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WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

This past year, our community has witnessed numerous changes and advancements as we emerge from the pandemic. We have become experts at keeping take-out food warm during the drive home, wearing a mask became a fashion statement, and most importantly, we've noticed a few new faces around the neighborhood. The housing market in cities across the country exploded this past year, and Gurnee is no exception. Since June of 2020, over 750 homes were sold in Gurnee. The transition of new residents to our area provides us an opportunity to start fresh with an old tradition. Let's meet our neighbors! The Gurnee Police Department welcomes our new residents and invites you to join our communication network. Sign up for NextDoor to receive community alerts and notifications, join the Neighbors by Ring app for information on criminal activity in your area and follow us on Facebook for updated information about your police department.



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

First job title:	STOP
Favorite food:	GIVING
Favorite color:	PEOPLE
First pet's name:	YOUR
First child's name:	PERSONAL
Favorite restaurant:	INFORMATION
Where are you from:	TO
Favorite singer/band:	GUESS
Mother's maiden name:	YOUR
First type of car:	PASSWORDS
First job:	AND
Where you met your significant other:	SECURITY
High school mascot:	QUESTIONS

2021 CRIME TRENDS

Crime reports for the first half of 2021 show a significant increase in identity theft and fraud cases. Many residents experienced the frustration of their personal information taken and used for unemployment claims with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), even though they were still employed, retired, or never filed for the benefits. How are these scammers obtaining your information?

Obtaining your personal information is easier than you may realize. Although many large corporations work hard to maintain the information you provide them, data breaches still occur. For instance, Yahoo! experienced a data breach in 2017 where 3 billion accounts were compromised, and the Facebook data breach in 2019 put 540 million users at risk. Obtaining information such as your name, social security number, address, phone number, and place of employment can all be used to open new accounts without your knowledge.

Data breaches are not the only way for your information to be taken. Scams are another highly used opportunity for criminals to obtain your information without you potentially realizing it. Scammers will often impersonate someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, or a business you use. They may also coerce you into playing online games or quizzes

that require the participant to list their favorite things, mother's maiden name, or hometown. These items can potentially be used to determine commonly used passwords.

Hackers and scammers often work undetected, making it nearly impossible to identify the offenders.

AVOID FRAUD

- Do not believe your caller ID. New technology allows scammers to disguise their identity when calling.
- Consider how they ask for money. Wiring money should be a red flag. Most businesses do not accept payment via gift cards either.
- Before you give away your money, slow down and do your research. Consult with a friend, family member, or call law enforcement before sending money.
- Monitor your accounts for suspicious activity. Obtain a free credit report every 12 months from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies:

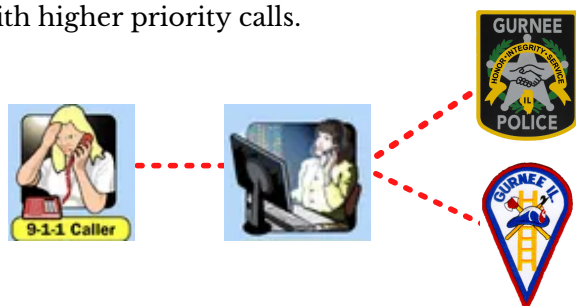
Equifax 800-997-2493

Experian 877-322-8228

TransUnion 800-916-8800

WHY WE ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS

Dispatchers need accurate information to send appropriate and sufficient help to your emergency. The Gurnee Communications Center receives and dispatches calls for two police departments and four fire departments. That is roughly 150,000 emergency calls annually, or 400 calls a day. Gurnee dispatchers must work at a fast pace while making effective decisions for rapidly evolving situations. Triaging a call by asking specific questions may be necessary when determining the emergent level. Being placed on a momentary hold may be required to allow dispatchers to work with higher priority calls.



What, exactly, happens when you dial 911? The Gurnee Communications Center staffs multiple dispatchers, each of whom has a significant role in the process of sending first responders to an emergency. Some are call-takers, while others dispatch the information to either the police or fire departments.

When an emergency call comes in, the initial call-taker must determine what type of emergency is happening based on the information you tell them. Emergencies may include someone injured, a crime in progress, a fire, etc. Providing details allows the call-taker to send the appropriate information to first responders. Rest assured, while

you are speaking with the call-taker, another dispatcher is receiving the emergency information on their computer screen. The dispatcher takes that information and immediately sends first responders to the location. As you continue to update the call-taker about the situation, that information is being relayed to the responding units simultaneously.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED?

It is important to realize that information must be verified. The call-taker will need to verify the address, phone number, and who is calling in case the line becomes disconnected during the call. Asking these questions twice helps the dispatcher confirm they are sending emergency services to the correct location the first time, without delay.

