

WINTER 2022

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#### MAYOR

Thomas B. Hood

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Quin O'Brien

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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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This newsletter is published by the  
Village of Gurnee with supporting graphics  
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feedback, please contact:

[Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us](mailto:Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us)

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents:

We are heading into winter with the hope that it will be a mild one. All is well on the Village front as residents and businesses continue to amaze me with a generous willingness to volunteer and to contribute to the vibrant community fabric for which Gurnee is well-known. I hope all is well with you.

The Gurnee Chamber of Commerce Mayor's luncheon occurred last month at Great Wolf Lodge with more than 140 people in attendance, representing a wide range of businesses in town. It was rewarding to network with various business leaders and hear many stories of successful perseverance through these recently difficult times. Additionally, Yash Sharma of the Gurnee Youth Leadership Initiative spoke about the group's goals and initiatives and introduced the young leaders to the Gurnee Business Community.

Furthermore, Village staff leaders and I delivered a number of presentations to update business leaders on local happenings. The Village Board and I are making an effort to communicate to all residents the details of how the Village works. The first item on the list is to describe how a new business comes to the Village of Gurnee.

First, a business' decision to come to town is the independent choice of both the business and the owner of the proposed location. The Village has developed a comprehensive plan that provides development guidance to businesses and landowners, along with specific ordinances that require following a certain set of standards that ensure quality development in the Village. The Village takes an active role in this process.

The Village trustees and I often hear suggestions on the types of businesses that residents would like to see in the Village. Based on this feedback and staff's review of current businesses in town, staff actively pursues specific businesses that we would like to locate in the Village. The lead of that charge is the Economic Development Director Ellen Dean. She has many years of experience and many contacts, which she matches with what the Village of Gurnee has to offer. Members of Village staff then work at investigating whether a specific business is a good fit for the Village. As you might guess not all businesses decide to locate in Gurnee, even though we ask.

For example, recently a well-known restaurant, Cooper's Hawk, opened on the west-end of Grand Avenue in the Village. The process of attracting Cooper's Hawk was intentional and began more than two years ago at a retail tradeshow that the Village attended. Based on that initial contact, Cooper's Hawk began looking at a number of sites in the Village. Many sites were found to not be a good fit for Cooper's Hawk. The Village learned the needs and wants of Cooper's Hawk through this process. Because we were in competition with many other villages to attract a high-end restaurant, we developed a competitive incentive package, one that still allowed for strong return on investment. In other words, shared tax between the Village and Cooper's Hawk and any outright infrastructure contributions made by the Village would be repaid through revenues in less than five years. Eventually, an agreement was reached as the College of Lake County purchased the Lowe's building and then sold an outlot to Cooper's Hawk, a win for all involved.

The Village endeavors to encourage the best development that generates the revenue needed to maintain excellent Village services while not contributing to the resident's real estate tax bill. All of this is done while offering the very best quality of life for Village residents. As you might imagine with a Village of nearly 31,000 residents, more than 1,200 businesses and 23 million visitors, this is a very difficult balancing act.

I look forward to providing a detailed description of Village activities in future communications. As always, I look forward to seeing you around the Village and welcome your questions and comments.

I pray you have an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



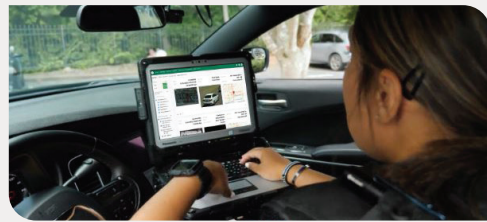
## VILLAGE BOARD APPROVES 2023 -2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Last month, the Village Board approved the 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan. The planning efforts began in early 2022 with a review of the Village consisting of a community survey, an internal stakeholder survey, six focus groups, Board of Trustee interviews and a Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis. In May, the Village's leadership team held a full day strategic planning session, which concluded with the team identifying the following 6 Key Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Sustainability; Well-Maintained Infrastructure; Effective Communication; a Stable, Well-Trained Workforce; a Safe Community; and Lifestyle Vitality. These strategic priorities were further built upon to include specific initiatives and action plans. The Strategic Plan can be viewed at <https://www.gurnee.il.us/strategicplan>.

## MAYOR TOM HOOD HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

On October 27th, Mayor Tom Hood, in partnership with the Village of Gurnee Chamber of Commerce, held the Annual Mayor's Business Luncheon at Great Wolf Lodge. Mayor Hood, Chamber of Commerce Past Chairman Nick Phillips, as well as Village staff presented for local business leaders. The presentations provided them with information regarding the Village's recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives.

