

Keeping Posted+

GURNEE
COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITY



Volume XLIV, No. 3 (Special Issue)

August 2017

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Keeping Posted(+)

The Village has once again partnered with our three school districts (50, 56 and 121) and Gurnee Park District to bring you Keeping Posted+! This special edition of the Village's newsletter brings you information about the community that you might not otherwise see. We hope you enjoy the combined format and opportunity to see the work our various organizations perform to make Gurnee an excellent place to live, work and play!

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

This past month, we experienced the worst flooding in Gurnee's history. The Village received nearly 6.4" of rain in a 24 hour period, leading to hundreds of basements taking on water and the Des Plaines River reaching a record breaking level of 12.09' on July 16th. The previous record of the Des Plaines River Level was 11.95' in 1986. The event was devastating for the homeowners and businesses impacted and some have suffered crippling financial losses. These wonderful people need our thoughts and prayers to sustain them as they've started recovery and rebuilding. It was hard on all of us to see our beautiful Village Center underwater and streets all over the Village lined with homeowners' flood-damaged belongings.



As difficult as it was to see the damage caused by the flooding, I am truly awestruck by the overwhelming response and support from the community members who volunteered to assist with the emergency response. Community spirit always shines brightest after a disaster and nowhere more so than here in Gurnee. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to send my deepest thanks to everyone who is a part of ensuring the safety and recovery of areas impacted. I especially want to thank the many volunteers who selflessly gave their time under extreme conditions to help others. We are truly blessed to live in this great community and these people and businesses are the reason why I am so proud to be leading the Village forward with our team and the Village Board.

I also want to give recognition and thank the Village staff who were prepared and mobilized quickly to have our Emergency Operation Center up and running. Sandbag operations were swiftly put in to place to protect structures and assist residents and businesses.

While this was a historic flood for our area, it would have been much worse if not for the diligence the Village has practiced the last 20 years in enforcing the Watershed Development Ordinance. The Village will also continue to set aside funding each year to purchase properties from willing owners and return it to open space. This program has allowed the Village to remove 26 properties and the Gurnee Grade School from the floodplain.

Now that the river has receded, we should be more excited than ever to celebrate Gurnee Days beginning August 10th through August 13th. It's always a fun time for us to gather and enjoy quality time with our families and each other's company. The Gurnee Days Corporation has many activities planned over the weekend and the complete schedule can be found at www.gurneedays.com. I'd like to also thank the Gurnee Days Corporation for selecting me as the Gurnee Days Honoree this year. I sincerely enjoy serving the residents and businesses of Gurnee, and the recognition means the world to me. Gurnee Days is my favorite weekend of the year since it gives me a chance to talk and engage with so many of you and hear about what is important to keeping our community the best place to live, work and play. This year it is double fun as Mayor and Gurnee Days Honoree!

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

THE VILLAGE OF GURNEE

325 N. O'Plaine Road • (847) 599-7500 • www.gurnee.il.us

Village News

Village Meetings

Village Board	Planning & Zoning	Other Boards
August 21 7:00 p.m.	August 16 7:30 p.m.	Oct. 19 5:30 p.m.
August 28 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 6 7:30 p.m.	August 22 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 11 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 27 7:30 p.m.	Sept. 26 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 25 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 4 7:30 p.m.	
Oct. 9 7:00 p.m.		
Oct. 23 7:00 p.m.		

All Village meetings are held at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change. Meetings in red and outlined in black are Committee of the Whole meetings where no formal action is taken. Meetings in green are Economic Development Committee meetings and meetings in purple are Civil Service Meetings.

Village's Open Houses

Stop by the following Gurnee Days Open Houses on Saturday, August 12th to learn more about your Village Departments at work. Don't miss the tractor rides between Public Works and Fire Station 1 from 10:00 a.m. - Noon!

- **Public Works, 1151 Kilbourne Road, 10 a.m.-Noon:** Enjoy activities such as plow truck rides and demonstrations on backhoe digging.
- **Fire Station #1, 4580 Old Grand, 10 a.m.-Noon:** Take part in the Kid's Challenge, fire truck rides and dive/rescue demonstrations.
- **Police Department, 100 N. O'Plaine Road, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.:** View the 911 Center, the prisoner lock-up, shooting range and evidence processing areas. Police equipment will also be on display.

Visit www.gurneedays.com for more information!

45th Annual Gurnee Days

www.gurneedays.com

August 10-13
"Let's Play Ball!"

DAILY SCHEDULE:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH

10:00 a.m. - Noon
6:00 p.m.
7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Bike Rodeo
Testimonial Dinner
Teen Pool Party

Woodland MS
Bittersweet
HC Aquatic Center

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH

10:00 a.m. - Noon
10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.*

Bike Rodeo
Storytime Extravaganza
Amusement Rides
Bubble Soccer
Gurnee Idol
Food Booths
Beer Garden & Entertainment

Fire Station No. 1
WNPL
Viking Park
Viking Park
VP Bandshell
Viking Park
VP Bandshell

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - Noon
10:00 a.m. - Noon
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m., 2 & 4:30 p.m.
Noon - 4:45 p.m.
Noon - 11:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Golf Tournament
10K Race/Fun Run**
Frog Lady of Gurnee
Public Works Open House
Fire Dept Open House
Gurnee Days Art Show
Mother Rudd Open House
Great Gurnee Adventure
Food Booths
Police Dept Open House
Exhibits - Games
Baby Contest
Viking Drama - "Alice"
Stage Events
Ribfest
Amusement Rides
Ice Cream Eating Contest**
Rib Eating Contest
Free Parking Lot Shuttle
Police K9 Demonstration
Evening Entertainment
Fireworks

HeatherRidge
WTHS O'Plaine
WNPL
Kilbourne Road
Old Grand Ave
Viking School
Mother Rudd
Viking Park
Viking Park
Police Station
Viking Park
VP Bandshell
Viking MS
VP Bandshell
Viking Park
Viking Park
VP Bandshell
VP Bandshell
Stops Near VP
VP Bandshell
VP Bandshell
Viking Park

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

8:00 a.m. - Noon
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Noon
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. (after parade)

Pancake Breakfast
Zumba Party
BGV Motorsports Car Show
Gurnee Days Art Show
Food Booths
Exhibits - Games
Gurnee Days Parade
Children's Pony Rides/Petting Zoo
Mother Rudd Open House
Amusement Rides
Stage Events
Fire vs. Police Softball Game
Talent Show
Viking Drama - "Alice"

Viking Park
VP Bandshell
Viking Park
Viking Park
Viking School
Viking Park
Viking Park
Old Grand Ave
Viking Park
Mother Rudd
Viking Park
VP Bandshell
VP Softball Field
VP Bandshell
Viking MS

* Friday Beer Garden & Entertainment will begin at 7:30 or 15 minutes after Gurnee Idol.

