

SUMMER 2025

# Keeping Posted >



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

The Village is always looking for new ways to enhance communication with residents. Not that the Keeping Posted is new, but it is now going to be sent out every other month. In the recent community survey results, residents indicated that they get the majority of their information regarding Village programs, services and events from the Keeping Posted newsletter.

Residents can receive communications and communicate with the Village through the Village website, social media, mail, e-mail, telephone, in person at the Village Hall, through public comments at a Village Board meeting or at community events such as Coffee with the Mayor, Neighbor Up Block parties and more.

I am committed to hearing from you in whatever way is easiest and most comfortable. The buzzword these days is transparency. It is important to me that you know what is going on and in turn can communicate your thoughts to the Village and be heard.

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. Enjoy the beauty of Summer. As always, please feel free to reach out to me to discuss whatever you have on your mind.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood



## GURNEE OFFICERS READ AT WOODLAND'S "READERS ARE LEADERS"

On March 7th, officers from the Gurnee Police Department had the privilege of joining Woodland School District 50 for their "Readers Are Leaders" event! Gurnee officers didn't just read books, they shared stories, sparked imaginations and highlighted why reading is crucial in the line of duty. From fostering critical thinking skills to enhancing communication abilities, Gurnee officers emphasized how literacy plays a pivotal role in their daily interactions with the community. By instilling a love for reading, Gurnee's Officers inspired the leaders of tomorrow, empowering them to thrive in any endeavor they pursue.

## WARREN'S BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED BY VILLAGE BOARD

In March, the Warren Township High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team was recognized by Mayor Tom Hood and the Village Board for their successful 2024-2025 season. The team advanced to the IHSA Class 4A State Championship game, marking a significant achievement for the program. While the final game did not go their way, the team's performance throughout the season reflected consistent effort, discipline and teamwork. Mayor Hood and the Board commended the athletes and coaching staff for their hard work and commitment. The season was a source of pride for many in the Gurnee community and a positive reflection of the values the school promotes both on and off the court.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: WELCOME COMFORT CANINE MIRA



The Gurnee Police Department is proud to introduce its newest team member, Mira Joy, a nine-month-old Labrador Retriever who will serve as the department's comfort canine. Mira was generously donated to the Village of Gurnee by Partners with Paws Service Dogs, a nonprofit organization that provides trained service and comfort dogs for communities. To select Mira's name, Gurnee Police Department employees participated in a department-wide survey, ultimately choosing "Mira Joy" for her name. Her name means wonder, peace and happiness. She will be going by the name Mira as she begins her new role with the department. Mira will undergo 16 weeks of training and continue towards her American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen certification, ensuring she is well prepared for her duties. Once certified, Mira will provide comfort and emotional support during traumatic incidents, interact with students and staff at local schools and strengthen community relationships through public engagement and outreach. Mira's handler is Chad Smits, the department's Public Education Specialist. Smits is a former Gurnee Police Officer with 16 years of service, including time as a School Resource Officer. His background in law enforcement, education, and community engagement makes him an ideal handler for Mira as she begins her journey with the department.

## NEW BUSINESSES

**Ashley Homestore**  
6050 Gurnee Mills Cir.

**Blur Lounge**  
3561 Grand Ave.

**CarWise Gurnee**  
6460 Gurnee Mills Cir.

**Delany Square: True Neutral, Sweet Events**  
1810 N Delany Rd.

**Gurnee Mills: Afternoon X Crochet (cart), Dino's Sports Fan Shop, The Viral Treats (cart), S-A One Stop (name change), NYS, Alice's Candy Bubblelicious (2nd location), Exotic Snack Guys**  
6170 Grand Ave.