Also the Best of Gurnee Awards were presented to Loved Twice Thrift Boutique who won the "Bringing Me Home" Award and D. Wells Automotive who won the "Paying it Forward" Award. The Village of Gurnee is extremely proud of these businesses and all that they contribute not only to the local economy, but to benefit the Gurnee Community.



## GURNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT LEVERAGES FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

The Gurnee Police Department has partnered with Gurnee Mills to enhance security measures at the area's largest shopping center. Increasing safety for shoppers and employees is a top priority, prompting Gurnee Mills to add the Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) System. Since its installation two months ago, Gurnee Police have made seven arrests and recovered four stolen vehicles. The cameras proactively prevent crime by sending a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a state or national crime database

enters the property. The system can also send alerts if a vehicle associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Silver Alert is detected. The ALPR System is just one example of how other Gurnee businesses and neighborhood HOAs can join the Community Partnership for Safety program. The local program encourages Gurnee businesses and residents to work together to reduce crime and maintain a safe community. Those interested in getting Flock Safety cameras for their business or neighborhood are encouraged to contact the Gurnee Police Department.

## NEW BUSINESSES

**Cooper's Hawk**  
7753 Grand Ave.  
Restaurant &  
Winery



**Geico Insurance**  
5414 Grand Ave.

**Tropical Smoothie Café**  
7010 Grand Ave.  
Fast Casual  
Restaurant



**Webuyanycar.com**  
3901 Grove Ave.  
Online Vehicle Purchasing

**Appliance 4 Less**  
3521 Grand Ave.  
Appliance Store

**Colibri Holistic Center**  
135 N. Greenleaf St.  
Reiki and Biomagnetism

**Essential Kitchen**  
1405 Hunt Club Rd.  
Vegan Cafe

### COMING SOON:

**AngelsTat2**  
3701 Grand Ave.

**Bella Dental Studios**  
1761 Dilley Rd.

**Brake Parts Inc.**  
3800 Swanson Ct.

**Buick GMC of Gurnee**  
5589 Northridge Dr.

**Caribana Island Bar & Grill**  
5250 Grand Ave.

**Children's Dentistry  
of Lake County**  
5384 Grand Ave.

**Christian Bell Inc.**  
83 Ambrogio Dr.

**Diamond Dae Beauty**  
1761 Dilley Rd.

**Discount Tire**  
1508 Nations Dr.

**Elite Auto Body**  
3816 Grandview Ave.

**European Wax**  
6447 Grand Ave.

**FedEx**  
6641 Grand Ave.

**Geico Insurance**  
5414 Grand Ave.

**Logan's House Gurnee**  
401 N. Riverside Dr.

**Maimin Technology Group**  
83 Ambrogio Dr.

**Maureen McLaughlin  
Acupuncture & Wellness**  
15 Tower Ct.

**Panache Hair Studio, LLC**  
5101 Washington St.

**Pips Meadery**  
1350 Tri State Pkwy.

**Restaurant Depot**  
1501 Tri State Pkwy.

**Royal Beauty Nails**  
3900 Washington St.

**US Flag Maker**  
1960 Swanson Ct.

**Vibrant Integrative  
Psychiatry**  
1761 Dilley Rd.

## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

December 5  
December 19  
January 9  
January 23  
February 6  
February 20

### Planning and Zoning Board

December 7  
December 21  
January 4  
January 18  
February 1  
February 15

All Village meetings are held at the Gurnee Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road).

Village Board meetings begin at 7pm on the Mondays listed above.

Planning and Zoning Board Meetings begin at 7:30pm on the Wednesdays listed above. Schedule subject to change.

## MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS



### COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Saturday, December 3

10am - 12pm

Starbucks - Gurnee Mills  
6170 Grand Ave., Entry F



### FROSTY FEST

Saturday, January 7

10:30am - 1pm

Viking Park

4374 Old Grand Ave.

## Upcoming Events



### Bring the family to celebrate the holiday season on **Thursday, December 8th!**

The night will begin with the arrival of the "Holiday Train" at Viking Park, followed by our "Holiday Lights" event at Welton Plaza on Old Grand Avenue!

The Holiday Train is scheduled to arrive at Viking Park at 5:05pm. Prior to the arrival of the train, beginning at 3pm, enjoy snacks, DJ, a petting zoo and time to visit with Santa! Please bring your non-perishable food items to donate to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and receive a ticket to the snack tent.

Once the train departs, walk down Old Grand Avenue to Welton Plaza for our Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza event, featuring holiday carolers, food trucks & snacks, hot cocoa, DJ, photo booth, craft station, s'more making, visits with Santa Claus, as well as the holiday lights display until 7:30pm!

This event is co-hosted by Gurnee Park District, Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce.



