

# Keeping Posted

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IT'S OKAY  
To Say  
**NO**  
TO PANHANDLING

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5K, PARADE, RIB FEST,  
FIREWORKS, CONCERTS,  
FOOD BOOTHS, CAR SHOW  
AND LOTS OF FUN.



## Gurnee Days Returns August 6th & 7th!

The Gurnee Park District and the Village of Gurnee are proud to announce that Gurnee Days will be held on Saturday, August 6th and Sunday, August 7th. After a community-wide contest, the 2022 theme will be "Life's a Zoo!"

While details are still pending, officials have confirmed the parade to take place on Sunday, August 7th at 12:00 p.m. Additionally, there will be a 5K, rib fest, car show, fireworks, concerts, food vendors and more! Further details will be released as made available.

## Outdoor Sirens

Summer weather means an increased chance of severe storms. The Village has twelve outdoor sirens to warn residents to move indoors and seek shelter in the event of threatening weather. In the event of a severe storm warning or tornado watch, the outdoor warning system will sound a VOICE MESSAGE ONLY. In the event of a tornado warning, the system will sound a VOICE MESSAGE & SIREN. Note: *the siren system is intended to be heard only while outdoors.* Indoor warnings are relayed through radio and television. During severe weather, additional information can be received by tuning your radio to WKRS 1220 AM or WXLC 102.3 FM.

When the sirens are activated, residents should NOT call 911 and just seek shelter and monitor local emergency broadcast stations.

The outdoor siren system is tested monthly on the first Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. For a list of siren locations and more info, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/outdoorsirens](http://www.gurnee.il.us/outdoorsirens).

# Upcoming Events

## Village Meetings

### Village Board

June  
**20**  
7:00 p.m.

June  
**27**  
7:00 p.m.

July  
**11**  
7:00 p.m.

July  
**25**  
7:00 p.m.

### Planning & Zoning

July  
**6**  
7:30 p.m.

July  
**20**  
7:30 p.m.

August  
**3**  
7:30 p.m.

### Civil Service

June  
**28**  
7:00 p.m.

July  
**26**  
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 purple are Civil Service meetings.

## Community Events

### StoryWalk @ Hunt Club Park

Friday, July 1st to Thursday, July 7th  
8:00 a.m.

Hunt Club Park | 900 Hunt Club Rd.  
Enjoy a walk around Hunt Club Park while reading Call Me Tree/ Lláname Árbol  
[www.wnpl.info](http://www.wnpl.info)

### Hot Dog with the Mayor

Saturday, July 30th  
Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Big Norm's Hot Dogs  
3540 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL  
Meet Mayor Tom Hood for a Hot Dog

### Looking for more events?

Check out the Gurnee Park District ([www.gurneeparkdistrict.com](http://www.gurneeparkdistrict.com)), Warren-Newport Public Library ([www.wnpl.info](http://www.wnpl.info)) and Warren Township ([www.warrentownship.net](http://www.warrentownship.net)) websites for even more events and information!

# Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

Summer has finally arrived and as we all head outdoors, it's a great time of year to "think green" and to talk about the Village's environmental accomplishments. I am very proud of our efforts and our continued commitment to sustainability.



The Village's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) remains an important driver of how the Village addresses and gains community involvement for environmentally focused initiatives. The Committee's recent survey had 248 residents respond with their views on environmental issues. Progress on many of the concerns raised are being addressed by using the Metropolitan Mayor Caucus Greenest Region Compact 2.0 as a guide. Gurnee endorsed the Compact last year and the ESC has been using it to help develop strategic action plans meet environmental goals. The Committee has also been working on local recycling opportunities and is now incorporating students from Warren Township High School to serve in order to gain fresh perspectives and involve the Village's youth. It's satisfying to see a project that I started as a trustee come to fruition.

Additionally in the coming months, the Village will be launching the "Green Gurnee" Awards to recognize businesses that support green initiatives. This will highlight local businesses' efforts to reduce their impact on the environment and, in doing so, contribute to a more environmentally-focused community.

Gurnee is a leader in utilizing renewable energy, ranking in the EPA's top 100 Green Power Communities in the country. I also had the pleasure of receiving the SolSmart Bronze designation on behalf of Gurnee recognizing our efforts in making the Village more solar-friendly and sustainable. In addition, the Village of Gurnee has also been recognized as an official "Tree City USA" for over 25 years now – an award given for our preservation and replenishment of trees.

