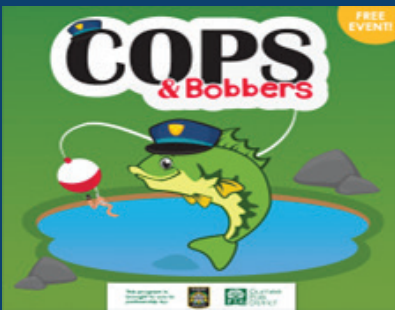
All Village meetings are held at the Gurnee Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road). Village Board meetings begin at 7:00pm on Mondays. Planning and Zoning Board Meetings begin at 7:30pm on Wednesdays. Schedule subject to change.

MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PIZZA WITH MAYOR HOOD

Saturday, June 10
12:00pm - 2:00pm



COPS & BOBBERS

Wednesday, July 26
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Hunt Club Park
900 N. Hunt Club Rd.

Upcoming Events

Families on the Fairway

Friday, June 9, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

The Village of Gurnee, Gurnee Park District and Bittersweet Golf Club will hold the annual Families on the Fairway event on Friday, June 9th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Bittersweet Golf Club located at 875 Almond Rd.

This FREE event is open to the public and features activities for the whole family! There will be bounce houses, face painting, mini-golf, music, photo booth, tips from the golf pros, access to the driving range (limited golf clubs available or bring your own) and more! Food and adult beverages will be available for purchase at the Club House. For more information, please contact the Gurnee Park District at 847-623-7788.

Sounds of Summer

Thursdays, June 15 - August 17, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Join the Gurnee Park District for the Sounds of Summer FREE concert series for all ages. The concerts will take place at the Viking Park Band Shell at 4374 Old Grand Ave. from 7:00pm to 8:30pm each evening. The 2023 dates announced include:

- June 15 - 7th Heaven
- June 29 - Classical Blast
- July 6 - Ballet Folklorico Nacional
- July 20 - Too Hype Crew
- August 17 - Meher Dance Company

Be sure to bring blankets or chairs and snacks or drinks. Dogs are welcome but they should be well behaved and remain on a leash at all times. Remember to check the Rainout Line by calling 847-268-2080 for inclement weather updates.

Electronics Recycling Event

Friday, June 16, 10:00am to 5:30pm

The Village of Gurnee will be hosting an Electronics Recycling Event on Friday, June 16th from 10:00am to 5:30pm at the Gurnee Public Works Facility located at 1151 Kilbourne Rd.

- The event is free and for Gurnee residents only. (Must present a government ID)
- All items must be free of any batteries, packaging material, and operating manuals. Alkaline and Long-Life Non-Rechargeable batteries are non-hazardous and may be disposed of in the regular trash.
- Materials from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted.

Accepted Items Include: Televisions, Monitors, Computers (including laptop and tablet), Printers, Keyboards, Mice, Fax Machines, Scanners, Small Scale Servers, VHS/DVD/DVR/CD (players and recorders), Game Systems, Cable and Satellite Receivers, Hard Drives, Telephones, Cameras, Shredders and Holiday Lights.

Items NOT Accepted Include: Batteries (alkaline, non-rechargeable, lead acid), Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Small Household Appliances (microwave ovens, toasters, blenders, hair dryers etc.), Large Household Appliances, Lighting Fixtures, Air Conditioners and Refrigerators.

Please note that if the item is not listed, you can check [swalco.org](https://www.swalco.org) or call 847-336-9340 to learn how to recycle the item. If you are unable to make June 16th, Grayslake Public Works located at 585 Berry Ave. offers electronics recycling to all Lake County.

Gurnee Fire Department Blood Drive

Saturday, July 8, 8:30am to 1:30 pm

Want to help the Gurnee Fire Department save lives? Join us on Saturday, July 8th for a blood drive at Fire Station 2 located at 6581 Dada Dr. from 8:30am to 1:30pm. All blood types are needed. Appointments are strongly recommended but not required. Use code ORD0G110 when making your appointment. You can make your appointment today by visiting www.vitalant.org.