The call-taker is required to ask a series of questions, but the call begins with the four W's, what, where, who, and when. Questions for medical emergencies will vary greatly from those related to a crime. Emergencies evolve quickly, and as the details develop, the dispatcher may ask additional questions based on the new information you have provided. If a dispatcher places you on a brief hold, do not be alarmed. They are likely sharing the developments with other dispatchers or first responders so the information can be communicated as quickly as possible.

When calling 911 during an emergency, be patient, calm, and listen to what the dispatcher is asking you. Be prepared to listen and respond to the dispatcher's instructions. Working together during an emergency is the most efficient and effective solution.

KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN CALLING 911

EMERGENCY POLICE CALLS:

- What is the address of the emergency?
- What is the number you are calling from?
- Tell me exactly what happened.
- Suspect and/or vehicle information?
- Any weapons involved?
- Do you wish to speak with an officer?

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS:

- What is the address of the emergency?
- What is the number you are calling from?
- Tell me exactly what happened.
 - Potential follow up questions
- How old is she/he?
- Is she/he awake (conscious)?
- Is she/he breathing?

SENIOR COMMUNITY NEWS

Joining Forces To Fight Crime

The Gurnee Police Department is working diligently with residents to create a strong partnership that allows us to help defeat crime together. The cooperation and coordination of our community members are essential for the reduction of crime in our area. In addition to proactive policing, vigilance, and participation from residents, we hope to provide insight into safety measures everyone can take to help protect themselves.

Establishing trust within our community is a high priority, and we welcome the opportunity to speak with our residents, especially our senior community. To initiate this process, the Gurnee Police Department launched the Senior Community Group in 2019. The informal meetings educate residents on crime trends, safety tips, and what to do if you feel you have become a victim. Most importantly, however, our officers build relationships with residents on a personal level. Sharing laughs over a cup of coffee has become one of the many lasting memories created, and we always anticipate the next meeting date.

When the pandemic affected communities worldwide, we were faced with the devastation of postponing our Senior Community Group meetings as everyone promoted social distancing and safety precautions from the virus. When Valentine's Day was approaching, the Gurnee Police Department wanted to do something special for our senior community, and we requested the assistance of our social media

network to help us. The Valentines for Seniors program was created to help fill a potential void senior residents felt while being on lockdown in their facilities during the pandemic. We were overwhelmed by the participation from not only Gurnee residents but people from across the country. We received over 3,000 valentines that were either handmade or contained a special note from the person who sent them. Program supporter Mayor Tom Hood joined us by donating teddy bears and candy for each resident. In total we delivered Valentines to over 600 Gurnee residents.



Officer Hansen delivering Valentines, February 2021

Luckily, the lockdowns were short-lived, and we are excited to announce the reinstatement of the Senior Community Group this fall! Although majority of our Senior Community Groups take place in each of the senior facilities in town, we welcome the opportunity to meet with independent seniors that live on their own within the Village. If you would like more information on attending a Senior Community Group meeting, please call us at 847-599-7124.

Protect Yourself From Common Scams



We discuss a variety of topics during our Senior Community Group meetings, and the topics change for each meeting to ensure we are providing you the latest information to help keep you protected. Below are some of the most recent scams being reported. Be sure to check out the next meeting in your community for more information! As always, we are also available to answer your questions over the phone at 847-599-7124.

You do not necessarily need physical strength, agility, or speed to stop a crime from happening. Instead, if you remain alert, self-confident, and cautious, you will be a step ahead in preventing crime.

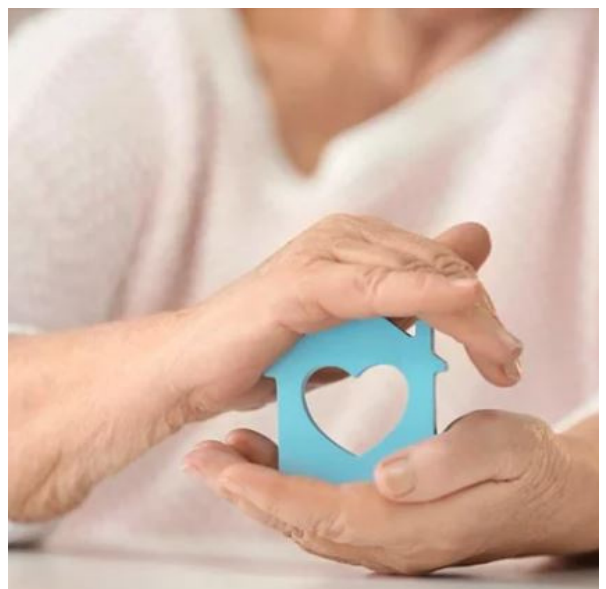
PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES

Whether you live in a home by yourself or in a building with several other residents, there are precautions you should take to protect your personal property.

