

Keeping Posted

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Shop and Dine Local this Holiday Season

With the holiday season upon us, the search for great deals and savings is on. However, before you look online, make sure to visit Gurnee businesses first.

According to research firm Civic Economics, for every \$100 you spend at a locally-owned store or restaurant, \$68 of that remains in the community and supports everything from jobs to government services (including police and fire services and road maintenance). Almost every dollar spent online leaves the community and has no direct benefit to you after you spend it. So, make a wise investment and ensure that your dollars keep working for you - shop and dine local this holiday season and see the dividends pay out throughout the entire year.

For a searchable list of local businesses, visit the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/business/directory/list.

Breakfast With Santa

Santa Claus is coming to Gurnee! Enjoy pancakes, sausage and Canadian bacon with your family at this annual holiday breakfast. Visit with Santa and his Elf, share your holiday wishes and take home a special gift. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the unforgettable holiday memories!

Breakfast with Santa Claus will take place on Saturday, December 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Avenue). There are two separate seatings for this event: Seating 1 at 8:30 a.m., and Seating 2 at 10:15 a.m. The fee for this event is \$8/resident or \$10/non-resident. For more information on this breakfast event and to register, visit www.gurneeparkdistrict.com or call 847-623-7788.



Upcoming Events

Village Meetings

Village Board

Dec.

3

7:00 p.m.

Dec.

17

7:00 p.m.

Jan.

7

7:00 p.m.

Jan.

28

7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

Dec.

5

7:30 p.m.

Dec.

19

7:30 p.m.

Jan.

2

7:30 p.m.

Jan.

16

7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

Dec.

18

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.

Community Events

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train

Thursday, December 6th
5:50 p.m.

Viking Park

(See back page for details)



Frosty Fest 2019

Saturday, January 12, 2019

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Bittersweet Golf Course



Looking for more events?

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

Municipal Electric Aggregation Program Update

The current ComEd rate was recently reset BELOW our aggregation program rate. The current ComEd rate is \$0.0729 per kWh. The Village's program rate is \$0.0738 per kWh. Residents can return to the lower ComEd rate at any time, with no early termination fee. To do so, call MC Squared Energy at 855-564-8130. Be sure to have your ComEd account number available when you call.

Background: When the Village last renewed its aggregation program, ComEd had published its annual residential rate of \$0.0776 per kWh. The Village received numerous bids to renew its program and selected the lowest rate of \$0.0738 per kWh from MC Squared. Months later, ComEd unexpectedly adjusted its rate downward to \$0.0729. This rate will be in place through May 2019.

Why did ComEd reset its rate? ComEd is part of the PJM grid, a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of electricity in 13 states. PJM is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. PJM's charges are included in the energy charge for all suppliers, including ComEd.

The unexpected reprieve is due to a settlement negotiated by the Illinois Commerce Commission and regulators in other states that make up the 13-state regional power grid called the PJM Interconnection, of which northern Illinois is a part. The pact affected the allocation of costs of transporting power to population centers. Flat rates were charged across the grid. But it turns out East coast states are more expensive to serve. Thus, some areas including Northern Illinois were subsidizing Eastern states. FERC had PJM re-set its pricing, cutting the cost of transmission and reimbursing electric consumers for past overpayment in those areas.

Will the Village's rate be adjusted downward? No. The Village negotiates fixed rates for the duration of its contracts and asks its suppliers to bear the risk of regulatory changes during its contract. As such, the Village rate will not change.

Future inclusion in Aggregation Program? If a resident chooses to leave the program for the lower ComEd rate, they will be able to rejoin the program after six months, should they choose to do so. If they remain with ComEd until the end of the current aggregation program, they will automatically be included in any renewal program the Village may put in place.

Ethylene Oxide and Air Quality in Gurnee

The Mayor and Village Board share our residents' concerns over the recent Chicago Tribune article regarding air quality and ethylene oxide (EtO). Like you, our families live in Gurnee and we want to be sure we are not being exposed to harmful levels of air pollution. The Village of Gurnee is in contact with state and federal legislators who are currently working to address ethylene oxide regulations. The IEPA and US EPA are the lead agencies on this issue and have the jurisdiction authority and responsibility for monitoring, permitting and regulating ethylene oxide emissions. The US EPA has created a web page specific to our area that contains the most current information on this issue. You can learn more about ethylene oxide in Lake County at: <https://www.epa.gov/il/addressing-ethylene-oxide-emissions-lake-county-illinois>.