Can't make the drive? Stop by Vitalant's Gurnee office (5250 Grand Ave.) and use code ORD0G110 to take part in our event!

GURNEE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Street Resurfacing Program (May - October)

The Village's contractor, J.A. Johnson Paving, will be resurfacing 6 miles of roadway as well as completing pavement patching and curb and sidewalk repairs. The following streets will be resurfaced this year:

- Nursery Dr., Knowles Rd. to east end
- Greystone Dr., North cul-de-sac to Scranton Dr.
- Sutton Pl., Nursery Dr. to west end
- Sawyer Ct., Greystone Dr. to south end
- Suffolk Ct., Hartford Dr. to west end
- Prescott Ln., Cascade Way to west cul-de-sac
- Old Walnut Cir., Cascade Way to Washington St.
- Cascade Way, Kingsport Dr. to Old Walnut Cir.
- Abbey Rd., Strawberry Fields to Aster Dr.
- Strawberry Fields, North end to Cascade Way
- Aster Dr., Bittersweet Dr. to Cascade Way
- Penny Ln., Aster Rd. to Cascade Way
- Delaware Ave., Lawson Blvd. to east end
- Sycamore Ln., Pinewood Rd. to south end
- Acacia Ct., Lawson Blvd. to west end
- Hollyhock Ct., Lawson Blvd. to west end
- Alder Ct., Lawson Blvd. to west end
- Adele Dr., Route 21 to north end
- Yew Ct., Pinewood Rd. to north end
- Monterey Ct., Pinewood Rd. to north end
- Acorn Ct., Pinewood Rd. to west end
- Waveland Ave., Grand Ave. to Grandmore Ave.
- Grandville Ave., Railroad to Magnolia Ave.
- Woodlawn Ave., Waveland Ave. to Pine Grove Ave.
- Magnolia Ave., Woodlawn Ave. to north end
- Harper Ave., First Ave. to east end
- Covenant Ct., Kings Way N to south end
- Concord Sq., Kings Way N to Kings Way N
- Lexington Sq., Providence Rd. to Providence Rd.
- Spinney Run Dr., Rte. 21 to Kristin Ct.
- Brian Ct., Spinney Run Dr. to south end
- Chelsey Ct., Spinney Run Dr. to north end
- Kristin Ct., Spinney Run Dr. to west end

The public should expect lane, sidewalk and temporary driveway closures throughout this project.

Street Reconstruction Program (May - September)

The Village's contractor, Chicagoland Paving Inc., will be reconstructing the street at Lawrence Ave. from Route 132 to Woodlawn Ave. and Waveland Ave. from Blackstone Ave. to Rte. 41. Additionally, drainage and sidewalk improvements will take place. Temporary lane, sidewalk and driveway closures are expected.



Washington Street Bridge at Route 41 (Current)

The Illinois Dept. of Transportation's contractor, Lorgis, is reconstructing the bridge at Washington St. Motorists should expect temporary lane closures and traffic delays.

Waveland & Grandville Water Main Project (May - August)

The Village's contractor, Campanella and Sons Inc., will be replacing the water main, hydrants and valve vaults on Waveland Ave. from Grandview Ave. to Grandmore Ave. and on Grandville Ave. from Waveland Ave. to Route 41. Lane, sidewalk and driveway closures as well as temporary water main shutdowns should be expected.

Sidewalk Replacement Program (May - September)

The Village's contractor, Schroeder & Schroeder Inc., has begun work on sidewalk replacements: Grand Ave. south to Washington St. and from Hunt Club Rd. west to Almond Rd./Vineyard Dr. The contractor will be providing door hangers to residents who will lose access to their driveways prior to the work beginning. This project will have minor impacts such as temporary lane and sidewalk closures.

O'Plaine Road Water Main Replacement (June - September)

The Village's contractor, Campanella and Sons Inc., will be replacing the water main, hydrants and valve vaults on O'Plaine Rd. from Brookhaven Rd. to Old Grand Ave. Lane, sidewalk and driveway closures as well as temporary water main shutdowns will occur.