- Lock the door, even if you leave the room/home for a moment.
- Ensure exterior windows and doors are locked.
- Mark your valuables with your initials or a distinct marking. Doing so will help investigators when attempting to locate and recognize your belongings.
- Keep an inventory of your valuables. The inventory should include the make, model, and serial number when possible. Take photos or record a video of the items. Store the inventory list and images in a secured place, such as a safe deposit box.

GENERAL HOME SAFETY

- Remove tripping hazards throughout your home, including rugs, cords, or fix uneven flooring.
- Place motion-activated lights throughout your home, making it easier for you to move around in the dark.
- Purchase battery backup lighting that activates when the power goes out.
- Lock all windows and doors.



UPCOMING EVENTS



BIG AND SMALL, HELMETS ARE FOR ALL

The Gurnee Police and Dairy Queen want you to stay safe on wheels. If officers see you wearing a helmet, you could earn FREE ice cream!



Join Us July 16th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Kickoff Event & Grand Re-Opening
Gurnee Dairy Queen



401 N. Riverside Drive, Unit 20

We have partnered with the Gurnee Dairy Queen for an exciting new program to promote helmet safety in Gurnee. If our officers see you riding on wheels, with a properly worn helmet, you could earn FREE ice cream!

Join us by pledging to take precautions when enjoying outdoor activities. Wear a helmet and beat the heat with ice cream from Gurnee Dairy Queen. Bring your bicycles, skates, longboards, etc., and join us at Dairy Queen on July 16th!

Gurnee Police Programs

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges, but the Gurnee Police Department Crime Prevention Unit remains dedicated to serving the community and providing useful resources. Although in-person meetings were suspended we were able to conduct meetings or virtual experiences for Neighborhood Watch groups and personal safety crime prevention programs. If you, your neighborhood, or Gurnee business are interested in having a meeting, contact the Crime Prevention Office for details. Meeting topics can be customized for your needs.

Crime Prevention Detective Shawn Gaylor
sgaylor@police.gurnee.il.us
847-599-7080

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each year the Gurnee Police Department organizes and participates in several local events that allow us to give back to our community. This year is no exception. Follow us on Facebook and NextDoor for the latest updates on where to join us around town. www.facebook.com/gurneepd

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

As summer heats up, more people will travel to Gurnee to experience the many entertainment options we have to offer. Gurnee officers are assigned at the mall and Six Flags every day to assist with promoting a safe environment for everyone. Our officers work in partnership with the security teams at each location to respond as quickly as possible to emergency situations. If you witness suspicious or developing incidents, please call 911.



JUNIOR OFFICER FOR A DAY

The Gurnee Police Department has assisted many local organizations with their fundraising efforts by offering an auction or raffle prize. Recently, several of those winners were able to experience life as a Junior Police Officer for a Day. The day's activities included an official swearing-in by the Chief of Police and training on traffic stops, evidence work, and dispatching to name a few. If you would like more information on offering this experience for your next fundraiser, contact the Crime Prevention Office at 847-599-7080.



HONOR GUARD

The Gurnee Police Honor Guard participates in several events throughout the year, including the Gurnee Days parade, veteran memorial services, and police-related events. After several years of fundraising, the Honor Guard was able to update their uniforms to reflect modern ceremonial protocols. This photo represents the Honor Guard preparing to present the Rifle Salute at the Memorial Day ceremony.





HAVE QUESTIONS?

We love hearing from our residents! You can contact the Crime Prevention Office at any time with any questions or concerns.

Do you have a topic suggestion for an upcoming Neighborhood Watch Newsletter? Is there something about the police department you would like to learn more about? Let us know what interests you, and your idea may be featured in a future newsletter.



Blackboard

Emergency Alerts -
Connect CTY

<https://11297163.bbcportal.com/>



Link through NextDoor

nextdoor.com/agency-detail/il/gurnee/village-of-gurnee/



Follow us on Facebook

facebook.com/gurneepd



Join us on Neighbors

Available in the App Store:
Neighbors by Ring

CONTACT US



Detective Shawn Gaylor
Crime Prevention Detective
Office: 847-599-7124
Email: sgaylor@police.gurnee.il.us

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Number: 847-599-7000
Press "0" to speak with a dispatcher

Going out of town this summer?

If you will be away from home for a period of (3) days up to (3) weeks, you can request a Vacation House Watch from the police department. The form is available on the Village of Gurnee website at www.gurnee.il.us (Search "Vacation House Watch Form") or [click here](#).