** Some events require fee or advance registration. Register for the 10K Race & Ice Cream Eating Contest at <http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com/special-events>.

Special thanks to our
PLATINUM SPONSORS:



FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE IN 2017

Free shuttle bus service will be available on Saturday, August 12th from 3 p.m.-11 p.m. at parking lots near Viking Park.

WANT MORE INFO?

www.gurneedays.com

Woodland District 50

Woodland's First Relocation Drill Successful

Keeping students safe at school is a top priority for Woodland District 50, and on May 17 school officials went further than the usual safety drills to conduct our first drill involving relocating students.

In close cooperation with the Gurnee Police Department and the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Woodland orchestrated a morning drill wherein approximately 1,280 fourth and fifth grade students and their classroom teachers were moved from Woodland Intermediate to Woodland Middle School. Students were bused to the temporary location and then returned to complete their school day in approximately one hour.



"We are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and that means practicing for all types of safety situations," said Mike Witkowski, Principal at Woodland Intermediate School.

Relocating students away from potential harm may occur if there is an emergency that could include, but not be limited to a gas leak, loss of water or a dangerous situation inside the schools. In a real relocation, parents would be informed where to collect their children, but that aspect of the drill was not done with the exercise. Plans are to include the reunification portion in a future drill.

Woodland Impacts Student Academic Growth

Woodland is seeing a consistent trend of students scoring better than the national average in reading and math on the growth test developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) called the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This test also shows our eighth grade class progressed while at Woodland as they started in second grade at the 71st percentile nationally in reading and the 48th percentile in math. Upon leaving Woodland, they are averaging at the 82nd national percentile in reading and the 83rd national percentile in math.

Woodland's individual student growth is also increasing. Nationally, 50% of students taking MAP will reach their target. Grade levels with 60% of the students reaching or exceeding their individual growth is considered "High Growth." In reading, four of the seven grade levels, utilizing MAP, had their highest percentage of Woodland students reaching their individual growth target over the last three years with three of those grade levels reaching the "High Growth" level. This is the most over the last three years. In math, four of the seven grade levels had their highest percentage of Woodland students reaching their individual growth target over the last three years. And four of those grade levels reached the "High Growth" level. This is also the most over the last three years. We are pleased to see the success of each student's individual growth.

District Info

About District 50

Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8. As one of the largest school districts in the State of Illinois, it has approximately 5,700 students enrolled from all of unincorporated Gages Lake and Wildwood and parts of Gurnee, Grayslake, Park City, Third Lake, Old Mill Creek, Wadsworth, Lindenhurst and Waukegan.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Dr. Carla Little, President
Joyce Mason, Vice President
Lizzy Helgren, Secretary
Terry Hall, CPA
Chris Schrantz
Jennifer Haack
Joseph De Rosa

SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Joy A. Swoboda

Schools

WOODLAND PRIMARY:

17366 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8700

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY EAST:

17261 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8800

WOODLAND ELEMENTARY WEST:

17371 W. Gages Lake Road
(847) 984-8900

WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

1115 N. Hunt Club Road
(847) 596-5900

WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL:

7000 Washington Street
(847) 856-3400

District Finances

Budget & Reporting Documents

Copies of Woodland District 50's budget, teacher's contract and required compensation disclosures are all available on the District's website. Go to www.dist50.net, select "About Us" and then select "Public Records."

Residents with questions can contact the District's Administrative Offices at (847) 596-5600.

D50 Financial Recognition

Bond Rating: Woodland District 50 recently had its credit rating reaffirmed by two credit agencies. In 2016 the district refinanced its current debt to reduce its tax rate to area residents.

Credit Ratings History

Moody's and Standard & Poor (S&P):

2016	AA+	S & P
2015	AA+	S & P
2014	AA+	S & P
2013	AA+	S & P
2012	AA+	S & P
2011	AA+	S & P
2011-2016	Aa2	Moody's

The ratings from Moody's indicate high quality, and the Standard & Poor's ratings indicate a strong capacity to meet financial obligations.

Financial Recognition

Illinois State Board of Education:

2016	Recognition
2015	Recognition
2014	Recognition
2013	Recognition
2012	Recognition
2011	Review
2010	Recognition
2009	Recognition

District 50 has maintained the highest level of "Financial Recognition Status" for its financial profile for seven of the last eight school years.

Woodland District 50

Darlene Lipczynski Named "Gurnee Teacher of the Year"



When Darlene Lipczynski was surprised in class with news that she is Woodland District 50's Gurnee Teacher of the Year for 2017, her students reacted by cheering and chanting "1, 2, 3 - Lipczynski."

An educator for 16 years at Woodland District 50, Lipczynski, an English Language Arts teacher, spent the past four years at Woodland Middle School and the previous 12 years teaching third grade at Woodland Elementary School.

"My philosophy of teaching is really the same as any other educator; give children a voice and provide a safe place to use that voice. Advocate for them when they can't advocate for themselves. Validate their thoughts and feelings and make sure they know they have value and worth. Educate the whole child by giving them the tools to be successful, academically, socially and emotionally," she said.

Woodland District 50 Superintendent Dr. Joy A. Swoboda and Middle School Principal Scott Snyder surprised Lipczynski in her classroom with the news. "Darlene Lipczynski is a selfless advocate for children inside and outside of the classroom. Not only does she continue to strive to provide new learning opportunities for her students, but she also works to ensure students feel included in the school. Though she is not one to seek out recognition, she is so deserving of accolades for her contributions as a caring educator," Swoboda said.

Lipczynski added, "I am only the sum of all the dedicated teachers that I have the honor to work with. I am inspired everyday by all the amazing and dedicated teachers, who spend tireless hours, without agenda, for the sole purpose - their students."

Woodland District 50 recognizes the winners from each school who were considered as finalists for Woodland's Gurnee Teacher of the Year:

- Patricia "Trish" O'Neil, Woodland Primary School
- Neva Cosmos, Woodland Elementary West
- Claudine Mardehow, Woodland Elementary East
- Katie Herren, Woodland Intermediate



There were more than 200 nominations at Woodland District 50, and Lipczynski received nominations from students, staff and parents. On May 1, she and teachers from Gurnee District 56 and Warren Township High School each received a plaque and a check for \$1,000 at the Gurnee Village Board meeting.

Woodland District 50

Woodland Inspires Expands to Fourth, Fifth Grades

Imagine doing a book report on "The Titanic" where you can write a script from the viewpoint of a passenger on the fateful journey, record audio using the script and then use a screen cast with images of the real event while giving the report.