**Hawkston Hall: Advocus National Title Insurance Co.**  
1790-1800 Nations Dr.

**KAGR2 Gurnee East, LLC**  
15 Tower Ct.

**Liberty Tax Service**  
5101 Washington St.

**Optimize Chiropractic**  
731 S Rte. 21

**PayMore**  
7055 Grand Ave.

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

**Riverside Management & Leasing Corp.**  
1391 St. Paul Ave.

**TLC Massage & Spa**  
223 N Rte. 21

**Trio Car Wash**  
3419 Grand Ave.

**Waukegan/Gurnee Auto Body Shop**  
3923 Grove Ave.

**Yoyo's Yoga**  
3430 Grand Ave.

## COMING SOON:

**AZ Polymers – Warehouse Expansion**  
740 Tri-State Parkway

**Bank of America**  
6340 Grand Ave.

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

**Gem Events**  
3430 Grand Ave.

**Haraz Coffee House**  
5572 Grand Ave.

**Illinois Bone & Joint Institute**  
202 S Greenleaf St.

**Grafo's Barbershop**  
4606 Grand Ave.

**Gurnee Glen Apartments**  
1 Woodlake Blvd.

**Gurnee Mills: Kylia's Decor & more (cart), Miss A, Boot Barn (relocation) & Primark, Slippers (cart)**  
6170 Grand Ave.

**Lake Harbor Treatment**  
3915 Oglesby Ave.

**Muller Honda (Renovation)**  
7000 Grand Ave.

**Paintball Explosion**  
N.E. corner of Rte. 120 & Rte. 21

**Rose Pest Solutions**  
4156 Old Grand Ave.

**Toss House**  
3430 Grand Ave.



## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

May 19  
June 2  
June 16  
June 24  
July 7  
July 21

### Planning and Zoning Board

May 7  
May 21  
June 4  
June 18  
July 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 7:00pm on Wednesdays. Schedule subject to change.

## MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



### OUTRUN THE COPS 5K WALK/RUN

Saturday, June 28 at 8AM  
Gurnee Police Department  
100 N. O'Plaine Rd.



### GURNEE MAYOR'S GOLF BENEFIT

Friday, August 22  
Bittersweet Golf Club  
875 Almond Rd.

This benefit will be for BiG Great Lakes, an organization that changes the way the world views adults with special needs.

## Upcoming Events

### Park Beautification Day

Saturday, May 17, 9:00am to 10:30am

It's time to grab your gardening gloves and join the Park District to help beautify community parks! They will be planting flowers, mulching, and picking up branches/trash at four Gurnee park locations. Please plan to dress in layers based on the weather (long pants, old sneakers/shoes, gardening style gloves, etc.) Additional tools and supplies will be provided and all ages are welcome! For park locations and to sign up, please visit <https://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com>

### 2025 First Responder Expo

Saturday, May 17, 11:00am to 3:00pm

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 and Fire Departments from across the region with live demonstrations, interactive fire safety and crime prevention displays and free giveaways. Join us Saturday, May 17th from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Gurnee Mills and attend the largest First Responder event in the region!

### Families on the Fairway

Friday, June 27, 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 27th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Bittersweet Golf Club located at 875 Almond Rd. Swing into fun at our FREE Families on the Fairway "Games Galore" event! Families can try their luck at our GIANT games of Jenga, Connect 4 and Operation or challenge each other to a hopping horse race, free throw contest or fun carnival games. Kids can also enjoy a bounce house, spin art and wax hands craft. Adding to the party will be the open driving and putting ranges, where guests can try to perfect their golf skills! Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the Club House. For more information, please contact the Gurnee Park District at 847-623-7788.

### Gurnee Fire Department Blood Drive

Saturday, July 12, 8:30am to 1:30pm

Want to help the Gurnee Fire Department save lives? Join us on Saturday, July 12th 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 ORDOG110 when making your appointment at [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org). Can't make the drive? Stop by Vitalant's Gurnee office (5250 Grand Ave.) and use the code to take part in our event!