American Legion Culvert Replacement (Start TBD)

The Village will be replacing a 60 in. corrugated metal pipe near the American Legion. This project will have minor impacts such as temporary sidewalk closures.

Dilley's Road Pedestrian Path (Start TBD)

The Village will install an 8 ft. wide pedestrian path along the east side of Dilley's Rd. from Stearns School Rd. to the ComEd pedestrian path near the Pembroke Water Tower. Project impacts include temporary lane and sidewalk closures.

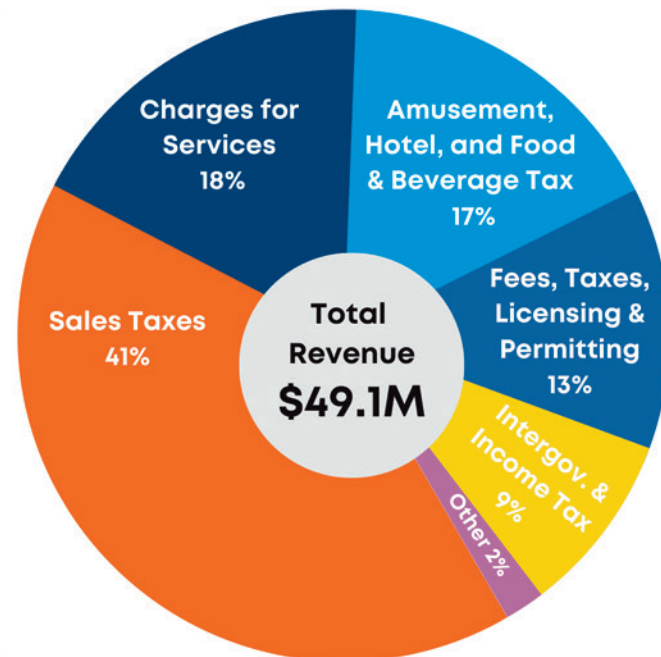
GURNEE POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2023

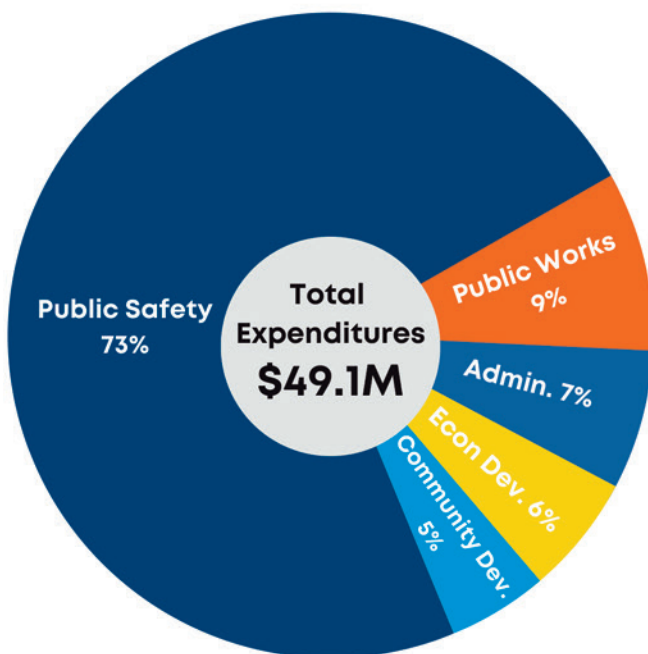
5 Key Takeaways

- **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 approximately \$6,500 for residents over 10 years (Based on the average home value of \$330,000 and the property tax levy of neighboring communities).
- **Maintained Business Relationships:** Strengthened relationships with Six Flags, Great Wolf Lodge and Gurnee Mills, which combined provides 25% of all general fund revenues.
- **Set Strategic Goals for the Future:** Completed the development of the new 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan and are currently carrying out objectives.
- **Investing in Infrastructure:** 6.5 miles of roadway rehabilitated last year as part of the Largest Capital Program in Gurnee's History.