Students at Woodland Intermediate School did that last school year as they piloted laptops, better known as Chromebooks. Through "tradigital" learning in our Woodland Inspires initiative, a lesson such as a book report can come alive when traditional research and writing is used in conjunction with audio and video provided through the Chromebooks.



"Woodland Inspires is not just a technology program. It is a learning program. The technology allows teachers and students to enhance their collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity in their learning. Each teacher chooses when it is best to use traditional tools and when it is more appropriate to use Chromebooks," said Dr. Steve Thomas, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning at Woodland District 50.

The goal in the recently concluded strategic plan for Woodland is to increase student access to technology. All sixth through eighth grade students received Chromebooks at the start of the 2016-2017 school year, and all fourth and fifth grade students will receive Chromebooks at the start of the 2017-2018 school year. For Woodland, that means more than 3,400 students will have Chromebooks. Even the Kindergarten through 3rd grade students will benefit from the 1:1 effort because equipment used in computer labs settings in our 4th through 8th grade schools is being shifted to the primary and elementary schools so those children have more opportunities to use technology.

Through Chromebooks, students can not only tap into digital resources, but they can also complete assignments and quizzes, organize tasks and communicate electronically with their teachers, collaborate with classmates and easily investigate creative new ideas. Woodland primarily uses two digital tools: Googledocs, which allows for shared documents, and Schoology, for assignments and online learning with the added benefit of allowing parents to check on what their child is working on and how they are doing.

New Look and Function Coming to Woodland Website

Visitors to the Woodland District 50 website, www.dist50.net, will be greeted October 1 with a new look and new functions due to a significant change in how information is delivered. With input from parents and staff, the new website will feature many familiar headings, with an emphasis on more images and videos of students, a social media feed, quick links to frequently used web pages and easier viewing through the use of a Woodland mobile application.

The process has been two years in the making and the result will include not only a website but also a phone application that will include a calendar to integrate with parents' existing electronic calendars on their mobile devices. Blackboard will be hosting the website at an annual cost of \$23,500, but due to savings from the program currently being used, there is no increase in the technology budget to provide the new website.

District News

Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Dr. Joy Swoboda in June provided highlights of the strategic plan and district goals to the Board of Education, adding that the 2016-2017 school year concludes implementation of the five-year plan. In those five years, 26 initiatives were carried out, including but not limited to the following:

- Creating full-day kindergarten
- Updating curriculum in all subjects to align with Common Core Standards
- Creating a Dual Language program in kindergarten - 4th grades
- Developing Woodland Inspires 1:1 technology initiatives in 6th - 8th grades with 4th and 5th grades starting in the 2017-18 school year
- Starting a breakfast program for all students
- Updating the long-range financial and facility plan

As we prepare for a new strategic plan this fall, Woodland community members may be contacted.

WHY WOODLAND?

OUR STUDENTS

... speak 40+ languages, including English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Greek, Cambodian, Romanian, Urdu, Hungarian, Bengali, and Mandarin.

OUR STAFF

... has a retention rate of 93% and 85% earned advanced degrees. Seven teachers with advanced degrees hold National Board for Professional Standards certification.

OUR CURRICULUM

... includes preparing students for the future with a Dual Language program. Students spend a half day using only English and a half day of only Spanish.

OUR TECHNOLOGY

... is expanding to provide Chromebooks to over 3,400 students in 4th-8th grades while younger students benefit from reallocation of existing computers.

OUR SUPPORT

... means offering breakfast each morning to all students so they start the day with nourishment for their bodies and minds.

OUR FINANCES

... reflect balanced budgets without sacrificing core program offerings.

... means hand placing students in classrooms.

... are recognized by the state at the highest status for fiscal management in eight of the past nine years.

District Info

About District 56

Gurnee School District 56 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8.

It services portions of Gurnee, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Beach Park.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Dr. Jim Blockinger, President
Odie Pahl, Vice President
Brian Weir, Treasurer
Mark Pos, Secretary
Becky Kotsinis
Lynn Schroetter
Helen Scott

SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. John Hutton

Schools

SPAULDING SCHOOL:

2000 Belle Plaine Road
(847) 662-3701

PRAIRIE TRAIL SCHOOL:

13600 W. Wadsworth Road
Wadsworth
(847) 623-4333

RIVER TRAIL SCHOOL:

333 N. O'Plaine Road
(847) 249-6253

VIKING MIDDLE SCHOOL:

4460 Old Grand Avenue
(847) 336-2108

Gurnee District 56

ISTE Honors District 56 with the “Distinguished District Award”

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) awarded Gurnee District 56 with the “Distinguished District Award” at its international conference in San Antonio, June 25th-28th. District 56 received this honor due to its innovation in offering equitable and appropriate technology use for all students in a school system with the goal of increasing learning opportunities and improving achievement. District 56 has transitioned from a teacher-centered to a student-centered learning environment, which maximizes student choice, engagement and productivity.



Dr. John Hutton,
Superintendent, with
ISTE Award

ISTE, in selecting Gurnee 56, stated that their ultimate goal is for every child to demonstrate at least one year of academic growth for each year of school attendance. Gurnee 56 believes that digital learning is a necessary component in creating a flexible learning environment that provides self-paced instruction, an interactive learning environment characterized by consistent feedback and multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate what they have learned.

Those highlighted for their efforts in earning the award are as follows:

- Dr. John Hutton, Superintendent
- Dr. Colleen Pacatte, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Assessment
- Mr. Phil Hintz, Director of Technology
- Mrs. Tami Kroc, Director of Pupil Services
- Mrs. Sheila Peckler, Director of Business Services

The International Society for Technology Education is the premier membership organization serving educators and leaders committed to empowering learners in a connected world.

District 56 Chosen for Superkids Video

The publishers of the K-2 reading series, Superkids, asked Gurnee District 56 to be their model classrooms for the creation of new professional development videos and marketing materials for their updated copyright. The professional development materials, featuring District 56 teachers, will be used across the country to train other teachers on how best to use the Superkids program!

At the end of the week of filming, the head of professional development shared that their team was trying to figure out how best to describe the week spent in District classrooms to their colleagues back at the corporate office: “We decided the best analogy was that it was like the first time you saw the Grand Canyon,” they said. While not surprising, it was high praise and certainly evoked a sense of awe about the work being done in District classrooms. Visit the following link to watch the Superkids video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZRdpI9WRn0&t=12s>.

Gurnee District 56

District 56 "Teacher of the Year" Mr. Frank Fitzgerald

The Gurnee District 56 Teacher of the Year was Mr. Frank Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald just completed his 21st year as a teacher in the District. Whereas some teachers repeat the same experience year after year, Mr. Fitzgerald has improved upon his work each year that he has taught.