As it relates to air quality, the past two years saw significant progress in reducing annual ethylene oxide emissions (EtO) in our community. Last year, EtO emissions were well below the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) allowed amounts – emissions fell to under 22 pounds annually, down from nearly 10,000 pounds in 2010. In addition, we are receiving reports directly from an independent, internationally recognized company that monitors emissions. Clean air for all our residents continues to be a major priority.

It is also worth mentioning that the Village is one of the proud, founding members of the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). As a member since the early-1990s, Gurnee residents have received high quality drinking water that exceeds the most stringent water treatment standards. CLCJAWA is consistently recognized for producing some of the highest quality water in the United States. In addition, it's not uncommon for the Agency to host international visitors interested in duplicating CLCJAWA's operations and standards.

You can read more about Gurnee's environmental goals and achievements on the Village's website. Fresh water, clean air, renewable energy and environmental responsibility – Gurnee's Got it! Until my next Mayor's Message, I wish you and your family a safe and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood



# Panhandling: What Can Be Done to Help?

Panhandling can be found in most busy communities, generating many questions and complaints from the public. While we may get a good feeling by providing money to a panhandler, the reality is that panhandlers who are truly in need require more resources than small donations of money. *Therefore, we encourage you to not give money to panhandlers.* The good news is that Lake County has many services and staff dedicated to helping those in need. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding panhandling:

## What is panhandling?

Panhandling is defined in local ordinance as “any act of asking strangers for money in public places.”

## Is panhandling illegal?

Asking for money is a protected act under the First Amendment. Asking for money in public areas, including the entrances to parking lots, is not a violation of law. However, stepping into the roadway to accept money is not allowed and is a violation of Sec. 50-38 of the Gurnee Municipal Code. Additionally, if a person is asking for money on private property and is asked to leave by the property owner and they don't then that is illegal and considered trespassing.

## Why shouldn't I give money to panhandlers?

Donations of cash will not help solve the underlying reasons why someone panhandles, and giving to panhandlers only encourages more panhandling. Additionally, not all panhandlers are homeless even though they may be in need of other critical services. Many of the stories panhandlers use to solicit money are not true.

## What should I do if I encounter a panhandler?

- Do not give them money because giving money encourages more panhandling.
- Refer panhandlers or anyone you see who may be in need to United Way Lake County's 2-1-1 program. They have a wide-range of services and housing resources. They can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 at any time to connect with services that help those in need.
- Contact PADS Lake County at (847) 616-5557. PADS will send one of their outreach staff to determine what services may be needed.
- Consider making a donation or volunteering for United Way's 2-1-1 Lake County or another local charity, which is dedicated to assisting Lake County residents in need.

## How does the Police Department handle panhandling?

- Our police officers will intervene when panhandlers commit traffic offenses or engage in criminal activity. If you witness a panhandler breaking the law, contact the Gurnee Police Department. The emergency number is 9-1-1 and the non-emergency number is (847) 599-7000.
- Our police officers are very responsive and will take immediate action if a crime is being committed. Proactive community assistance with reducing criminal activity is invaluable.
- If a law is broken, a ticket will be issued.
- Police officers refer panhandlers they encounter to available county social services, such as PADS Lake County, but cannot force them to receive services.
- The Police Department monitors legal developments related to panhandling.

## What should I do as a business/property owner if I encounter panhandlers on my property?

As a business/property owner, you may ask a panhandler to leave private property (i.e. if they are in a parking lot or are not in the right-of-way). If they do not leave upon request, they are trespassing.

# Village Reminders

## Call Before You Dig!

No matter if your project is large or small, Illinois law requires anyone digging to call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (J.U.L.I.E.) hotline at least two working days prior to the start of excavation in order to locate and mark any utilities in the area in which you are working. The J.U.L.I.E. hotline can be reached at (800) 892-0123 or 811, 24 hours a day. Alternatively, requests may be submitted online at [illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com).

## 2021 Water Quality Report Available

The Village has published its annual water quality Consumer Confidence Report at [www.gurnee.il.us/2021waterquality](http://www.gurnee.il.us/2021waterquality). This report gives customers an understanding of the source of the Village's water, how our water is treated and the regulated compounds it contains, as well as the levels of these compounds and minerals. For any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (847) 599-6800.

