

WINTER 2023

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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**

Pat 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 photographs  
from the Gurnee Park District. To provide  
feedback, please contact:  
[Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us](mailto:Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us)

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

The holidays are upon us, and will be gone before we know it. As I have grown older, I have found how time goes by so fast and how much I want to slow down and enjoy those around me, not to be in such a rush to the next thing. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to spend quality time with those that you love as well.

There are a couple of matters that I would like to address in this issue. The first is my desire to be more intentional in how we honor and assist those that have served in the armed services. I have formed the Gurnee Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission that will explore how we can best recognize and help our veterans. The sobering data surrounding the state of our veterans' mental health compels us to be more proactive as more than 20 veterans a day commit suicide in the United States. The Commission will initiate a study of the community and make recommendations to the Village Board. The Commission will be headed by Jim Huisel, a long-standing member of the Gurnee American Legion, and be joined by other veterans and family members.

Another matter that has weighed on me for years as a homeowner in the Village, and now as Mayor, is our high property taxes. Gurnee has a relatively low tax rate compared to other villages and cities in Lake County. That, however, does not mean that our property taxes are reasonable. The primary driver behind our high property taxes is that schools are largely funded through them. More than 80 percent of the property taxes collected fund the public school system. Even though Gurnee schools spend this money well, a portion of that support needs to come from other sources. With ever-rising costs making home-ownership increasingly difficult, the tax load on the homeowner must be lightened.

I am proud that for more than 20 years, the Village of Gurnee has not added to the burden of your property tax bill; this is no small thing. However, that is not enough. It is time to seriously address the increasing tax burden. To do this, I have formed a task force that will examine, research and execute the necessary steps to reduce our property tax bills. This task force is made up of Sandy Hart, Lake County Board Chair; Adrienne Johnson, Illinois State Senator; Joyce Mason, Illinois State Representative; Charlie Mullin, Warren Township Assessor; Art Stevens, a retired consultant; and me. The answer is not to reduce the funding to our schools; rather, it is to ensure that residents are fully capitalizing on available property tax exemptions and to confirm fair and proper tax rates according to current tax law. Additionally, the task force will examine each component of the tax bill to identify alternate ways to raise funds for schools and other entities. More information on this will be coming in the months ahead.

Finances are important but so is enjoying the holiday season in which we have so many events happening including the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving, the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Holiday Train on December 3rd, and Holiday Lights on December 7th in Welton Plaza--just to name a few. The details of these events and more are included in this issue of Keeping Posted. Please come out and enjoy your family, friends and neighbors at these events. As I am fond of saying, "more, more, more," as we as a Village look to expand the events and experiences that are available to our residents.

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 have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

# GURNEE NEWS



## FIRST ANNUAL BONFIRE & BREWS BECOMES A HUGE SUCCESS

This past September, the Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Park District held the first annual Bonfire & Brews: Taste of Gurnee event. It was a huge success! Amazing food and drinks, rockin’ music, good company and all under a bright and full harvest moon!

A special shout out to all of our local businesses that were able to participate in the new community event: Pips Meadery, Gurnee Donuts, Teriyaki Madness, Mr. Pita Gurnee, Primo Italian American Cuisine, Tacos El Durango and Top Shelf Bar & Grill. A special thank you to 95 WILL ROCK and Leah for coming out and promoting the event on air!

## MAYOR TOM HOOD HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

This October, 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 Chairman Nick Phillips and Village Staff presented to local business leaders. The Best of Gurnee Awards were presented to Repeat Street who won the “Bringing Me Home” Award and Top Shelf Ice Arena who won the “Paying It Forward” Award. Both businesses honored this year received multiple nominations with enthusiastic residents/customers eager to tell us why they should be honored. The Bringing Me Home Award recognizes businesses that foster a sense of community pride by infusing excellence into their business operations. The Pay It Forward Award honors businesses that recognize and meet community needs. Congratulations to this year’s award winners and thank you to local business leaders for fostering the relationships that provide Gurnee with a strong business community!



## GURNEE ESTABLISHES VETERANS BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

At the November 6th Village Board meeting, Mayor Tom Hood appointed a Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission to lead the Village in establishing a more connected community assisting our local veterans. Jim Huisel of the Gurnee American Legion was appointed to the position of Chair. The Commission will initiate a study of the community and make recommendations to the Board on how the Village can assist veterans and their families. With the formation of this new commission, the Village desires to support veterans as they have supported our country with their dedication and service in the armed forces.

