

WINTER 2025

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The holidays are upon us with so much going on. It's one of those times of the year that can bring lots of joy while being a difficult time for others. Some have lost a loved one or are experiencing other difficulties in their life, and this is where our community really needs to shine. The quality of our lives depends largely on our relationships with others. This holiday season, we have a number of events such as the Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza, Turkey Trot, block parties during the holiday season, Holiday Train, Frosty Fest and much more. Please check the Village website for dates, times and locations for these events. I encourage you to reach out to neighbors, coworkers and others to share these events, especially those who do not have family nearby or who may be isolated. Consider inviting them for Thanksgiving or taking them to the Holiday Train. Stretch yourself a bit and give the gift of a relationship.

I have found that many Gurnee residents already reach out to those in need. A good example this holiday season is the Thanksgiving dinner offered at the Gurnee Community Church to Navy personnel and community members. If you have nowhere to go for Thanksgiving, consider going to the Gurnee Community Church as you will be warmly welcomed. I will 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.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood



## VILLAGE MEETINGS

### Village Board

November 3  
November 17  
December 1  
December 15  
January 5  
January 26

### Planning and Zoning Board

November 5  
November 19  
December 3  
December 17  
January 7  
January 21

All Village meetings are held at  
Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Rd.)

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



### 31ST ANNUAL JON CALLAGHAN TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN AND WALK

Thursday, November 27

Check-in 7:00am, Race Begins 8:00am  
Fire Station 1  
4580 Grand Ave.



### FROSTY FEST

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

## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza

Friday, November 21, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Join us to kick-off the holidays with a festive holiday light display! The Village of Gurnee, in partnership with the Gurnee Park District, the Village of Gurnee Chamber of Commerce and Gurnee Community Church proudly presents the 5th annual Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza! There will be firepits and s'mores to keep you warm, free pizza to keep you full, craft stations to keep you busy, and much more! Special guests include Gurnee Park District's Above the Barre

Dance Team, Gurnee Mayor Tom Hood and Santa Claus! Want to help your neighbors in need this holiday season? Warren Township will be on hand collecting non-perishable food items for its Food Pantry during the event. Please bring your donations to help make a difference!



### Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, December 6, 8:00am to 12:15pm

Enjoy the magic of the season with a visit from the "Big Guy" himself while enjoying some of your favorite breakfast dishes such as pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and other delicious options, all prepared by the Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners and staff! Children will have time to share their holiday wishes as they take pictures with Santa, so don't forget to bring your camera. Each child will take home a special holiday gift. For more details and to register, please visit [www.gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com).

### Holiday Celebration at Viking Park Community Center

Tuesday, December 9, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Celebrate the holidays with a lunch of salad, ham, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The holiday mixer (ages 55+) will take place at Viking Park Community Center located at 4374 Old Grand Ave. Musical entertainment will be by the "Lake Shore Singers" who will entertain with some favorite tunes for the holidays. Bring a \$6 or less wrapped gift for the gift exchange. The registration deadline is December 4th, and there is a \$12 fee. Doors open at 11:00am and lunch service begins at 11:30am. Save your seat and register at [www.gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com).

### CPKC Holiday Train at Viking Park

Tuesday, December 9, Estimated Arrival 5:00pm

Gather the family for the return of the CPKC Holiday Train to Gurnee on Tuesday, December 9th! The community's support of the Northern Illinois Food Bank keeps the Holiday Train coming back to Gurnee; please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the food bank. Since 1999 the CPKC Holiday Train has raised more than \$26.1 million and 5.45 million pounds of food to help people struggling with food insecurity. This FREE event

will take place from 4:00pm to 6:00pm on Depot Rd. east of the railroad tracks. The train is estimated to arrive at 5:00pm, followed by a holiday concert starting at 5:15pm. Courtesy of the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce, enjoy a petting zoo, photos with Santa and holiday music. 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 for this event is offered at Viking Park and Viking Middle School and Warren Township High School.



# GURNEE NEWS

## GURNEE QUEENS RECOGNIZED AT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

At the September 8th Village Board Meeting, Mayor Tom Hood and the Village Board recognized the 2025 Gurnee Community Pageant titleholders: Miss Gurnee, Natalya Alvarez; Junior Miss Gurnee, Nelly Arias; Little Miss Gurnee, Isabella Frankland; and Tiny Miss Gurnee, Sophia Russell. These young women show a passion for volunteerism and leadership, inspiring their peers. Tiny Miss Gurnee, Sophia Russell, brings her youthful enthusiasm to community projects. They are committed to making Gurnee a better place through service and leadership.