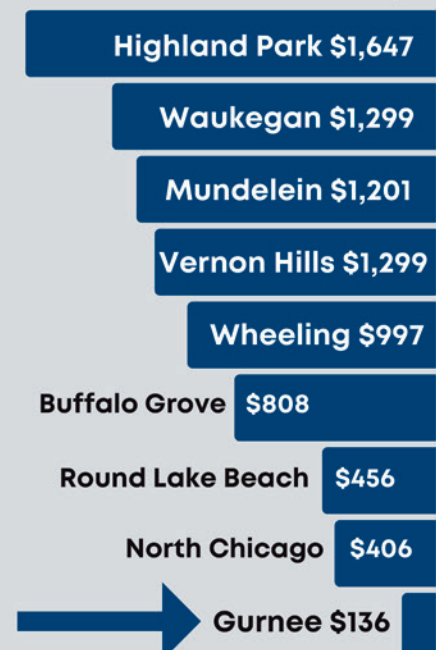
Where Does the Money Come from?



How Is the Money Spent?



Debt Per Capita of Lake County Communities with Over 25K Pop.



The above pie charts are a description of the General Fund, which is the main operating fund. Fund accounting is used as a mechanism in government finance to maintain compliance and create a system of checks and balances.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

2022 Water Quality Report Now Available

The Village has published its annual Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report at www.gurnee.il.us/2022waterquality. This report gives customers an understanding of the source of the Village's water, how our water is treated and the regulated compounds it contains, as well as the levels of these compounds and minerals.

For any questions, please contact the Public Works Dept. at 847-599-6800.



Backflow Device Testing

Residents with in-ground lawn irrigation systems are required to have backflow prevention devices installed on them. These devices protect you and the public water supply from possible contamination from hazardous chemicals or solvents that could come in contact with an underground irrigation system. These backflow devices must be properly maintained and tested annually by a licensed plumbing contractor certified to perform this type of work. Not only does this protect the safety of the public water supply, but it is also the law in Illinois. Please do your part and have your device maintained and tested annually.

Senior Homeowner Water Rate Discount Program

The Senior Homeowner Water Rate Discount Program automatically enrolls qualified seniors in a discounted rate for the first 7,000 gallons of water used during a two-month billing period. To qualify for the discount program, a senior must be receiving the Senior Homestead Exemption on their property tax bill and have a separate water meter (not billed to a Homeowner's Association). Seniors receiving this discount will see the discount applied on their water bill that will be arriving after the 2nd week of June.

The Village receives a list of properties receiving the Senior Homestead Exemption from Lake County and has a record of separately billed meters in our billing system. **Therefore, seniors will be automatically enrolled if qualified and will not need to apply or take further action.**

Say No to Panhandling and Contribute to the Solution

With the warm weather here, you may have noticed panhandlers throughout the surrounding communities as well as the Village. We encourage you to not give money to panhandlers and to instead contribute to the solution by:

- Referring panhandlers or anyone you see who may be in need to United Way Lake County's 211 program. They have a wide-range of services and housing resources. They can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 at any time to connect with services that help those in need.
- Contacting PADS Lake County at 847-616-5557. PADS will send one of their outreach staff to determine what services may be needed.
- Consider making a donation or volunteering for United Way's 2-1-1 Lake County, which is dedicated to assisting Lake County residents.

Through practicing this, you are truly lending a helping hand. For more information on panhandling, please visit www.gurnee.il.us/panhandling.

Outdoor Sirens

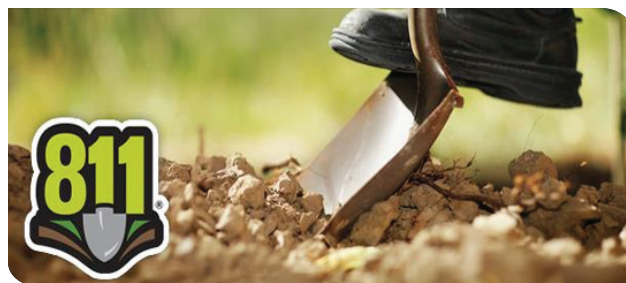
Summer weather means an increased chance of severe storms. The Village has twelve outdoor sirens to warn residents to move indoors and seek shelter in the event of threatening weather. In the event of a severe storm warning or tornado watch, the outdoor warning system will sound a VOICE MESSAGE ONLY. In the event of a tornado warning, the system will sound a VOICE MESSAGE & SIREN.