### Santa Claus is coming to Viking Park for breakfast on **Saturday, DECEMBER 3RD!**

Enjoy pancakes, sausage and Canadian bacon with your family at the Gurnee Park District's annual holiday breakfast. Visit with Santa, share your holiday wishes and take home a special gift. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the unforgettable holiday memories!

Registration is required for this event. There are three separate seatings for this event; however, they are all currently sold out. **For information on this breakfast event and next year's event, visit [www.gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com) or call (847) 623-7788.**



# SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SEASONAL REMINDERS

## GURNEE'S SNOW AND ICE CONTROL



Winter is here and the Village is ready to provide safe and clear streets. To help achieve our goal, please keep in mind the following:

### PRIORITY PLOWING AND SALTING

During snow/icing events, Public Works crews focus on major streets (i.e. Almond, First, Lawson, and Dada) first to provide access for emergency vehicles and heavier traffic, then begin working on all other streets with dead ends being last. Crews will continue this process for the duration of the storm and come back to clean up side streets after the snowfall has ended. Gurnee only plows municipality-owned streets, which include most residential streets, Almond Rd. between Grand & Washington, Tri-State Pkwy., and Dada Dr. The following streets are plowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (847-244-0034): Grand Ave., Milwaukee Ave., Rte.

120, Rte. 45, and Rte. 41. Hunt Club Rd., Washington St., O'Plaine Rd., Greenleaf Ave. (south of Washington), Dilley Rd. (north of Rte. 132), Gages Lake Rd., Delany Rd. (north of Rte. 41), Sunset Ave. and Stearns School Rd. are plowed by Lake County (847-377-7400).

### YOUR ROLE IN CLEARING SNOW

Snow removal equipment is designed to push snow onto the right-of-way which may result in snow being pushed onto driveways, mailboxes, sidewalks and hydrants. Residents and businesses are encouraged to clear:

**Driveway aprons, sidewalks and mailboxes** – Place the snow onto your property or the adjacent parkway.

**Right-of-Way Items** – Please remove portable basketball hoops, benches and decor from the street right-of-way.

**Hydrants** – Clear the snow and ice three feet around all sides of hydrants to provide access. This simple step could save lives.

Keep in mind that shoveling, blowing or plowing snow into the street creates hazardous driving conditions, negates the effort of our snowplowing operations and is prohibited by law.

### WINTER WEATHER PARKING RESTRICTIONS

When it starts to snow, park your vehicle off of the street. This prevents the car from being plowed in or from receiving a ticket/being towed.

Please remember to drive cautiously and yield to snow removal equipment and emergency vehicles.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Department at 847-599-6800.

## Christmas Tree Pick Up Begins January 5

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees on the following dates:

- Thursday, January 5
- Wednesday, January 11
- Wednesday, January 18
- Wednesday, January 25

In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the edge of the street by 7am on the pick-up day. All lights and decorations must be removed. Failure to remove decorations or placing the tree in a plastic bag will result in the tree not being collected that week and, consequently, the resident will have to wait until the following week.

**Trees placed out after 7am on January 25 will not be collected.**



## HOLIDAY REMINDER: WASTE COLLECTION AND OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to the Christmas Holiday and New Year's Day, garbage and recycling collection will be delayed by one day for the weeks beginning December 26th and January 2nd, 2023. Additionally, Village Offices will be closed on December 23rd (Christmas Eve Observed), December 26th (Christmas Day Observed) and January 2nd (New Year's Day Observed).



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

### WINTER HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

Winter is on its way! It is important to protect the interior and exterior of your property from the cold weather. The following tips can help prepare your home for the winter season.

- 1. Protect Pipes** – Maintain a consistent temperature of at least 60°F in all areas of your home and properly seal all possible entry points from outdoor air to prevent freezing of water pipes.
- 2. Furnace Maintenance** – Have an HVAC professional test and service your furnace annually to ensure all components are functioning properly.
- 3. Fireplace Maintenance** – Before using your fireplace for the first time this season, thoroughly clean it by removing soot and debris from the firebox and chimney.

**If your fireplace needs maintenance and/or repair, consult with a chimney sweeper or fireplace service technician.**



### SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday season finally here, you may already be looking for deals on a number of different items from food to gifts. When you do, please keep in mind that shopping local is one of the biggest things you can do to support the community. Each dollar spent in Gurnee not only bolsters local business, it also pays for many of the services you rely on, such as police and fire protection. Please consider making your purchases in Gurnee this year.



### FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE GURNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

To ensure that everyone has a safe holiday season, the Gurnee Police Department will be increasing enforcement during the month of December for the holiday season.

*Please remember to drive sober and ensure holiday guests have a safe ride home.*