## Building Permits 101

Please remember that when you obtain a building permit for your project, the permit must be displayed in your front window or door, visible from the street. If you have hired a contractor that is securing this permit for you, make sure that the contractor gives you the permit prior to starting any work. This will help to avoid situations of the contractor potentially starting a project before the permit has been secured, which is a violation of Village Ordinance. If you have questions regarding whether your permit has been secured, we urge you to contact the Community Development Department at (847) 599-7550 and we will be happy to verify the information for you.

# Seasonal Tips

## e-Bills for Utilities

The Village of Gurnee is pleased to offer a paperless option for your Village utility bill, where you will receive an email alert with your utility bill attached. It's easy, secure and takes just a few minutes to fill out the email authorization form. Residents registered for paperless billing will no longer receive a paper copy of their Village utility bill through the mail. Participation in the paperless bill is voluntary. Those who do not register will continue to receive a paper copy of their water bill. In order to enroll, have your account number ready, an email address and access to the Village website.

Visit [www.gurnee.il.us/paperless](http://www.gurnee.il.us/paperless) to enroll today!

## Leak Detection

Little leaks inside your home can waste large amounts of water and cost you money on your water utility bill. Below are some tips for identifying possible leaks inside your home.

- Toilets: If after flushing the toilet, water continues to run, if you have to jiggle the handle to make it stop running or if you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty, the toilet should be repaired or replaced to avoid excessive water usage. One way to determine if you have a leak is to add dark food coloring to the tank and do not flush for 40 minutes. Do not flush, if the water in the bowl changes colors, you have a leak.
- Whole House Humidifiers: Regular maintenance can keep a humidifier working well, but if issues arise, troubleshooting may be useful.
- Bathroom, Kitchen and Outdoor Faucets: Occasionally, faucets may leak in other places such as the on/off handles. You may have a leak if there are visible drips at the piping or if there are wet, damp areas underneath the sink.

If you have questions regarding your utility bill, contact Village Hall at (847) 599-7500.

# Orion Water Device Changeout Program

In 2021, the Village kicked off a multi-year program to changeout all Orion communication devices in the community to modernized units. The Orion device transmits data from the water meter to the Village to record usage. The existing devices have a short range that requires Village crews to drive through neighborhoods to collect meter data. The new Orion devices will communicate water data more frequently via a cellular network and eliminate the need to drive around to collect meter data.

The changeout will occur over a four-year period. Most Orion devices are located on the exterior of homes so the changeout in those situations will not require appointments. Staff will work through a neighborhood one house at a time to remove the old Orion and install the new one. If an Orion device is located inside or if there are issues prohibiting an exterior changeout, the resident will be notified by a door tag of the need to set up a time when we can enter the home.

During the changeout, water service will not be disrupted. Employees will have Village identification badges and be wearing bright yellow vests. Staff will knock on doors prior to beginning work to keep residents informed. To verify Village employment, please call (847) 599-6800. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the Changeout Program:

### What work is being performed?

The remote water meter reader is being replaced. This device transmits the reading from your water meter back to our meter reading software.

### Why is the remote water meter reader being replaced?

The current remote readers are nearing their end of life. Replacing them proactively will ensure accurate meter reading and billing in the future.

### Is there a cost for the replacement?

No, there is no cost to the customer.

### Will my water bill increase?

Replacing the remote water meter reader will not cause an increase in water consumption.

### Is this a "Smart Meter?"

No, the device being replaced does not register consumption, it only transmits the reading from your existing water meter to the Village meter reading software.