He is an art teacher at Spaulding School and is also an artist himself. Not only does Mr. Fitzgerald do a good job in creating budding artists, he also accepts the challenge to provide students instruction in mathematics and reading as part of the art curriculum. The District has encouraged its teachers to understand the need to provide all students additional experiences in reading and mathematics to ensure that every child is working at grade level in those two discipline areas. Mr. Fitzgerald has not only accepted that challenge, he has emerged as a leader in advocating for all students to receive a well-rounded education.

With the immersion of instructional technology in this District, Mr. Fitzgerald now incorporates the iPad in most class lessons. The District continues to be amazed at the artistic abilities of its students and is very impressed that many of their designs are completed electronically. Mr. Fitzgerald is a teacher leader in the District and possesses the "Spirit of 56".



Mr. Fitzgerald receiving award from Mayor Kristina Kovarik

Summer Lunch Program

Gurnee District 56 and the Gurnee Park District have partnered to offer summer lunches for students from economically disadvantaged families. Those students are provided free lunches during the school year to ensure that they receive a nutritious lunch every school day. That goal does not become less important during the summer months, and the District is proud to partner with the Gurnee Park District to continue lunch services for families during the summer months.

The program started on June 20th with only two students taking advantage of it. On June 27th, plans were being made to prepare 50 lunches for the following week. The early success of the program shows that some families needed additional assistance during the summer months and is a clear message to all involved that this program needs to be expanded next year.



The School and Park Districts have partnered on several programs (e.g., the extension of Viking Park and the new playground at River Trail School) over the last few years with the goal to combine resources in order to provide better services for all families in this community.

District News

STEM Education and Makerspace

An interesting aspect of education in the last 40 years is the cyclical nature of pedagogical trends. In the 70s, open concept schools and individualized learning were buzz words in education. Service learning and authentic assessments were trends in the 90s. Home economics and industrial arts were popular in the 90s and early 2000s. All of those concepts are back in vogue now and are important aspects of future ready schools.

Why are those trends more viable in 21st century schools? Technological advances have allowed us to more fully implement them. At District 56 this year, a concerted effort was made to bring personalized learning to Viking School when the District remodeled its library to include a STEM lab and a makerspace; the results so far have exceeded its expectations. In fact, things have progressed so well that River Trail School has a makerspace in their library, and Prairie Trail School has started the process of developing a makerspace in their library too. Both of these projects were implemented earlier than expected based on the successes at Viking School.

Students are now asked to be not only problem solvers, but also problem finders. In many classrooms, students are asked to identify problems in their schools and communities and develop a solution to solve, or reduce the impact of, the problems (service learning). STEM labs are being used to test solutions (authentic learning), and makerspaces are being used to build mechanisms (career tech/CTE) to solve problems.



Student Programs

Computer Science and Coding

Code to the Future trained Gurnee 56 K-2 teachers on using Legos to help students integrate computer science concepts. The District selected Code to the Future to partner with because their basic philosophy that coding should not be a stand alone course of study, but instead a tool to learn curriculum in all subject areas. During the first semester, the District used Scratch Junior to assist students in sequencing ideas and developing deductive reasoning skills. Two schools hosted a Parents Night to show the work of its youngest students. Students completed an “epic build” to demonstrate mastery of course content with the use of coding. K-2 students used Legos/Lego robotics to continue computer science work. Teachers were trained on integrating Legos into their classrooms to help students develop a programming mentality.

District teachers gave important feedback on how coding impacted learning for students. Without exception, they felt that the students are much more knowledgeable about computer science concepts than they were and are very willing to learn with the students. Programming is a tool that will serve our students well in their futures and was not in our curriculum until this year. One of our bilingual teachers said, “Coding is a universal language, and all children are working from a level playing field.” That comment extends beyond language and includes ethnicity and students from poverty. This initiative moves the District a step closer to its mission, “An education that inspires... opportunities for ALL.”



Gurnee District 56

Partnerships and Educating All Children

“It takes a Village” is a phrase used to describe the importance of the “all in” philosophy necessary when educating all children. As part of a Professional Learning Community, by definition, every adult who is part of the Gurnee District 56 school community is responsible for the education of every child. By extending that definition beyond the school walls and into our community and beyond, the District has attempted to enlist as many partners as possible in offering all children a world-class education.



"Bucks for Books"

This school year, Gurnee District 56 has established new partnerships with some old partners as well as partnerships with four new entities:

- Otus is providing the District the functionality to create a data warehouse that will provide teachers a unique profile of all students based on the test data accumulated from them over the years. Their data warehouses will protect the confidentiality of student data and will prove to be a critical part of personalized learning for all students.
- Warren Township High School is working with the District to provide all parents access to their children's busses through an integrated GPS.
- Fanning Howey is working with Mr. Sean Smith to help the District reduce energy consumption.
- Gurnee Park District has partnered with the District to give River Trail School students new playground equipment and a summer lunch program to economically disadvantaged students.
- Nutrition First is a new partner this year. They provide all families hot lunch options for their children.
- Foresters Financial is also a new partner this year. They have provided an awesome breakfast option to those District students who have the greatest need.
- Warren Newport Public Library is another new partnership that has been established to provide all District 56 students access to a library card.
- Gurnee Mills Mall partnered with the District in a “Books for Bucks” event. The District received over \$5,000 from the Mills to educate children.

Gurnee District 56 is very excited about all of these partnerships and the impact each will have on our children's educational experiences.

Lightsail Education Publishes Videos of River Trail & Prairie Trail Schools

Lightsail is an interactive eReader, designed to support students as they transition from learning to read, to reading to learn. Currently, District 56 is using LightSail in grades 2nd through 5th. Lightsail Education held a “Reading Challenge” to schools across the entire country. River Trail School ranked as one of the top 3 schools in the contest and received \$1,000 in books. Also, two of the classes at River Trail School were ranked in the top 5 classes in the country! Visit the links below to watch the videos.

- River Trail School Lightsail Video - <https://vimeo.com/219910129>
- Prairie Trail School Lightsail Video - <https://vimeo.com/218988502>

Warren Township High School District 121

WTHS Leadership Team Transitions

District 121 is proud to announce several administrative transitions that will take place for the start of the 2017-18 school year which were approved by our Board of Education earlier in the spring.

At the February 28, 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved Mr. Patrick Keeley for the District 121 Assistant Superintendent for Student Services starting July 1, 2017. Pat has been an incredibly successful Principal at the Almond Campus for the past six years, and he is looking forward to the opportunity to expand his leadership role in the district. The position itself is very robust and is intended to provide district support to many critical areas including but not limited to Student Services, Special Education and Student Activities.