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

It is with sincere appreciation for your continued encouragement and support that I take this opportunity to wish each of you the happiest of holidays and the most prosperous New Year.

You have made our Village widely known as a compassionate and friendly place that fosters goodwill and generosity toward those in need. When we gather together with our families and friends to celebrate the holidays, let us be thankful for our blessings, while we remember those who are less fortunate, particularly those across the country who have experienced difficult losses this past year due to more frequent and extreme natural disasters.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we look forward not only as individuals, but collectively, as members of this wonderful Village we all call home.

It has been an exciting year for Gurnee as we've witnessed substantial investment in our capital infrastructure, along our retail corridor and in our neighborhoods as new families move in and update their homes. And we have another year of progress ahead of us!

And you - the residents of Gurnee and your enthusiasm - remain our greatest asset. This shows in our reputation as a great place to live, work, open a business and raise a family. Gurnee is the community of opportunity!

We are entering 2019 in the fortunate position of being a Village without a property tax, healthy reserves, low debt, a balanced budget and well-funded pension plans. This is in large part due to the constant fiscal vigilance of the Village Board and staff, as well as the support from the community for shopping local. There is always more hard work to be done and we are ready to do it in 2019. Our residents are what keeps us motivated to deliver exceptional public services.

Inside this quarter's newsletter is useful information about upcoming events, current issues, and news about Village services over the winter. You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter as well as sign up for a weekly electronic newsletter. Staying connected and transparent with our residents will always be a priority for the Board and staff.

You make me proud to be Mayor of Gurnee and I am honored to continue to serve you. I look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead for all of us in 2019!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa and a very, very Happy New Year!

Mayor Kovarik



Seasonal Reminders

Adopt-a-Hydrant

The Fire Department is looking for volunteers for its "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program. Residents can "adopt" a fire hydrant near their home and ensure it is visible throughout the year in case of a fire. For more information, visit www.gurnee.il.us/adopt-a-hydrant/

Holiday Waste Management Schedule

All solid waste and recycling collection will be delayed by one day following the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Holidays will be observed on December 25 and January 1, therefore there will be no solid waste or recycling collection on both Tuesdays. All collection will be delayed one day from customer's normal pickup day during those weeks.

Christmas Tree Collection

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 2, 2019
- Wednesday, January 9, 2019
- Wednesday, January 16, 2019
- Wednesday, January 23, 2019

In order for a tree to be collected, it must be placed at the curb or the edge of the street by 7:00 a.m. on the pick-up day. All lights and decorations must be removed. Failure to remove decorations or placing the tree in a plastic bag will result in the tree not being collected that week and, consequently, the resident will have to wait until the following week. Trees placed out after January 23, 2019 will not be collected.

Drunk Driving Awareness

To ensure that everyone has a safe holiday season, the Gurnee Police Department will be increasing enforcement during December's "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. Ensure holiday guests have a safe ride home.

Volunteer Fair - Tuesday, December 18th

In an effort to connect volunteers to local organizations serving Gurnee and the nearby community, the Village of Gurnee is hosting our 3rd volunteer fair on Tuesday, December 18th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Gurnee Village Hall (325 North O'Plaine Road). The event is free for all participants and is family friendly. If you are part of a non-profit organization that is in need of volunteers and would like a table at the event, contact the Village at 847-599-7500 or email at comments@village.gurnee.il.us.

Snow Reminders

Keeping the Village's roads and sidewalks safe and clear of snow and ice is a major job. While the Public Works Department does most of the work, a little help from everyone can make a major difference. Below are some friendly reminders on what to do (and not do) during a snowstorm:

Clear Your Sidewalk

The biggest obstacles after a winter storm, aside from the unplowed streets, are impassable sidewalks. While the Village does not require shoveling within a certain time frame, all residents should recognize that shoveling is an important part of keeping sidewalks safe for the public and that the Village strongly encourages residents to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall.

Place Shoveled Snow On Your Yard

The Village's plowing system is designed to handle most snow and ice events with relative ease. However, one variable that even the best system cannot control is when snow is thrown back in the street. This works against plowing and can lead to hazardous, icy conditions for drivers and pedestrians. Please place snow from your driveway and sidewalk on your lawn or parkway instead of in the street. Failure to do so may result in warnings or fines. Residents wishing to report thrown snow can report it to the Code Enforcement Division at (847) 599-7550.