### Sounds of Summer

Thursdays, June 12 - August 14, 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 2025 dates announced include:

- June 12 - Boy Band Night
- June 26 - Billy Elton
- July 10 - Disco Circus
- July 24 - Are you ready for It?  
A Taylor Swift Experience
- August 14 - Fortunate Sons

## GURNEE GET-TOGETHERS

<b>BITTERSWEET GOLF CLUB</b> Friday, July 18, 6 to 8pm Music: Kicked Outta Choir (Classic Rock Hits)	<b>CHRISTINE THOMPSON PARK</b> Friday, September 12, 5 to 7pm Music: No Limit (Classic Rock Hits)
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**FREE EVENT – LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, AND ACTIVITIES**

# GURNEE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

## **Street Resurfacing Program (May - October)**

The Village's contractor, Peter Baker & Sons Inc., will be resurfacing 8.75 miles of roadway as well as completing pavement patching and curb and sidewalk repairs. The following streets will be resurfaced this year:

- Highland Ave., Magnolia Ave. to West End
- Pine Grove Ave., Grandville Ave. to Grand Ave
- Grandview Ave., West end to Belle Plaine Ave.
- Grove Ave., Magnolia Ave. to Belle Plaine Ave.
- Glen Flora Ave., Waveland Ave. to Belle Plaine Ave.
- Johns Manville Ave., Northwestern Ave. to Magnolia Ave.
- Hawthorne Ave., Woodlawn Ave. to Dead End
- Briar Ave., Dorchester Ave. to Woodlawn Ave
- Woodlawn Ave., Belle Plaine Ave. to Lawrence Ave.
- Hayner Ave., O'Plaine Rd. to Gillings Dr.
- Gillings Dr., Hayner Ave. to McClure Ave.
- McClure Ave., Dead End to Railroad
- Harper Ave., Estes St. to Gould St.
- Lake Park Ave., Railroad to Delany Rd.
- Stoney Island Ave., Railroad to Delany Rd.
- Bennett Ave., Railroad to Delany Rd.
- First St., Bennett Ave. to Blackstone Ave.
- Delany Rd., Rudd Ct. to Blackstone Ave.
- Long Hill Rd., Kings Way North to Kings Way West
- Kings Way West, Dead End to Providence Rd.
- Middle Rd., Long Hill Rd. to Kings Way West
- Medinah Ct., East End to West End
- Packard Ln., Medinah Ct. to Barnwood Dr.
- Timber Ct., North End to Barnwood Dr.
- Westfield Dr., Stearns School Rd. to Barnwood Dr.
- Barnwood Dr., West End to Lawson Blvd.
- Winona Ln., Lawson Blvd. to Wausau Ln.
- Wausau Ln., Winona Ln. to Portage Ln.
- Portage Ln., Lawson Blvd. to Wausau Ln.
- Eau Claire Ct., West End to Wausau Ln.
- Pembroke Ct., Lawson Blvd. to Dead End
- Korbel Dr., Vineyard Dr. to Clem Dr.
- Patriot Ct., North End to Presidential Dr.
- Presidential Dr., South End to Almond Rd.
- Freedom Ct., Presidential Dr. to South End
- Congress Ct., Capital Ln. to East End
- Capital Ln., Presidential Dr. to Presidential Dr.
- Colby Rd., Manchester Dr. to Gages Lake Rd.
- Manchester Dr., Heather Ridge Dr. to Cobblecreek Dr.
- Atlantic Ave., West End to Green Bay Rd.
- Dunham Rd., Manchester Dr. to Wilbur Ct.
- Johns Manville Ave., West End to Green Bay Rd.
- Highland Ave., Belle Plaine Ave. to Green Bay Rd.
- Cheyenne Rd., West End to Green Bay Rd.

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



## **Street Reconstruction Program (May - September)**

The Village's contractor, Campanella & Sons, Inc., will be reconstructing Glen Flora Ave., West End to Estes Ave., Blackburn St., Rte. 41 to Glen Flora Ave. and Ferndale St., Rte. 41 to Glen Flora Ave. Additionally, drainage and sidewalk improvements will take place. Temporary lane, sidewalk and driveway closures are expected.