At the March 21, 2017 Board meeting, the Board approved Mr. Rob Parrott as the Almond Campus Principal starting July 1, 2017. Rob has been a very successful leader in the district for many years, including past appointments as Principal and most recently as the Associate Principal. Mr. Parrott will take on the role of Principal at our Almond Campus, which houses our 11th and 12th grade students. Our principals are the instructional leaders of their respective campuses, as well as being a primary communicator to our parents and staff regarding overall school planning and news.

At the April 11, 2017 Board meeting, Mrs. Laura Kirk was approved as the Almond Campus Associate Principal starting July 1, 2017. Since 2009, Laura has been a Dean of Students in the district and has served in that capacity at both of our campuses. Our Associate Principals provide oversight to a number of key areas at our campuses including campus level student services, our scheduling process and campus operations.

At our April 25, 2017 Board meeting, Mr. Zach Pagan was approved as a Dean of Students at the Almond Campus beginning next school year. Since 2006, Zach has been a math teacher in the district and during the 2016-17 school year filled in temporarily at both campuses as a Dean of Students. He has also served as the O'Plaine Campus Mathematics Lead Teacher since 2011. Our Deans of Students facilitate our Student Support teams, focus on campus safety and security and provide expertise regarding student management and effective interventions with students.

Dr. John Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools said, "We are very proud of each of these leaders for the contributions they continue to make for WTHS and congratulate them on their promotions within District 121."

Cum Laude Recognition Night

On behalf of the staff and administration of District 121, we congratulate our students on their academic success at Warren Township High School. Based on their seventh semester cumulative grade point average, students earn the distinction of graduating with honors.

Students earning a 3.9 to 4.199, 4.2 to 4.399 and a 4.4 or higher GPA, have earned Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude status respectively.

Students were honored at a new recognition night on May 15, where they received a special symbol to be worn at the commencement ceremony. This year, 202 students received honors.

District Info

About District 121

Warren Township High School District 121 is a comprehensive four-year high school with an enrollment of approximately 4,200 students. The second largest high school in Lake County, Illinois, District 121 covers over 50 square miles and includes all or part of Beach Park, Gages Lake, Grandwood Park, Grayslake, Gurnee, Millburn, Old Mill Creek, Park City, Third Lake, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Wildwood.

Officials

BOARD OF EDUCATION:
Thomas Drake, President
Michael B. Munda, Vice President
Barb Conway, Secretary
John R. Anderson
Paul Schulz
Jim Walz
Jonita C. Wilson

SUPERINTENDENT:
Dr. John P. Ahlgrim

Schools & Facilities

Warren is a one high school district with two campuses. Each campus houses two grade levels. The O'Plaine Campus generally houses 9th and 10th grades, and the Almond Campus generally houses 11th and 12th grades.

ALMOND CAMPUS:
34090 Almond Road
(847) 662-1400

O'PLAINE CAMPUS:
500 N. O'Plaine Road
(847) 662-1400

TRANSPORTATION CENTER
3801 Swanson Court
(847) 662-1400

TRANSITION CENTER:
Located at Gurnee Mills
6170 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 304
(847) 856-8173

Student Recognition

Academics - Class of 2017

By the Numbers:

Class of 2017 Graduates: 1,036
Illinois State Scholars: 155
President's Education Awards: 170
National Honor Society: 198
National Merit Finalists: 5
Perfect ACT Score (36): 2
AP Scholars: 61
AP Scholars with Honor: 20
AP Scholars with Distinction: 46
National AP Scholar: 4
Senior Scholarship and Award Night: 64
Cum Laude Recognition Night: 202

Fine Arts

Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) for Band:

Sophia Diaz, Bailey Holman, Alex Wachter and David Young

For Orchestra:

Stephanie Frost, Eric Jung, Ruchira Ray.

For Jazz Band:

Elizabeth Carpentier and Connor Mannebach

For Choir:

Jaylen Davis

Illinois High School Theatre Festival:

Andrea Martinez

Illinois High School Art Exhibit:

Gina Bernardini, Megan Szymus, Aubrey Chuen, Sammii Avila and AJ Gozun

Athletics - Fall, Winter & Spring

All State Athletes:

Courtney Barker, Kelsey Campbell, Kaylen Dickson, Branden Ellis, Janii Jenkins, Abena Atoubi, Emily Hudgins, Claire Swedberg, Caitlin Britton, Alliyah Parker, Natalie McNally, Lindsey Hardiman and Kaitlyn Chomko

Team Titles:

Regional Champions - Girls' Bowling, Baseball, Softball and Girls' Soccer
Sectional Champions - Softball
Conference Champions - Girls' Bowling, Softball and Girls' Soccer

Warren Township High School District 121

Warren's "Gurnee Teacher of the Year" Honors Chris Mason

Business education teacher, Chris Mason, was voted by her colleagues this year as Warren's Gurnee Teacher of the Year.

At the Board meeting on May 1, the Village of Gurnee recognized three Gurnee teachers, one from each of the area schools: Warren Township High School District 121, Gurnee School District 56 and Woodland School District 50. The Gurnee Teacher of the Year received a \$1,000 honorarium.

Chris has been teaching at Warren for the last 29 years in the business education department. She earned her bachelor's degree in Comprehensive Business Education from Illinois State University in May 1982 and a master's degree in Business Education from Northern Illinois University in May 1986.

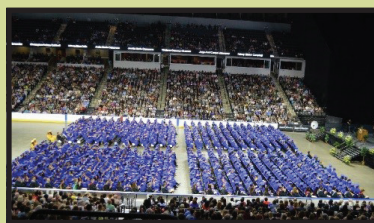


Chris Mason

Chris has a passion for teaching, especially in the area of Accounting. She was a member of one of the first pilot groups for the AP Incentive for Accounting. The knowledge and success of her past students has shown in their college years and careers; she hears from them frequently. She loves the diversity of Warren's student body and in her classes.

This is Chris's 26th year as an adviser to the Future Business Leaders of America. She was awarded the Mary E. Webb award in 2008, given to Illinois's outstanding adviser, and she also was nominated for and has a brick dedicated with her name engraved at the national FBLA headquarters.

WTHS Earns National Recognition



The Washington Post has announced the list of "America's Most Challenging High Schools," and Warren is on the list for the 8th year in a row. The "America's Most Challenging High Schools" list is comprised of the number of advanced placement exams given by a school divided by the number of graduating seniors. Warren is ranked #49 in the state of Illinois and #1239 in the United States. Both of these rankings hold Warren in the top 4% of schools and a higher ranking than in 2016. Warren is very proud of its advanced placement numbers and results. This past year we administered 2,351 exams to 1,167 students and are anxiously awaiting our scores coming in the next few weeks.

