

Keeping Posted

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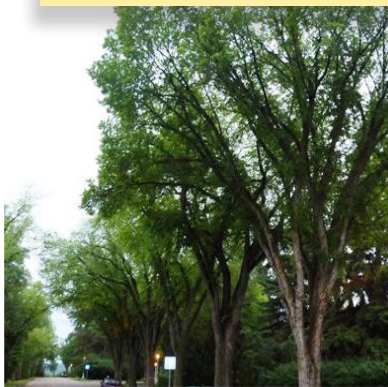
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Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

I am deeply grateful and thankful for the yeoman work done over the winter season by our Public Works team. They go the extra mile to make sure our roads are safe and passable during winter weather events. It was particularly difficult for all snow plow operations (State, County, Township and Village) during the long-duration snow event in early-February but our Village crews handled it wonderfully. So far this season, Public Works has responded to 17 snow events this season totaling 30.7 inches of snow using 2,741 tons of salt and 35,435 gallons of liquid de-icer. For comparison purposes, during the same period in 2017 Public Works responded to 10 events with 18.35 inches of snow and used 1,655 tons of salt and 19,165 gallons of de-icer.



While we were tempted to hunker down and hibernate for the winter (well, maybe just me), all of our Village Departments have been busy getting ready for the new fiscal year. The Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget will be presented at a Public Hearing on Monday, March 5th at 5:00 p.m. The Village Budget is the operational plan for how resources will be allocated over the next year. The Village Board will evaluate the proposed budget carefully, adjusting where needed to ensure we are maximizing every dollar to provide exceptional public services. Once the budget is ready and public input has been included, we will adopt the final version. The Public Hearings are open to the public and the proposed Budget is available on our website. The Village will have a balanced budget, but there are hard choices to make each year to deliver services, achieve progress on the Strategic Plan and continue to invest in our infrastructure and economic development. I encourage you to participate in person, by email or connect with the Village or myself on Facebook.

The coming spring will kick off our capital improvement season. We continue to use 0.5% of the home rule sales tax exclusively for road and sidewalk improvements and maintenance. The largest road project for the Village in 2018 will be the resurfacing of Almond Road. This project follows the CLCJAWA water main installation and will bring Almond Road back to fantastic shape. We will also continue progress on our new Pedestrian Mobility Plan adopted this past summer with the installation of a path along Knowles Road which will connect residents to the Millennium Park trail system in the Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. Additionally, we are beginning construction on the long planned, high-capacity Knowles Road water tower on the far west side of the Village. The water tower is necessary to improve water pressure in the area west of Hunt Club Road and will provide greater water reliability.

As spring approaches, it will be busy in the Village as we welcome Great Wolf Lodge, anticipate the exciting new Mardi Gras Hangover loop coaster at Six Flags Great America and cut the ribbon for several new retailers at Gurnee Mills and our other shopping centers. I look forward to seeing and chatting with you at an upcoming event or Coffee with the Mayor. I'm always available to answer your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristina Kovarik

Upcoming Events

Village Meetings

Village Board

March
19
7:00 p.m.

April
2
7:00 p.m.

April
16
7:00 p.m.

April
23
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

March
21
7:30 p.m.

April
4
7:30 p.m.

April
18
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

March
20
7:00 p.m.

April
24
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.

The Benefits of Bioswales and Native Plants for Stormwater Mitigation

As spring approaches and planting is in the near future, the Village encourages residents and businesses to consider the installation of natural vegetation to aid in the mitigation of stormwater and help control flooding events. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission has put together information to help educate residents on the benefits of bioswales and rain gardens.

What is a Bioswale?

A bioswale is a vegetated open trench designed specifically to temporarily store and infiltrate stormwater. Bioswales are planted with deep-rooted native grasses and forbs, which are herbaceous, broadleaf plants. Bioswales are often used as an alternative to standard below ground stormwater sewers. They can be found on the edges of parking lots or around developments and vary widely in size.



What are the benefits of a Bioswale?

Bioswales can reduce runoff volumes and rates by slowing water down through the vegetation, allowing groundwater to recharge and sustaining stream baseflows. Bioswales enhance infiltration, cooling and cleansing of water in order to improve water quality. This may reduce detention needs for the area.



Community Events

Coffee with the Mayor

Saturday, March 17th
10 a.m. - Noon
Gurnee Donuts
4949 Grand Avenue #9A



2018 Fire Expo

Saturday, May 12th
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Gurnee Mills
www.gurnee.il.us/fire_expo



Looking for more events?