New Orion (left) v Old Orion (right)  
weather shields removed



New Orion (Tan)



Old Orion Devices (Grey)

# 2022 Construction

Summer is not only a time for fun and relaxation, but it is also the start of the busy construction season. A number of projects are underway in the Village of Gurnee to provide the community with infrastructure improvements. Many of these projects are being carried out as part of the Village's Multi-Year Capital Program, but also by the Lake County Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## Village of Gurnee Projects

**Street Resurfacing Program:** This year's Street Resurfacing Program consists of resurfacing 5.2 miles of streets as well as pavement patching and curb and sidewalk repairs. The following are just some of the streets planned to be resurfaced this year:

- Old Grand Avenue, Fire Station #1 to East end
- First Street, Old Grand Ave to Route 132
- Centennial Court, Depot Rd to East end
- Porett Drive, Delany Rd to East End
- Swanson Court, Northwestern Ave to Northwestern Ave
- Northwestern Avenue, Pacific Ave to Grandville Ave
- Waveland Avenue, Route 132 to Woodlawn Ave
- Brookhaven Road, O'Plaine Rd to East end
- Kensington Court, Brookhaven Rd to Brookhaven Rd
- Buckingham Drive, Brookhaven Rd to Frontage Rd
- Garnet Court, East end to Queen Ann Ln
- Liberty Lane, Constitution Ave to Lawson Blvd

\*The full list of streets planned to be resurfaced can be found at [gurnee.il.us/construction](http://gurnee.il.us/construction).

**Sidewalk Replacement Program:** The Village's contractor, Schroeder & Schroeder Inc., has begun work on sidewalk replacements within the project limits. The contractor will be working through various subdivisions as weather permits and will be providing door hangers to residents that will lose access to their driveways prior to the work beginning. After the contractor completes the concrete repairs, they will focus on restoration of damaged grass, asphalt or concrete driveway patching. Other repairs for brick pavers, irrigation piping and dog fences are the responsibility of the homeowner. Paving crews will begin road milling operations for this year's program once adjacent concrete work is completed.

**Lawrence Avenue and Route 21 Water Main Project:** The Village will be replacing approximately 0.3 miles of water main between Lawrence Avenue from Woodlawn Avenue to Route 132 and Route 21 at Heather Ridge's Route 21 entrance. Construction will begin in the coming weeks and notifications will be sent out to residents regarding the work. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August, weather permitting.

## Illinois Department of Transportation Projects

**US41 Culvert Rehabilitation Project:** The Illinois Department of Transportation is in the process of rehabilitating the ends of several culverts due to deterioration and needed repairs. Crews have shifted US 41 northbound traffic north of Route 21 to the shoulder of the roadway and are expected to taper and reduce south bound traffic to one lane.

## Lake County Department of Transportation Projects

**Gages Lake Road Resurfacing:** This project consists of resurfacing Gages Lake Road from US Route 45 to IL Route 21. The contractor anticipates beginning in June with curb, gutter and driveway culvert replacements. After that work is completed, crews will begin resurfacing the roadway. The project is expected to be completed by mid-August.

For regularly updated information, visit [www.gurnee.il.us/construction](http://www.gurnee.il.us/construction) or call the Engineering Division at (847) 599-7550. You can also sign up for construction updates at [www.gurnee.il.us/subscribe](http://www.gurnee.il.us/subscribe) by clicking on the "Construction" option.

# Community News

## WTHS Referendum

On June 28, residents of Warren Township High School District 121 (WTHS) will vote on a limiting rate increase referendum question. An approved referendum would generate approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value. Compared to other Lake County high school districts, WTHS currently ranks last in per-pupil funding and has for many years.

### Proposed Use of Limiting Rate Funds:

If approved by voters, proceeds of a limiting rate increase will be used, to the fullest extent possible, to address the following needs:

- Maintaining the 8-period day needed to continue offering many Advanced Placement (AP) courses, ensuring full participation in career and technical education classes at the Technology Campus and preserving current curricular and co-curricular programs;
- Improving academic support and mental health services;
- Continuing to offer band, drama, choir and other student activities and clubs;
- Continuing to offer athletic programming across all grade levels; and
- Reducing student fees to levels comparable with other Lake County high school districts.

Visit [www.d121.org/referendum](http://www.d121.org/referendum) for more info.

## Sounds of Summer Concerts

Join the Gurnee Park District for the Sounds of Summer FREE concert series for all ages. The concerts will take place at the Viking Park Band Shell at 4374 Old Grand Ave. from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. each evening.

The 2022 dates announced include:

- Boy Band Night  
Thursday, July 21
- American English  
Thursday, August 18

Be sure to bring blankets or chairs and snacks or drinks. Concessions will also be available. Dogs are welcome but they should be well behaved and remain on a leash at all times. Remember to check the Rainout Line by calling (847) 268-2080 for inclement weather updates.