Symphonic Band I Awarded the 2017 SuperState AAAA Honor Band

The Warren Township High School Symphonic Band I was awarded the 2017 SuperState AAAA Honor Band! From over 110 auditions, Symphonic Band I was selected as 1 of 30 to perform at the festival. These 30 bands were divided into five (5) classes: Middle School, A, AA, AAA, AAAA. Symphonic Band I competed against eight other large schools in AAAA, and was awarded the TOP HONOR in the class. Symphonic Band I will play the final concert at the 2018 SuperState Concert Band Festival to showcase this honor!

Warren Township High School District 121

District Finances

Warren is proud to provide an array of excellent programs for our students with local revenues that are relatively low compared to other Lake County high schools. The District continues to make difficult decisions in light of limited resources and unpredictable state funding.

Comparison of Revenue Per Pupil for Lake County High School Districts (FY 2016)

High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$29,830	\$868	\$686	\$31,384
Lake Forest District 115	\$28,982	\$778	\$359	\$30,119
Adlai Stevenson High School 125	\$26,096	\$1,408	\$237	\$27,741
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$25,795	\$1,120	\$171	\$27,086
Grayslake District 127	\$17,714	\$3,951	\$140	\$21,805
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$17,518	\$3,171	\$321	\$21,010
Zion-Benton District 126	\$13,773	\$5,049	\$900	\$19,722
Mundelein District 120	\$17,616	\$1,515	\$396	\$19,527
Grant Township District 124	\$15,513	\$2,776	\$700	\$18,989
Warren Township High School District 121	\$13,509	\$2,191	\$438	\$16,138

Source: Lake County Regional Office of Education

Tax Rates for Lake County High School Districts (2012-2016)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Grayslake District 127	4.556	5.23	5.53	5.40	5.06
Zion Benton District 126	4.093	4.76	5.09	5.31	4.96
Antioch Lakes District 117	3.291	3.65	3.83	3.93	3.82
Adlai Stevenson District 125	2.751	2.99	3.04	3.00	2.86
Mundelein District 120	2.439	2.65	2.82	2.77	2.62
Grant Township District 124	2.975	3.25	3.55	3.51	2.61
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	2.580	2.92	2.68	2.73	2.53
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	2.178	2.36	2.42	2.31	2.19
Warren Township High School District 121	2.173	2.39	2.50	2.48	2.10
Lake Forest District 115	1.322	1.42	1.44	1.41	1.33

Source: Lake County Government website.

Operating Cost Per Pupil for Lake County High School Districts (FY 2012-2016)

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$20,821	\$22,306	\$24,848	\$24,256	\$24,762
Lake Forest District 115	\$21,977	\$22,917	\$23,672	\$23,518	\$24,392
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$19,549	\$20,271	\$21,255	\$22,028	\$22,420
Adlai Stevenson District 125	\$16,839	\$18,287	\$18,778	\$18,662	\$18,918
Grayslake District 127	\$14,445	\$14,645	\$15,560	\$16,550	\$17,652
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$15,522	\$15,227	\$16,280	\$16,649	\$16,779
Mundelein District 120	\$12,994	\$12,501	\$14,500	\$13,355	\$15,200
Zion Benton District 126	\$13,607	\$13,381	\$14,230	\$14,297	\$14,486
Warren Township High School District 121	\$11,080	\$11,740	\$12,090	\$12,411	\$14,486
Grant Township District 124	\$11,159	\$11,262	\$11,809	\$12,455	\$13,209

Source: Lake County Regional Office of Education

District News

Devil Hack 1.00

This two-day event provided the support needed for teams to hack out a real-world solution to a real-world challenge. A hackathon is an invention marathon. Programmers, designers, builders and more come together to learn, build and share their creations over the course of a few days. "Hacking" is the act of quickly and intelligently creating a real application/solution that others can use.

About 150 high school and local junior college students attended the event in January 2017 along with adult mentors from WTHS, College of Lake County, the Village of Gurnee, Chicago Council on Science & Technology and AKHAN Semiconductor Inc.

The event is open to all current high school students in and around Lake County. Adult industry experts as well as recent high school graduates can participate as mentors and team leaders. For more information on the 2018 event, visit www.d121.org/devilhack



New Board Takes Oath of Office

Paul Schulz and Jonita Wilson are newly elected board members. Re-elected to the Board were John Anderson and Jim Walz. At the April 25, 2017 re-organizational meeting, The Board appointed officers Thomas Drake, President; Michael Munda, Vice-President and Barb Conway, Secretary. A special thank you to John Anderson for serving as President of the Board for ten years.

District Info

About Gurnee Park District

Gurnee Park District, a municipal governing agency, provides parks, recreation facilities and programs for its residents including aquatics, art, crafts, before and after school programs, day camps, fitness, martial arts, music, performing arts, preschool, sports and much more.

Officials

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Jim Goshorn, President
Libby Baker, Vice President
Michelle Klemz, Secretary
Vicki Paddock
Gerald Crews

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Susie Kuruvilla, CPA, CPRP

Facilities

VIKING PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:

Administrative Office
4374 Old Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-7788

HUNT CLUB PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:

920 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-7788

HUNT CLUB PARK AQUATIC CENTER:

900 N. Hunt Club Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 599-3780

FITNATION:

1655 Nations Drive
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 623-4506

Park District facilities also include 25 parks located in neighborhoods throughout Gurnee that feature playgrounds, sports fields and courts, trails and conservation areas.

Park District

Strategic About Fun

In 2017 the Gurnee Park District approved its Strategic Plan to guide the district through 2022. After conducting several community planning meetings and interviewing community leaders and stakeholders, seven initiatives emerged and will set the direction for the future of Gurnee parks and recreational programming.

The first, Excellence in Parks and Facilities, outlines the ways in which the district plans to maintain and update 28 park sites, 2 community centers, an outdoor aquatic center and spray pad and FitNation, a 75,000 sq. ft. fitness facility. The second initiative is focused on delivering exceptional programs and services. The District offers a full day preschool, swim school, studio dance and youth and adult sports leagues serving more than 26,000 participants annually through these registration-based activities. The District will be investigating new athletic opportunities, greater flexibility and access to participation, as well as introducing new, innovative and/or trending programs that match the community's interests.

Third is to be a leader in promoting health and wellness in the community. Responding to national trends of parks becoming an influence on community health and wellness, the District has the open space acreage and experience in sports and fitness to change negative health trends. Further, Gurnee Park District prides itself on its strong intergovernmental relations and community engagement and intends to maintain and expand the strong relations that currently exist while targeting residents not currently served by programs and volunteer opportunities as part of the fourth initiative.