Park Vehicles Off Village Streets

Under Village Code, it is illegal to park a vehicle on a Village street within 12 hours of a two-inch snowfall OR until snow has been removed from Village streets. This is done to ensure that plowing can be done as quickly and efficiently as possible and to minimize unnecessary damage to property. Any vehicle found to be in violation of this ordinance may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

Understanding the Village's Snow & Ice Control Program

Each year, long before snow and ice begin falling, the Public Works Department is diligently preparing for the snow season. Winter storms impact all Village residents, businesses, institutions and the motoring public, and the safety and well-being of the general public is highly dependent on the work of the Department before, during and after each storm event. Understanding how plowing works can be a great help in navigating winter weather. This article is intended to give the public a snapshot of the work that goes into managing roads during each winter event.

Planning for a storm event can begin several days in advance of the first snowflakes falling. Since each event is unique, the Department modifies its strategy depending on variables such as the type of snow (sleet, wet snow or fluffy flakes), temperature (rising or falling as well as air temperature versus surface temperature), time of day (day, night, weekend and/or rush hour), event duration and post-storm weather predictions. The general goal, however, remains the same for each event during the winter.

During an event, the Department will clear the Village's roads using a pre-defined route plan. Each route divides the local streets into three categories: collector streets (first priority roads such as Almond, Dada, Lawson, Southridge, Manchester and Belle Plaine), local streets (second priority) and cul-de-sacs and dead-ends (third priority). Typically, depending on the event, a full run of each route takes between four to six hours. In heavy snowstorms, however, crews will make two passes down each street and a single pass into cul-de-sacs to make streets and cul-de-sacs accessible. Final clean-up operations, such as cleaning from curb to curb, are normally completed after storms begin to diminish.

It is important to understand that the Village manages only Village-owned streets as part of the snow plan. Plowing of major roads such as Grand Avenue (Rt. 132), US 41 and IL Route 120 are managed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and roads such as Washington St., Delany Rd., O'Plaine Rd. and Hunt Club Rd. are managed by the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT).

During and after a snow event, the Department's goal is to keep roads open and passable to the greatest extent possible. This means that while motorists will be able to travel on roads, these roads may not be completely clear of snow or ice, especially in extremely cold conditions. Again, the Department manages its resources wisely and encourages all drivers to build in extra travel time and drive safely and slow when the snow starts to fly.



Gurnee's Snow Plow Fleet is ready for the winter season. The Village Snow Fleet includes 23 trucks on 11 routes and four trucks on standby

For any questions, see the full Snow & Ice Control Plan on the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/public_works/street/plowing or contact the Department at (847) 599-6800.

Best of Gurnee 2018 Award Winners

Gurnee is fortunate to have many dedicated businesses that contribute to our community, economically and philanthropically. As a way to recognize businesses that go above and beyond to support their customers and the community, nominations are accepted year-round for businesses that exemplify the absolute Best of Gurnee. The program is managed by the Village's Economic Development Committee. Nominations are accepted in two categories - "Bringing Me Home" and "Pay It Forward". The businesses below were awarded "Best of Gurnee" awards during the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce's Annual 2018 Mayor's Luncheon.

"Pay It Forward" Winner: Nothing Bundt Cakes of Gurnee

The Pay It Forward award acknowledges a business that is recognizing needs within its community and is meeting them head on. In nomination forms submitted to the Best of Gurnee committee, it was noted that Nothing Bundt Cakes of Gurnee participated in a wide variety of charity events their first year, including supporting the Bernie's Book Bank, Mr. Warren awards at Warren Township High School, the Gurnee Community Pageant, the Woodland ROAR Run, multiple community festivals, and more. Nothing Bundt Cakes also supported the 2018 Legions of Craft Beer Fest to support the American Legion and Lake County Honor Flight by donating a portion of their sales. When sales exceeded expectations, they doubled their donation. Congratulations, Nothing Bundt Cakes, and thank you for your contribution to the Gurnee community!



Troy and Kathy Blair pose with Mayor Kristina Kovarik

"Bringing Me Home" Winner: Salutos of Gurnee



Salutos of Gurnee Owners Bob and Melody Bode receive their "Bringing Me Home" award from Mayor Kovarik for Best of Gurnee 2018

The Bringing Me Home award is intended to recognize a business that fosters community pride by infusing excellence into its business operations with evidence of long-term, sustained commitment to its customers and the community. Started in 1990 by owners Bob and Melody Bode, Salutos of Gurnee has been serving the Gurnee community for nearly 30 years and has demonstrated the commitment to excellence that the nomination committee was seeking. Congratulations, Salutos of Gurnee, and thank you for your long-standing contribution to your customers and the Gurnee business community!