# Keeping Posted

THOMAS B. HOOD, MAYOR  
Andy Harris, Clerk

## VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes Cheryl Ross  
Greg Garner Karen Thorstenson  
Quin O'Brien Kevin Woodside

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](http://www.gurnee.il.us).

## Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, IL 60031

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

## Postal Patron

### Gurnee Fire Department Blood Drive - July 9th

Want to help the Gurnee Fire Department save lives? Join us on Saturday, July 9th for a mobile blood drive at Fire Station 2 (6581 Dada Drive) from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All blood types are needed. Appointments are strongly recommended but not required. Use code ORD0G110 when making your appointment. You can make your appointment today by visiting [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org).

Can't make the drive? Stop by Vitalant's Gurnee office (5250 Grand Ave) and use code ORD0G110 to take part in our event!

## Welcome New Businesses

- Abundance Care & Wellness (5101 Washington St) - in-home supportive care
- AZ Polymers (5675 Centerpoint Ct) - polycarbonate sheet production
- Base Solutions (1840 Northwestern Ave) - HVAC supply
- BTB USA Corp (209 Ambrogio Dr) - machinery parts distributor
- Country Financial (4181 Grove Ave) - financial services
- Crumbl Cookies (7105 Grand Ave) - cookie bakery
- Exclusive Barbershop (1810 N Delany Rd) - barber
- Forefront Financial Group (5101 Washington St) - financial planning services
- Jack Martin State Farm (1761 Dilleys Rd) - relocation/insurance agency
- Lake Villa Dental (5649 Manchester Dr) - general and cosmetic dentistry
- Leica Biosystems (905 Lakeside Dr) - medical device repair
- Letom USA (1460 St Paul Ave) - wholesale textiles
- Lou Malnati's (4949 Grand Ave) - carryout pizzeria
- Meyer Machine (1400 St Paul Ave) - duct/vent equipment
- NMA Group (345 N. Rt. 41) - transportation/logistics
- Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen (6593 Grand Ave) - fast casual restaurant
- State Career College (3575 Grand Ave) - post secondary healthcare training
- Timothy Evans, P.C. (5101 Washington St) - legal services
- University Foot Associates (731 S Rt 21) - podiatry office

For updates on new developments, please check out the Projects in Progress report on the Village's website: [www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress](http://www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress).

## New Businesses Coming Soon

- A&I Towing (1211 Estes Ave) - automotive service facility
- Anthony Buick GMC (5589 Northridge Dr) - relocation/auto dealer
- Art Expressions (905 Lakeside Dr) - art design/installation/consulting
- Caribana Island Bar & Grill (5250 Grand Ave) - full service restaurant
- Children's Dentistry of Lake County (5384 Grand Ave) - pediatric dentistry office
- College of Lake County Advanced Technology Center (7735 Grand Ave) - post secondary manufacturing instruction
- Cooper's Hawk (7735 Grand Ave) - restaurant & winery
- Cranial Technologies (1800 Nations Dr) - infant orthotics
- Discount Tire (1508 Nations Dr) - retail/service center
- Elite Headquarters (1800 Nations Dr) - solar energy services office
- Ferguson Enterprises (1850 Northwestern Ave) - plumbing supply warehouse
- First Care Transportation (4237 Grove Ave) - medical transport dispatch
- Gurnee Travel (5455 Grand Ave) - travel agency
- iGeek (Gurnee Mills) - smartphone repair
- IL Alternative Medicine (1800 Nations Dr) - telehealth practice
- Imaginary Artz (Gurnee Mills) - art/apparel, screen printing
- Lundgren Law Office (1800 Nations Dr) - legal services
- Lyte Technology (1486 St Paul Ave) - computer hardware
- Royal Beauty Nails (3900 Washington St) - nail salon
- Signature Heating & Cooling (83 Ambrogio Dr) - HVAC contractor
- The Wright Advocate (1800 Nations Dr) - counseling services
- Toppers Pizza (5572 Grand Ave) - carryout pizzeria
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe (7010 Grand Ave) - fast casual restaurant
- United Stone Works (1514 St Paul Ave) - granite and marble fabrication
- US Bank (6593 Grand Ave) - financial services
- Weed Man (905 Lakeside Dr) - lawn care
- Youth & Family Counseling (5101 Washington St) - nonprofit, counseling services