The fifth initiative, Effective Communications, Marketing and Customer-friendly processes will focus on ways the district can deliver first class customer service while the sixth and seventh initiatives are focused on financial stability and highly engaged staff, fundamentals that are necessary to the long-term sustainability of the district.

Overall, the plan is focused on maintaining stability and fostering adaptability to meet the present and future needs of the community. Residents are always encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestion via phone or email. The plan can be found online in further detail at www.gurneeparkdistrict.com.

Park Feature - Ravinia



Ravinia Park, your own personal, innovative park. This location has something for every age from climbing walls, rainforest-themed play structures and six different slides. Ravinia Park was remodeled in 2016 to ensure all Gurnee residents have access to fun and safe outdoor recreational opportunities close to home.

Parents, there is something for you, too. Need a break from running around with your children? We created many seats, picnic tables and a shelter to give you a break from the sun and running around.

Amenities include baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, a picnic shelter, a playground that is wheelchair accessible as well as a soccer field, trail system, volleyball courts and a parking lot.

Park District

Million Steps in the Right Direction

GO Gurnee is wrapping up its second summer as a community walking movement taking more than a million steps in a healthier direction.

Inspired by a presentation and challenge from former Surgeon General, Vivek K. Murthy, to encourage more movement among US residents, the



PRESENTED BY GURNEE PARK DISTRICT

Gurnee Park District set out to find out what might happen when they recruited nearly 100 influential Gurnee leaders and local businesses to get walking for at least 30 minutes a day and to encourage others to do the same. Susie Kuruvilla, Gurnee Park District Executive Director, challenged the park staff to find ways to get Gurnee residents moving after learning that nearly 60% of the community is overweight or obese. She echoed the sentiments of Murthy, "that simply walking is one of the easiest ways to make a positive lifestyle change and improve a person's health and well-being".

The results have been remarkable. To date, GO Gurnee has been the host to two spring community walks with hundreds of residents in attendance including the addition of furry friends in 2017; a Pokemon Go walking event combining technology and walking; Stories and Strollers, a self-guided story walk through the park in partnership with the Warren Newport Library; Walk with the Mayor, an alternative to Coffee with the Mayor; and several "pop-up" events leading walks for area church groups like Bethel Lutheran. It is easy to tell who is supporting the movement by many men, women and children wearing the highly recognizable bright blue Go shirt and furry friends wearing orange bandanas around town, including a dedicated group of 20+ walkers who meet each Saturday at a new outdoor location as part of the GO Gurnee Walking Club.

With over two hundred and fifty champions to date and countless participants, GO Gurnee is also moving in directions beyond the individual. Park officials have been working with the Gurnee Walkability Committee to elevate the priority of improving pedestrian access and connectivity throughout the Village. GO Gurnee has partnered with Live Well Lake County, a Lake County Health Department initiative, to package the movement in such a way that all Lake County communities can model active efforts in their areas.

Additionally, the Lake County Department of Transportation is exploring a partnership with the GO movement to assist in the dissemination of pedestrian education. Both Waukegan and Antioch have also launched their own GO movements with similar success and inquiries are coming in from coast to coast as other recreation agencies and public agencies are looking for a dynamic way to change the activity level of their residents.



So how can you get involved? If you are an individual, you can visit www.gogurnee.com to become a champ and connect with the GO GURNEE Facebook page for helpful tips, motivation and event announcements. Join the GO GURNEE Fitbit community online to engage in step challenges. For businesses, contact gogurnee@gurneeparkdistrict.com for more information on how your business can support the movement.

District Events

Fall and Winter Special Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming fall and winter special events!

- Saturday, August 19, 2017: GO GURNEE Story Walk at Hunt Club Park starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 15, 2017: Touch-A-Truck at Hunt Club Park Parking Lot from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 14, 2017: Trick or Treat Path at Viking Park from 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 4, 2017: Super Saturday and Superhero Sprint from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Hunt Club Park and Community Center
- Sunday, December 3, 2017: Viking Park Singers Holiday Concert at Viking Park Community Center - exact times TBD
- Saturday, December 9, 2017: Breakfast with Santa at Viking Park Community Center from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with two separate seatings

Visit www.gurneeparkdistrict.com or www.facebook.com/gurneeparkdist.com for updates and event activities!



District Awards

GPD Staff and Volunteers Recognized

Volunteers are essential to Gurnee Park District (GPD), and they provide an invaluable service to the Gurnee community. Becoming a GPD volunteer is a great way to build confidence and self-esteem, make a difference in someone's life and be a part of the community.

Our volunteers support special events, coach youth sports, serve lunch to seniors, assist with crafts and science projects and keep Gurnee's parks beautiful among many other activities. Last year, the volunteers donated over 10,050 hours to support Gurnee.

Each year, the Illinois Association of Park Districts and Illinois Park and Recreation Association allow member agencies, like GPD, to submit the names of employees, volunteers, elected officials and civic leaders who go above and beyond assisting park districts. This year, Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners and staff nominated Doris Sundell, Reggie Collymore, Knauz Auto Park and Angie Haynes for their outstanding efforts to help foster Gurnee Park District's mission of quality parks and programs in Gurnee. The District is grateful to these people and so many others who have devoted themselves to our mission of promoting fun and preserving nature!

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Chelsi Todd, Volunteer Coordinator, at 847-599-3755 or ctodd@gurneeparkdistrict.com.



Park District

Park District Financially Sound and Ready for the Future

It is a priority of Gurnee Park District to sustain long-term financial strength. For the past 19 years, Gurnee Park District has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Further, the District also receives the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award annually. In order to receive the award, the District had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guideline and communications device.

The Park District has managed a balanced budget for many years and continues that financial policy through all economic conditions. The Park District's main revenue sources are fees and charges for services and property taxes. Just over 60% of the revenue collected by the Park District is through fees and charges for services and sources other than property taxes. This revenue diversity is very important to the continued financial strength of the Park District. The District also relies on grants/intergovernmental agreements and developer impact fees to fund its capital growth. This past year, Gurnee Park District collected a total of \$14M in revenue.

Additionally, the Park District spent \$10.8M on operating expenditures with an additional \$1.3M spent on capital projects and \$2.4M on debt service during this past year. Gurnee Park District is committed to using our financial resources consistent with the Park District vision: As a nationwide leader in our field, be the premier provider of community driven and innovative park and recreation experiences, while maintaining financial stability. The Park District is able to achieve our vision as well as continue the "standard of excellence" in our services while maintaining financial strength.

Revenue Sources



Village of Gurnee

Third Annual Legions of Craft Beer Fest - September 16, 2017



When the Gurnee American Legion Post 771 came to the Village in need of assistance in 2015, Mayor Kristina Kovarik proposed a craft beer festival as a creative, community-building way to raise funds for the Legion and other local veterans' organization, Lake County Honor Flight. Months later, the first annual Legions of Craft Beer Fest made its debut in Gurnee with all proceeds benefiting local veterans.