Scam Warnings

ComEd "Power shut-off" Scam

Recently, the Gurnee Police Department has received reports from residents and businesses regarding a possible telephone fraud scam. An unknown caller, claiming to be a representative of Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), will tell ComEd customers that an overdue balance has to be paid immediately or power will be shut-off at the address. The Police Department advises residents receiving any type of solicitation requiring immediate payment in order to avoid disconnection of a utility service *to not make payment* and immediately contact the non-emergency police line at (847) 599-7000 to make a police report. If you are unsure if the caller is truly a ComEd representative, ask them to provide you with your account number. Only real ComEd representatives would have access to that information. Anyone with questions is encouraged to call the Police Department's crime prevention unit at (847) 599-7080.

"Jail Bail" Scam

At a recent Gurnee Village Board meeting, a resident shared a concerning story regarding an attempted scam. The senior citizen received a call early in the morning claiming to be his grandson and in need of money after he was in an accident. The caller used the grandson's name and mentioned other family members, and claimed if he did not receive the money for a lawyer immediately he would have to spend the night in jail. On his way to way to perform the instructed wire transfer of money, the grandfather began to doubt the story and questioned whether that was actually his grandson's voice. He called his grandson's home to find that he had been sleeping and was confused by the call. Realizing he was the would-be-victim of an attempted scam, the grandfather contacted the Gurnee Police Department immediately.

If you receive a call urgently requesting money and question the authenticity of the caller, always request call back information from the caller and confirm the story with other family members. If you think you were the target of the scam, hang up and contact the Gurnee Police Department immediately at 847-599-7000.

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

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

Postal Patron
Gurnee, IL 60031

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train

As mentioned on page 2, the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be arriving at Viking Park (4374 Old Grand Ave) on Thursday, December 6th, 2018 at 5:50 p.m. This year's event will feature performers The Trews and Willy Porter. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to see the train pull in. Those attending the event are also encouraged to bring a non-perishable food or cash donation to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank. For more information, visit the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/holiday_train.

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.

Gurnee Police Chief Kevin Woodside Announces Retirement

Chief Kevin Woodside, Police Chief for the Village of Gurnee, has announced his upcoming retirement effective January 1, 2019 after 30 years of service to the Gurnee Police Department. He has served as Police Chief since July 2011.

Chief Woodside was hired as a police officer in 1988 and progressed through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as Chief of Police in November 2011.

Under Chief Woodside's leadership over the past several years, the Gurnee Police Department has made notable achievements that include the establishment of the Visitor Oriented Policing Team, introduction of lateral hiring of police officers, creation of the Explorer Post, deployment of body-worn cameras, introduction of TASER weapons for less lethal force option, and the establishment of a consolidated dispatch center with the City of Zion.

Mayor Kovarik has announced that she will name Deputy Chief Brian Smith to serve as Interim Police Chief after Chief Woodside steps down in January. Deputy Chief Smith has served with the Gurnee Police Department since 2000, and he has been a member of the command staff since 2014.

Be in the Know

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

New Businesses:

- The Room Place (Gurnee Mills Entry J)
- Earthbound Trading Co. (Gurnee Mills Entry C)
- Christmas in Chicago (Gurnee Mills Entry B)
- McAlister's Deli (6557 Grand Avenue)
- Sole Seekers (Gurnee Mills Entry J)
- Learning Shop Toy Box (Gurnee Mills Entry A)
- Tiffany Chiapetta Photography (505 N. IL Route 21)
- Gurnee Manor (5631 Manchester Drive)
- Chicago Medical Clinic (1810 N. Delany Road)
- Nebula Data Intel (7500 Grand Avenue)
- Requordit (1325 Tri-State Parkway)
- Herchenbach Mechanical (830 Magnolia Avenue)
- Eder, Casella & Co (6071 Washington)
- Industrial Handling Equipment (1960 Swanson)

Coming Soon:

- Royal Furniture Outlet (Gurnee Mills Entry J)
- 5.11 Tactical (6430 Grand Avenue)
- Capetivo (731 S. Rt. 21)
- Outback Steakhouse (relocating to 6210 Grand Avenue)
- The Authentic Cheese Bread (3900 Washington Street)
- CenterPoint (1001 Tri-State Parkway)
- United Scientific Supplies (4081 Ryan Road)
- Straight Up Spine and Posture (6021 Washington)