## NEW BUSINESSES

- All Star Premium Sports**  
6170 Grand Ave. Ste. 305
- Michoacan Ice Cream**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)
- Olivia’s Italian Restaurant**  
750 S. Milwaukee Ave. Ste. B
- Pawany’s**  
6170 Grand Ave. Ste. 833  
(Gurnee Mills)
- T-Elite Martial Arts**  
4411 Old Grand Ave. Ste. A

- Veterans Assistance of Lake County (Relocation)**  
1790 Nations Dr. Ste. 221
- VIP Fitness**  
401 N. Riverside Dr. 2B
- Spencer’s**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)
- Shawarma King**  
6170 Grand Ave.  
(Gurnee Mills)

**COMING SOON:**

- AngelsTat2**  
3701 Grand Ave. Ste. G
- AR Development**  
1 Woodlake Blvd.
- Beauty by Gerda Esthetics**  
1790 Nations Dr. Ste. 109
- Bullfrog Spas**  
6961 Grand Ave. Ste. B
- Discount Tire**  
1508 Nations Dr.

- Forest Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry**  
7500 Grand Ave.
- Imperfect Harmony Counseling**  
495 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- LovSac**  
6430 Grand Ave.
- Mochinut**  
7105 Grand Ave. Ste. 2B
- Natural Stone Inc.**  
4310 Lee Ave.
- Provida Family Health**  
1425 Hunt Club Rd. Ste. 204

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



## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

December 4  
December 18  
January 8  
January 22  
January 29  
February 5  
February 19  
February 26

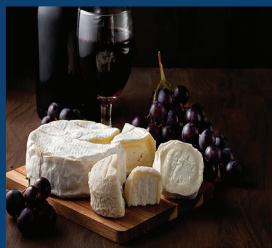
### Planning and Zoning Board

December 6  
December 20  
January 3  
January 17  
February 7  
February 21

**All Village meetings are held at 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



### WINE WITH THE MAYOR

Saturday, December 9  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  
Olivia's Italian Restaurant  
750 S. Milwaukee Ave.



### FROSTY FEST

Saturday, January 6  
10:30am - 1:00pm  
Viking Park  
4374 Old Grand Ave.

## Upcoming Events

### CPKC Holiday Train at Viking Park

Sunday, December 3, 5:10pm to 5:50pm

Bring the family and celebrate the start of the holiday season with the arrival of the Holiday Train at Viking Park (Depot Rd. side) on Sunday, December 3rd! The Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Holiday Train is anticipated to arrive at Viking Park located at 4374 Old Grand Ave. at 5:10pm on the east side of railroad tracks near Depot Rd. and will feature a holiday concert by Tenille Townes and Breland. The Holiday Train is nearly 1,000 feet long with 14 rail cars, each decorated with hundreds of thousands of technology-leading LED lights and holiday designs.

Parking will be available at Viking Park and Viking Park Middle School located at 4460 Old Grand Ave. or at Warren Township High School located at 500 N. O'Plaine Rd. Although the event is free, staff will be collecting non-perishable food to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank.



### Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza

Thursday, December 7, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

'Tis the season to celebrate all that's merry and bright! Speaking of bright, join the community in kicking off the holidays with the 3rd annual Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza event on Old Grand Ave. There will be fire pits and s'mores to keep you warm, food trucks to keep you full, craft stations to keep you busy, and much more! Special guests include everyone's favorite holiday duo Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Gurnee Mayor Tom Hood and more!

Staff will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Warren Township Food Pantry during the event. Please bring your donations to help make a difference in our community.



### Holiday Celebration (Monthly Mixer 55+)

Tuesday, December 12, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Celebrate the holidays with a lunch of roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn & dessert. The holiday mixer (55+) will take place at Viking Park Community Center located at 4374 Old Grand Ave. Following lunch, we will play "Singo", a song Bingo game using holiday carols. Bring a \$6.00 or less wrapped gift for the gift exchange game at your table. The registration deadline is December 7th, and there is a \$10 fee. Doors open at 11:00am and lunch service begins at 11:30am. Save your seat and register at <https://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com>.





# SENIOR SERVICES GUIDE



Warren Township  
Senior Services



## ElderCare Lake County Services

### Transportation to Medical Appointments

At a typical visit to provide transportation, an ElderCARE volunteer escorts seniors to their vehicle, takes them to their medical appointment and returns them back home. ElderCARE also assists with drop-off and pick-up from lengthy appointments such as dialysis. Please provide at least 10 days notice when requesting. One ride per week may be scheduled.

### Grocery Shopping

Do you or a senior that you know need assistance getting groceries? Access to healthy food is important. Through ElderCARE grocery shopping service, volunteers take the grocery list and make the trip to the store. Seniors pay for the groceries and the service is free.