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

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a depressed, landscaped garden planted with native plant species that is designed to retain and infiltrate stormwater runoff from individual residential, sump pumps and roofs. Rain gardens are versatile features that can be installed in almost any unpaved space. Rain gardens have also been used successfully in residential yards to reduce and filter roof and driveway stormwater runoff. Rain Gardens are easy to install yourself and are inexpensive.



What are the benefits of a Rain Garden?

Installing a rain garden in your yard can reduce the rate of runoff and help filter stormwater. This can remove pollutants from entering the water streams and serves to recharge groundwater and stream baseflows. Additionally, rain gardens create aesthetic value for properties and provide a native habitat for wildlife. They also are typically low maintenance and are hardy enough to survive the cold weather climate in Illinois.



Source: <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/2261/Stormwater-Best-Practices>

Knowles Road Water Tower Frequently Asked Questions

The Village of Gurnee is currently in the process of building a water tower at the corner of Knowles Road and Rollins Road. This tower is a multi-year project that will result in better water pressure reliability for residents west of Hunt Club Road. To answer questions about the water tower, we have put together a FAQ for residents to learn more about the project.

For more information regarding the new water tower, please contact the Engineering Division at (847) 599-7586.

Why the need for the new water tower?

The Village of Gurnee is able to provide a very high level of service to its residents in terms of high water pressure and reliability. The average water pressure throughout the community is between 70 and 80 pounds per square inch. Neighborhoods in the western limits of town, where the elevation of the grade is highest above sea level, have the lowest water pressures between 30 and 50 pounds per square inch.

By building a new water tower on the higher side of the Village, we will be able to utilize gravity to pressurize the water distribution system. This will ultimately improve the water reliability and pressure for residents in the far western sections of Gurnee. The tower will also provide additional water storage for the Village increasing the overall capacity from 6 million gallons to approximately 8 million gallons or 2.2 days of average consumption. This benefits the entire community in emergency situations when supply does not equal demand or when the water supply has been temporarily interrupted. The Village will be able to provide water for the entire community for an extended time until the water supply source can be restored.

Where exactly is the new water tower being built?

The Knowles Road Water Tower is being installed at 1525 Knowles Road on a vacant parcel owned by the Village, near the end of Knowles Road and adjacent to Rollins Road.

When will the water tower be built?

The Village has approved plan designs for the Knowles Road Water Tower to be executed in 2018, with construction of the tower scheduled to begin late summer 2018 and completed in 2020.

What will the tower look like?

The Knowles Road water tower will be a 2,000,000 gallon structure. To put the capacity in perspective, the now-defunct Old Grand Water Tower holds 1/10th that amount or 200,000 gallons of water.

The design of the new water tower will be either a Water Spheroid Tank, similar to other water towers in Gurnee, or a composite concrete base water tower. Examples of these two designs can be found at www.gurnee.il.us/knowles.

How much will this tower cost? How is it being paid for?

Constructing a new water tower is no simple feat. While the water supply infrastructure is already in place, there is still considerable construction and engineering detail that needs to be addressed for a new water tower. The current estimate is around \$6 million to complete the project. The project will be funded from a combination of fund balance reserves and a low interest IEPA loan.

Village Reminders

Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The Spring 2018 Neighborhood Watch meetings are underway. In addition to reviewing crime statistics specific to your neighborhood, the topic for discussion is "Responding to Active Shooters and Other Man-made Disasters." This presentation will consist of a brief lecture followed by a 9-minute video, "Surviving an Active Shooter," produced by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Both the discussion and video focus on the "run, hide, fight" response philosophy; recommended as best practice by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The full spring schedule can be found by visiting www.gurnee.il.us/neighborhoodwatch.

FY18/19 Annual Budget

The Village is currently working on an updated annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019. The first Budget Workshop for the upcoming budget will be on Monday, March 5th at 5:00 p.m. at Village Hall. The proposed budget can also be viewed online at www.gurnee.il.us/FY19Budget. The final budget/appropriation will tentatively be presented to the Village Board for adoption on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Pay by Phone Water Bill Info

Starting May 1st, 2018 the Village will no longer accept water/sewer bill payments over the phone due to the transition to our online water bill portal and the impractical cost of delivering the service. The Village will continue to accept payments at Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Rd), by mail (P.O. Box 2804, Bedford Park, IL 60499), free online payments via the Village website (www.gurnee.il.us) or through online bank payments.