"This is the perfect way to offer another spectacular community event while raising funds for our veterans at the Gurnee American Legion and Lake County Honor Flight," said Mayor Kovarik. "The community has a chance to come together for a worthy cause while having a blast along the way!"

The festival is about to kick off its third year and is set for **Saturday, September 16th from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Gurnee Mills, Parking Lot E**. The event will feature craft beer from more than 50 breweries like 3 Floyds and Founders; six gourmet food trucks including returning favorite Toasty Cheese; live music from headlining band 7th heaven, country rock group The Nick Lynch Band and R&B group The Keelan Jones Experience!; beer alternatives like wine and cider; and fest-themed merchandise.

This year's festival will also feature a variety of new additions as we continue to expand. Festgoers can expect an increase in breweries to 65; a Bloody Mary bar; a voting on the favorite brewery of the day; a new t-shirt design in men's and women's sizes; and a new VIP package that includes exclusive beers from donating vendors, an hour early access to the grounds at 1:00 p.m. and access to a VIP area.

Tickets can be purchased at www.gurneelegionsofbeer.com. We can also be seen selling promotional tickets at Gurnee Days this year from August 10th through August 13th. Be sure to stop by our booth, or check our website to receive a \$5 discount on General Admission tickets with the promo code **LEGION**. Packages vary from General Admission for \$40, VIP for \$75 and Designated Driver for \$10 (includes unlimited soda and water). General Admission and VIP ticket holders receive 20 sampling tickets, and all ticket holders receive a commemorative glass and unlimited entry to the grounds.

As we strive to make the festival bigger and better each year, the event has shown tremendous growth and is developing a dedicated following. From the fest's beginning in 2015 to last year's 2016 event, guest attendance increased by 30%, over 1,600 people, and brewer attendance increased from 38 to 53. In the first two years, the event raised over \$45,000 for the Legion and \$11,600 for Honor Flight. Our goal this year is to keep expanding so we may better serve the missions of our beneficiaries. Through the partnership of founding organizations the Village of Gurnee, Timothy O'Toole's, the Gurnee American Legion, Gurnee Mills, 102.3 XLC and Lake County Honor Flight, we hope to reach our goal and look forward to the future of the Legions of Craft Beer Fest.

**\$5 Off
w/ Promo Code
LEGION**

Offer ends 8/13
@ midnight

Village News

Flood Recovery

The Lake County area was hit with an unprecedented rain fall event on Wednesday, July 12th. The event had an immediate impact on homes and businesses due to the record amounts in a short amount of time. Over 400 homes in Gurnee have reported that they took on water and were damaged from the rainfall. In the days to follow, the Des Plaines River continued to rise and impact homes and businesses in the vicinity of the river. Village crews responded by mobilizing volunteers to assist with sandbagging, closing roads impacted by flooding and activating the Emergency Operations Center to answer calls and ensure the safety of the community.

Citizen Police Academy

The Gurnee Police Department will again be holding its Citizen Police Academy this fall. This 36-hour course gives residents a working knowledge of the Department and its various operations. Classes will be held every Thursday beginning Thursday, August 25th. For more information and to sign up, visit the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/police/cpa.

Mosquito Abatement

The Village contracts with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. to provide mosquito abatement services. Clarke notifies the Village the day a community-wide treatment will be conducted. The Village then notifies residents via the website (www.gurnee.il.us), email listserv, CTY and social media including Twitter and Nextdoor. Learn more about mosquito abatement at www.gurnee.il.us/residents/services/mosquito-control

Keeping Posted

KRISTINA M. KOVARIK, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes Michael Jacobs
Greg Garner Cheryl Ross
Thomas Hood Karen Thorstenson

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Patrick Muetz

VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies: 9-1-1

Police Non-Emergency: (847) 599-7000

Fire Non-Emergency: (847) 599-6600

Village Hall: (847) 599-7500

Utility Billing: (847) 599-7525

Community Development: (847) 599-7550

Public Works: (847) 599-6800

Visit us online at www.gurnee.il.us.

Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

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

Postal Patron Gurnee, IL 60031

Don't live in Gurnee?

If you are in any of the Gurnee school districts but don't live in the Village, find all the information for your community on these websites.

- Beach Park: villageofbeachpark.com
- Green Oaks: greenoaks.org
- Grayslake: villageofgrayslake.com
- Lake County: lakecountyil.gov
- Lindenhurst: lindenhurstil.org
- Park City: parkcityillinois.com
- Old Mill Creek: villageofoldmillcreek.org
- Warren Township: warrentownship.net
- Wadsworth: villageofwadsworth.org
- Waukegan: waukeganweb.net

For the Village of Gurnee, visit our website: gurnee.il.us.

Village Update

For each issue of *Keeping Posted*, the Village will call out one or two exceptional projects, events or employees that epitomize the Village's strategic goals of engaging the public, preserving our community and quality of life or advancing our services in response to public needs.

Blue Ribbon Commission Recommends Improvement Plan for Gurnee Sidewalks

To gain a better understanding of the pedestrian challenges in the community, Mayor Kovarik put together a Blue Ribbon Commission to study walking and biking infrastructure. The commission was made up of active bikers, Go Gurnee Champions and local leaders who have put together a plan for how Gurnee can be better connected for pedestrians. By looking at the entire community and nearby parks, schools and existing trails, the commission recommended 30 projects that would improve the connectivity of the community. An example of recommended projects included adding a trail along Hunt Club Road from Washington Street to the Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center where there is currently only a paved shoulder. You can view the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) or online at www.gurnee.il.us/BRC.

Photo Credits:

All photos courtesy of the Village of Gurnee, Districts 50, 56, 121 & Gurnee Park District.

Community Update

Curious about new businesses, projects or events in the Village? Be in the know with this listing of new or upcoming ventures!

Save The Date!

- Gurnee Trick-or-Treat is Saturday, October 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The date of trick-or-treat was changed to Saturday as part of the 2017 Village Calendar update.

Gurnee Park District Touch-A-Truck

- Touch-A-Truck will be held at the Hunt Club Aquatic Center Parking Lot on Friday, September 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is an opportunity for families to see fire engines, public works equipment and police cars up close. More information on this event can be found at www.gurneeparkdistrict.com.

IDOT Widening of US-41 Bridge:

- IDOT has started a three year project to widen Grand Avenue under the US-41/Union Pacific Railroad bridge. This project will cause traffic delays to the area, but upon completion it will include turn lanes to help traffic flow through the area. To keep up with construction updates, subscribe to our construction updates email listserv at www.gurnee.il.us/subscribe