Note: The siren system is intended to be heard only while outdoors. Indoor warnings are relayed through television and radio. During severe weather, additional information can be received by tuning your radio to WKRS 1220 AM or STAR 102.3 FM. When the sirens are activated, residents should NOT call 911 and just seek shelter and monitor local emergency broadcast stations. The outdoor siren system is tested monthly on the first Tuesday at 10:00am. For a list of siren locations and more info, visit www.gurnee.il.us/outdoorsirens.

Call Before You Dig

No matter if your project is large or small, Illinois law requires anyone digging to call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (J.U.L.I.E.) hotline at least two working days prior to the start of excavation in order to locate and mark any utilities in the area in which you are working.

The J.U.L.I.E. hotline can be reached at 800-892-0123 or 8-1-1, 24 hours a day. Alternatively, requests may be submitted online at illinois1call.com.





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

SAVE THE DATE FOR GURNEE DAYS

Mark your calendars! Gurnee Days 2023 will be held Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th! Join us for your favorite Gurnee Days traditions, such as delicious food, sponsor and vendor booths, the Gurnee Days Race, parade, one of the best fireworks shows in Lake County and so much MORE!

The Gurnee Days Parade will be held on Sunday, August 13th at noon. The 2023 Gurnee Days theme is "Super 70's" in honor of 50 years of Gurnee Days. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to come up with a creative float entry that celebrates this groovy theme. The parade route begins at N. Greenleaf St., continues west on Old Grand Ave. and ends at Emerald Ave.



FARMERS MARKET NEW LOCATION AT SARATOGA SQUARE

The Farmers Market has a new home at "Saratoga Square" located at 5101 Washington St. Beginning June 18th, the Farmers Market will run every Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and conclude on September 24th. Management is still looking for vendors and those interested in joining the Gurnee Farmers Market as a vendor should email gurneefm@gmail.com for the application and more information.

Follow Gurnee Farmers Market @ Saratoga Square on Facebook for event updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW BUSINESSES

Bella Dental Studios
1761 Dilley's Rd.

Brake Parts Inc.
3800 Swanson Ct.

Bubble Tea Lab
4949 Grand Ave.

Buick GMC of Gurnee
5589 Northridge Dr.

Caribana Isl. Bar & Grill
5250 Grand Ave.

Children's Dentistry of Lake County
5384 Grand Ave.

Chicagoland Equipment
176 Ambrogio Dr.

Club Pilates
6951 Grand Ave.

Country Financial
3575 Grand Ave. Ste. G

Dan's Deals
3701 Grand Ave.

Diamond Dae Beauty
1761 Dilley's Rd.

Dillon Realty
135 N. Greenleaf St.

Drewski's Barbershop
3567 Grand Ave. Ste. F

European Wax
6447 Grand Ave.

Farmers Insurance
4606 Old Grand Ave.

Fulton Grace Realty
5101 Washington St.

Lola's Tacos and Tequila
6170 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.

Zaza Hair Braiding
3567 Grand Ave. Ste. A

COMING SOON:

Cinnabon
6170 Grand Ave.

Discount Tire
1508 Nations Dr.

Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry
7500 Grand Ave.

Goddess Hair Care
6170 Grand Ave.

HOTWORX
6641 Grand Ave Ste. B

Kingdom Life Ministries
4606 Old Grand Ave.

Lovisa
6170 Grand Ave.

Mrs. Fields & TCBY
6170 Grand Ave.

Powerhouse Exteriors
4606 Old Grand Ave.

Shoe Carnival
6539 Grand Ave.

SMD Transport
1500 N. Delany Rd.

Spencer's
6170 Grand Ave.

Vision One Lasik
1761 Dilley's Rd.