Seasonal Reminders

Unlimited Yardwaste Collection Week

Waste Management will collect unlimited containerized landscape waste at no charge to current customers the week of **April 2nd to April 6th**. This collection will take place on your regular pickup day. This service is for Village residents only. Collection requires that landscape waste be containerized in a Kraft-type paper bag not to exceed 45 lbs.; a rigid can not to exceed 32-gallons; and/or bundles of brush not to exceed 2 feet in diameter by 4 feet long, no heavier than 60 lbs., with no individual branch greater than 3 inches in diameter. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6:00 a.m. Failure to have materials out at this time could result in waste not being collected. As a result, you will have to wait until regular landscape waste pickup resumes the following week.

Regular landscape waste collection through Waste Management's subscription service or sticker program will begin on April 9th. Visit www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape for more information.

Spring Building Permits

Spring is just around the corner and, with that, so are the home improvement projects. Please remember to check the Village's website at www.gurnee.il.us/community_dev/building_safety/building_apps to verify when permits are required. Contact the Building Safety Division at (847) 599-7550 with any questions.

Reminder: Dogs Must be Leashed

When out for walks this Spring, remember that Village ordinance requires all dogs on a leash. The age, breed or temperament of the dog does not exclude them from the requirement, so ensure that the leash is on at all times.

Local Code Reminders For Spring

Village Code Enforcement conducts inspections of properties for compliance with Village ordinances. These regulations and inspections were established for the general health, safety and welfare of Gurnee's residents. The following are the three most common violations Village inspectors find, as well as a brief explanation of the Village's regulations:

1. **Tall Grass/Weeds:** Property owners must keep weeds or grass less than eight inches in height on their property.
2. **Vehicle Parking:** It is illegal to leave vehicles, boats, campers, and other recreational vehicles at any residence where it is not on gravel, pavers, concrete or asphalt.
3. **Yard Waste:** Property owners must remove brush from their property in a timely manner.

If a violation is noted during a property inspection, the property owner will be provided a notice and must remedy the violation by the stated deadline. After the deadline, the property will be reinspected. Outstanding violations are subject to penalties as provided in the Village Code. Residents who witness code violations should report the violations directly through the Gurnee OneStop website, located at <https://onestop.gurnee.il.us> or by calling (847) 599-7550.

Spring Flooding and How You Can Protect Your Home

Flood Hazards

With spring showers on the horizon, the potential for flooding in the community is very real. The area upstream of the Village of Gurnee that is tributary to the Des Plaines River is about 235 square miles. This is a large area that will melt and drain through our community this spring. If you are a property owner in the flood plain, you need flood insurance. Renters in the flood plain can also purchase a contents policy to protect their assets.

Anyone who experiences flooding or seepage into their home or business is encouraged to take pictures of the area during the event and contact the Engineering Division (847-599-7550) to inspect and evaluate the cause. Many times a simple grading change can make a huge difference.

Drainage System Maintenance

Keeping storm sewers, ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as reduce the chance of a blockage that can contribute to flooding. Please note that it is illegal to dump materials into a waterway and violators may be fined. If you see someone dumping, please contact the Gurnee Police Department at (847) 599-7000. To report debris in one of the Village's waterways, please contact the Gurnee Public Works Department at (847) 599-6800.

Flood Protection Assistance

The Village has professional staff available to assist property owners with drainage or flooding problems, flood map interpretation, flood insurance requirements and building protection guidance. Please contact the Engineering Division with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Historical Information

The Village of Gurnee maintains historical flood information from the 1986 Des Plaines River flood through the present day. Damage assessment data and photographs are available to be viewed at the Village Hall during normal business hours.

2018 Parkway Tree Program

THE PROGRAM

As part of the Village's ongoing environmental effort and to increase the number of trees in town, the Village will share the cost of about 60 new parkway trees. The Village will contribute 50% of the cost of the trees with residents providing the remaining \$175.00. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary and is limited to owner-occupied homes. Trees will be planted in May (as weather permits) and our certified arborist will monitor the health of the tree during the initial growing season.

PLACEMENT

Each new parkway tree must be placed midway between the curb (or pavement edge) and the sidewalk (or 7' from the pavement for locations without a sidewalk), at least 30' from any other parkway tree, at least 10' from a driveway and at least 45' from an intersection. Due to their low mature height, the Chanticleer Ornamental Pear can be used near power lines. Every attempt will be made to locate the tree as indicated on the order form; however, locations will be reviewed for suitability and to avoid utility conflicts. Please make your drawing as clear as possible, noting the location of your house, curb, sidewalk, driveways, intersections, existing trees, fire hydrants or any other objects in the area.