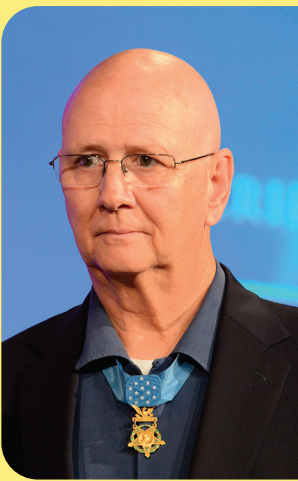


## ANNUAL CHAMBER BUSINESS LUNCHEON

On September 18th, Mayor Tom Hood, in partnership with the Village of Gurnee Chamber of Commerce, addressed attendees at the 2025 Annual Chamber Business Luncheon held at the new Ten Hotel. Mayor Hood emphasized the significant growth in new businesses and development projects that have advanced throughout the past year. Best of Gurnee Awards were presented to Herchenbach Mechanical (“Bringing Me Home”); McClure’s Garage (“Paying It Forward”); and Great Wolf Lodge (“Special Needs Champion”). Congratulations to this year’s award winners, and a sincere Thank you to all our local business leaders for helping to make Gurnee’s business community so strong!

## VILLAGE BOARD ESTABLISHES THE GURNEE ARTS COMMISSION

At the October 6th Village Board Meeting, the Mayor and Village Board approved the new Gurnee Arts Commission and its members. Co-chairs Lynn Granstrom and Beth Keslinke will lead the commission. Beth, an art teacher at Warren Township High School, brings expertise in youth participation and supports public art initiatives. Lynn, a graphic designer and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, brings her background in visual arts and community collaboration. The commission is made up of individuals with a range of artistic backgrounds and interests, and together they are eager to collaborate on art initiatives, events and opportunities that will enrich Gurnee.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: ALLEN LYNCH

Allen J. Lynch, Village of Gurnee resident, served in the 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from May 1967 until June 1968 during Vietnam. He had been “in-country” for six months when the action took place that would result in him receiving the Medal of Honor. The recognition of his conspicuous gallantry and selfless service to others on that day would be the catalyst for a life of service to others. Lynch was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon on May 14th, 1970 in a ceremony at the White House. Since receiving the Medal, Allen has continued to serve his fellow veterans. He served as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and later Chief of Ambulatory Care with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He then served as the Executive Director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Illinois. He left that position in 1985 to become the Chief of the Military and Veterans Rights Bureau with the Illinois Attorney General’s office, retiring in 2005. He also served with the US Army Reserve and the Illinois National Guard until his retirement with 21 years of service in 1994. Allen and his wife, Susan, have three children and are now blessed with 4 grandchildren. On Monday, November 3rd, Allen was honored by the Mayor, Trustees and the community. The recognition included the unveiling of a bronze plaque to be installed at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Police Station.

## NEW BUSINESSES

**Ethereal Suites**  
726 S Rte. 21

**Fox Pest Control**  
4183 Grove Ave.

**Froedert South Inc.**  
103 S Greenleaf St.

**Goodwill TalentBridge LLC**  
1761 Dilleys Rd.

**Gashapon Bandai,  
Sunrise Boutique, Just Cozy,  
Pretty Pretty Print Press**  
Gurnee Mills

**Lesly Flowers**  
3540 Grand Ave.

**Star Capital Management**  
167 N Greenleaf St.

**The Ten Hotel**  
6161 Grand Ave.

**Unified Companies –  
Ronald R Clark II**  
4343 Old Grand Ave.

### COMING SOON:

**Bank of America**  
6340 Grand Ave.

**Beef-A-Roo**  
1504 Nations Dr.

**DAA Wellness Spa**  
6021 Washington St.

**Eli Lilly & Company**  
5605 Centerpoint Ct.

**Haraz Coffee House**  
5572 Grand Ave.

**Gurnee Mills - Primark,  
SkyZone, Off the Rax**  
6170 Grand Ave.

**Gurnee Glen Apartments  
– Clubhouse**  
1 Woodlake Blvd.

**Lake Harbor Treatment**  
3915 Oglesby Ave.

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

**Performance Euowerks**  
3901 Grove Ave.

**Wally Walls LLC**  
905 Lakeside Dr.



Village of Gurnee 2025  
**31st ANNUAL**  
Jon Callaghan Memorial Turkey Trot  
5K fun run & walk



**SPONSORED BY**

**The Gurnee Police Department and The Gurnee Fire Department**

Come join us in this annual fund-raiser. Proceeds from entry fees will be split between the Jon Callaghan Memorial Fund and the Gurnee Community Church Youth Work Camp.