### Friendly Visits

Living alone can be challenging, especially when it's tough to get out and interact with others. ElderCARE's friendly visits services provide an opportunity for seniors to develop lasting friendships by phone or over a cup of tea or a game.

For more information on these services and to receive an application to sign up, visit <https://www.eldercarelakecounty.org/services> or call 847-406-4683. ElderCARE is a volunteer-driven non-profit. If you are an active senior and have the heart to help others, please call ElderCARE to volunteer!

## Warren Township Senior Services

### Activities: Games, Fitness Classes and Events

The Warren Township Center offers a wide variety of senior activities such as luncheons, fitness classes and various games. These activities fill up fast, so please call the Senior Center at 847-244-1101 ext. \*501 for registration dates, class dates and additional information. Also, for anyone looking for support as they go through any life change, support group meets Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Social and Financial Services

The Senior Center has a Social Service staff ready to assist residents. Information and help can be provided in applying for federal, state and local programs including Medicare and social security information and assistance. Their trained Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors are available by appointment to provide information and assistance navigating the Medicare and Social Security process and what seniors need to know to avoid penalties as well as one-on-one assistance with Enrollment Advantage Plans Supplements/Medigap, Medicare Savings Program, Prescription Drug Plans/Part D Insurance Claims.

### Utility and Financial Assistance Programs

Information, screening and assistance is provided for applying for and maintaining eligibility for different programs such as: LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), a federal/state program for those eligible to receive yearly credit on gas and electric bills; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food; Medicaid; and Prescription Drug Assistance.

They also have additional information on housing, legal services, elder abuse, counseling services, transportation, caregiving resources, home services, repairs & improvements and senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). For more information on these services, please visit <https://www.warrentownship.net/191/Senior-Services> or call 847-244-1101 ext. \*501.





# 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

## GURNEE'S SNOW AND ICE CONTROL



With the onset of the winter season, the Gurnee Public Works Department would like to offer the following information to keep in mind as snow plowing operations begin.

Village plowing operations commence when the snow begins to accumulate and temperatures indicate that no melting will occur. The Village plows only municipally-owned streets. The Village of Gurnee is intersected by a number of State of Illinois and Lake County arterial highways which are not maintained/plowed by the Village. Routes 132, 120, 45, 41 and 21 are plowed and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Hunt Club, Washington, O'Plaine, Greenleaf (south of Washington), Dilley's (north of Rt. 132),

Gages Lake, Delany (north of Rt. 41), Sunset and Stearns School are plowed and maintained by the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT).

**The following tips help ensure snow and ice control operations proceed smoothly:**

1. When clearing sidewalks and driveways, do not shovel, blow or plow snow onto the roadway.
2. When it starts to snow, park your vehicle off of the street.
3. Please try to clear the snow around fire hydrants. This simple step could save precious time during an emergency.
4. Please remove portable basketball hoops, benches and decor from the street right-of-way. The Village is not responsible for damage to these items resulting from our snow removal operations.
5. To minimize snow deposits at the end of your driveway, try not to create large piles of snow in the parkway on the upstream side. While it's frustrating to shovel your driveway only to have the plow come by and push snow back at the base, it is not feasible to plow the street so that your driveway remains completely "snow free." Roadway design, the type of equipment that is utilized and the severity of snow events all factor into the size of the windrow left in the plow's wake.

If you have any questions regarding the Village's snow and ice control operations, please visit [www.gurnee.il.us/plowing](http://www.gurnee.il.us/plowing) or call the Gurnee Public Works Department at 847-599-6800.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP BEGINS THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees on the following dates:

- Thursday, January 4
- Wednesday, January 10
- Wednesday, January 17
- Wednesday, January 24
- Wednesday, January 31

In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the edge of the street by 7:00am 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 the resident will have to wait until the following week.

**Trees placed out after 7:00am on January 31st 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 25th and January 1st, 2024. Additionally, Village Offices will be closed on December 25th and 26th (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Observed) and Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day).





325 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031

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

## POSTAL PATRON

### WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

With the winter weather finally settling in, here are some tips to keep you and your loved ones safe:

- Limit time outdoors and dress warmly
- Take breaks while shoveling
- Listen for emergency alerts
- Only use generators outside
- Check on neighbors
- Bring pets inside

Stay off roads during hazardous weather. If you must travel, keep a flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. The latest road conditions for Illinois can be found at [www.gettingaroundillinois.com](http://www.gettingaroundillinois.com).

Additionally, Gurnee's Warming Center is Gurnee Mills Mall located at 6170 W Grand Ave. The mall is open Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 8:00pm and Sunday from 11:00am to 7:00pm.



### 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 for 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 most impactful 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 season and throughout the year.