Choice	Description
	<i>Exclamation Planetree</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (60' tall x 30' wide at maturity) medium growing hybrid specimen of London Planetree selected for its uniform, upright-pyramidal habit and resistance to anthracnose. Attractive, exfoliating bark of cream, olive and light brown color.
	'Princeton' <i>American Elm</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (70' tall x 40' wide at maturity) large, fast growing, vase-shaped shade tree, bred for its resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. Large, dark green leaves turn yellow in fall.
	<i>Chanticleer Ornamental Pear</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (35' tall x 16' wide at maturity) medium growing tree with pyramidal shape, white flowers in April and an attractive red/purple fall color
	<i>Heritage River Birch</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (50' tall x 50' wide at maturity) medium to fast growing attractive, exfoliating bark ranging from salmon-brown to cinnamon-brown to grey-brown. Yellow fall color.
	'State Street' <i>Miyabe Maple</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (40' tall x 30' wide at maturity) medium sized, upright rounded shade tree, free of serious insect or disease problems. Good yellow fall color.

Indicate tree location noting objects in area

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Return form with payment by April 4, 2018 to
Gurnee Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Road

Community Updates

American Legion St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The American Legion Post 771 in Gurnee invites everyone to join them in a St. Patrick's Day celebration dinner and celebration of the American Legion's 99 years of service to our country and its veterans. The dinner will be on Saturday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Gurnee Post #771 Legion Hall (749 Milwaukee Avenue). Tickets are \$15 per person. To register, call (847) 244-9282 or drop in to speak to a staff member on duty to purchase tickets.

Hunt Club Park Aquatic Passes on Sale

Gurnee Park District's Hunt Club Aquatic Center 2018 season passes are on sale now. For more information, visit www.gurneeparkdistrict.com/aquatics.

Schools Win Big with Bucks for Books

Gurnee Mills launched their second installment of "Bucks for Books" in 2017 to support Gurnee Elementary schools with \$10,000 in prizes based on their sales receipts from community members. River Trail School had the most community support and received \$3,500 in school funding. Woodland Elementary East took second and was awarded \$2,500. Spaulding School received \$1,500 for third place. Woodland Elementary West received \$1,000, and Woodland Primary and Prairie Trail each received \$750 as part of the contest.

WNPL Creative Writing Contest

The Friends of the Warren-Newport Public Library will be hosting their 25th annual Creative Writing Contest. The contest has two categories for story submissions from all ages: short story (fiction) and poetry. The contest is limited to two entries in each category per person. There are a total of 24 prizes that include gift certificates to the top three winners in each age/category. The deadline to submit is Sunday, March 11, 2018. To find out how to enter, visit the Warren-Newport Public Library website at www.wnpl.info.

Keeping Posted

KRISTINA M. KOVARIK, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

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

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

March 20th General Primary Election

Exercise your right to vote in the general primary election on Tuesday, March 20th, 2018. Gurnee Village Hall (325 N O'Plaine Road) will be an early voting location for all Lake County residents beginning on March 5th until March 19th. For a complete list of voting locations, voting questions and early voting hours, visit www.gurnee.il.us/2018generalprimaryelection.

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.

Coming Soon: Citizen Self Service Portal for Online Water Bills

Beginning in May 2018, residents and businesses will be able to access their water bill online through the Village of Gurnee's new Citizen Self Service web portal.

The new water bill portal will allow customers the ability to:

- Pay your utility bill through our secure online payment system
- View information on your current statement
- View your consumption history
- View your payment history

Information on how to access the Citizen Self Service water bill portal will be included with future water bills and the Village of Gurnee website.

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:

- Nothing Bundt Cakes (6951 Grand Avenue) - bundt cake bakery/retailer
- Mathnasium of Gurnee (5101 Washington Street) - math-only tutoring and learning center
- Learning Experience (465 Route 21) - daycare facility, now enrolling

Coming Soon:

- Dick's Sporting Goods (Gurnee Mills) - sporting goods retailer
- SheeGoo (Gurnee Mills) - Thai rolled ice cream
- BoxLunch (Gurnee Mills) - gift and novelty retailer
- Gloria Jean Coffee (Gurnee Mills) - gourmet coffee
- Legacy Salon Spa (4949 Grand Avenue) - hair/nail/facial services
- DexaFit (6071 Washington Street) - health and fitness testing
- ArtVan Furniture (6911 Grand Avenue) - furniture retailer
- Xfinity (6440 Grand Avenue) - inline Comcast store
- Panera (6440 Grand Avenue) - counter service bakery/café, relocating with new drive-through
- Mission BBQ (6440 Grand Avenue) - BBQ pulled pork, brisket, ribs, and sandwiches
- Mr. Pita (3900 Washington) - pita wraps, salads