## **Stoney Island Water Main Replacement (May - August)**

The Village's contractor, Campanella and Sons Inc., will be replacing the water main, hydrants and valve vaults on First St. and Delany Rd. from Blackstone Ave. to Bennett Ave., Stoney Island Ave., Lake Park Ave., and Bennett Ave. from First St. to Delany Rd. Lane and driveway closures as well as temporary water main shutdowns should be expected.

## **Quality Acres Sanitary Sewer Extension (May - August)**

The Village's Contractor, Campanella & Sons, Inc., will be extending sanitary sewer westward along Woodhill Dr. from Dilley's Rd., with additional extensions south to each cul-de-sac on Bough Ct., Limb Ct., and Branch Rd., with a total project length of 2,100 linear ft.

## **Sidewalk Replacement Program (May - September)**

The Village's contractor, Schroeder & Schroeder Inc. 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. 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.

## **Depot Road Retaining Wall Replacement (Start TBD)**

The Village's contractor, Landscaping by Gary Weiss, will be replacing the 125 ft. long retaining wall at the northeast corner of Old Grand Ave. and Depot Rd.



# SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

## GET STARTED WITH THE HEFTY RENEW PROGRAM

The Village of Gurnee, in partnership with Hefty, SWALCO and LRS, has launched the Hefty ReNew “orange” Bag Program. Jewel, Menards, Ace Hardware and participating retailers carry orange ReNew Bags. Residents can simply put their plastics that are not accepted in recycling into these orange ReNew Bags and then place in their recycling container. These plastics include Styrofoam, food storage bags, candy/bar wrappers, chip bags, bubble wrap, packing peanuts and more. A full list of what’s accepted and more information can be found at [www.gurnee.il.us/heftyrenewprogram](http://www.gurnee.il.us/heftyrenewprogram).



## 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.

## 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 2-1-1 program. They have a wide-range of services and housing resources and 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 its 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](http://www.gurnee.il.us/panhandling).

## OUTDOOR SIRENS

Summer weather means an increased chance of tornado warnings. The Village has twelve outdoor sirens to warn residents to move indoors and seek shelter in the event of a tornado warning. This siren is only activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Gurnee. 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 information, please visit [www.gurnee.il.us/outdoorsirens](http://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. Requests may be submitted online at [illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com).



**Connect with your neighbors this year by hosting a block party!**

- \$500 grants available for food & entertainment.
- Friendly visits from Police, Fire, & the Mayor.

**For more information: [www.gurnee.il.us/blockparty](http://www.gurnee.il.us/blockparty)**



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

### 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)

## THE REAL MEANING OF MEMORIAL DAY

As Memorial Day approaches on Monday, May 26th, let's take a moment to reflect on the significance of this solemn day. Beyond the barbecues and gatherings, the real meaning of Memorial Day is a time to honor the brave men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. Military. Symbolism saturates every aspect of Memorial Day, from the solemn notes of Taps to the sight of fluttering flags adorning countless graves. Each symbol carries with it a profound message of gratitude, remembrance, and the enduring legacy of those who gave everything for our freedom. As we enjoy the long weekend, let's remember to visit local memorials, lay wreaths and offer prayers for the fallen. Let's teach our children the importance of this day and ensure that the memory of the fallen lives on.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR GURNEE DAYS

Mark your calendars! Gurnee Days 2025 will be held Saturday, August 9th and Sunday, August 10th! 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 10th at noon. Local businesses, school groups and organizations are encouraged to come up with creative float entries. The parade route begins at N. Greenleaf St., continues west on Old Grand Ave. and ends at Emerald Ave.



## GURNEE FARMERS MARKET OPENS JUNE 8

The Gurnee Farmers Market at Saratoga Square located at 5101 Washington St. opens Sunday, June 8th. The Farmers Market will run every Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and conclude on Sunday, September 14th. Management is still accepting vendors and those interested in joining the Gurnee Farmers Market as a vendor should email [gurneefm@gmail.com](mailto: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!