**RUN INFORMATION**

- Date:** Thanksgiving Day—November 27
- Start Time:** 8:00 am “sharp”
- Starting Line:** In front of Insurancenter, Stolarick & Company, Inc.,  
4673 Grand Avenue, Gurnee
- Check-in Time:** 7:00 am—The Gurnee Old Grand Ave. Fire Station,  
4580 Grand Avenue, Gurnee
- Entry Fee:** \$30.00 early registration fee. Fee increases to \$35 on 11-17-25.  
(age 10 and under runs/walks FREE!)  
Pre-registration ends November 24th, 2025.  
After 11-24-25 please register race day at  
the fire station.
- T-shirts:** Provided to the **first 350 paid participants**  
**to check in on race day**
- Payment:** (Make checks payable to the Gurnee Turkey Trot)  
**Mail check and completed waiver form to:**  
The Gurnee Turkey Trot  
325 North O’Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031
- Website:** For more info and downloads go to [gurneeturkeytrot2025.eventbrite.com](https://gurneeturkeytrot2025.eventbrite.com)



— FORM MAY BE COPIED FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRANTS —

**Waiver:** In consideration of my participation in the “31st Annual Village of Gurnee Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk,” I, for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge all race organizers, sponsors, volunteers, and benefactors of the “31st Annual Village of Gurnee Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk,” and hold and save them harmless for and against any and all actions, claims, liabilities, loss damage, expense of whatever nature, including attorney fees, which may at any time be incurred by my preparation for aforesaid race. I attest and verify my knowledge of the risks involved in this event and am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

PLEASE PRINT NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

(IF UNDER 18, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN)

CITY, STATE

ZIP CODE

☐ CHECK    ☐ CASH    Please specify your payment method



# 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 bisected 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.

## REUSE-A-SHOE COLLECTION BIN AT PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

The Reuse-A-Shoe Collection at the Gurnee Public Works Facility located at 1151 Kilbourne Ave. is available daily for drop-off anytime. Here are some important things to remember: All types, sizes and brands are accepted. If a pair, please keep shoes paired by tying, banding, or bagging them together. NOT ACCEPTED items include but are not limited to ice skates, rollerblades, winter boots, moldy shoes or badly damaged shoes. By using this reuse bin, you're helping reduce waste and contributing to a greener Gurnee!

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP BEGINS FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Lakeshore Recycling Systems will be collecting Christmas trees on your regular service day throughout the month of January. In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the edge of the street by 6:00am 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.

Please note that only real trees are accepted. If a Christmas tree is greater than 6 ft., it must be cut in half in order for LRS to pick it up. Trees placed out after your final collection for January will not be picked up.



## HOLIDAY REMINDER: WASTE COLLECTION AND OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to the Christmas Holiday and New Year's Day, if your garbage and recycling falls on or after Thursday, December 25th (Christmas Day) or Thursday, January 1st (New Year's Day) then your collection will be delayed by one day for that week. Also, Village offices will be closed on December 24th and 25th (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) as well as on January 1st (New Year's Day).



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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Nextdoor, X and LinkedIn!

This newsletter is published by the  
Village of Gurnee. To provide  
feedback, please contact:  
[Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us](mailto:Apollack@village.gurnee.il.us)

## 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

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.

**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.

**Furnace Maintenance:** Have an HVAC professional test and service your furnace annually to ensure all components are functioning properly.

**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 just around the corner, many of us are on the lookout for great deals on gifts and festive foods. As you shop, please keep in mind how much it means to support our local businesses. When you choose to shop in Gurnee, you're not only helping local stores thrive, you're also investing in vital community services like police and fire protection. We hope you'll consider making Gurnee your shopping destination this season and all year long. Thank you for making a positive impact—happy holidays and shopping!

