

What's Inside

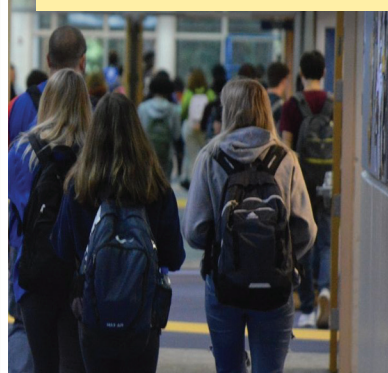
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Strategic Planning Initiative



In order to guide the overall direction of the community over the coming years, the Village is kicking off its formal Strategic Planning Initiative and we want you to participate!

The strategic plan is the vision for the community and it serves as a guide for operations in the next few years. The most recent strategic plan was the 2016-2021 plan and it included initiatives such as bodyworn cameras for police officers, improving walkability in the community and more. It is important to the Village to gain as many perspectives as possible to help create a plan that reflects the entire community.

Below are two ways that you can help shape the future of Gurnee:

1. Focus Groups

The Village will be holding public Focus Group sessions to collect information from our stakeholders on what's important to our residents, youth, businesses and other local taxing bodies. By engaging in the development of a multi-year strategic plan, Gurnee will gain the input necessary to establish a solid base to guide future decision making. We are currently looking for interested focus group participants for the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 16th (evening)
- Thursday, March 17th (afternoon & evening)
- Friday, March 18th (morning)

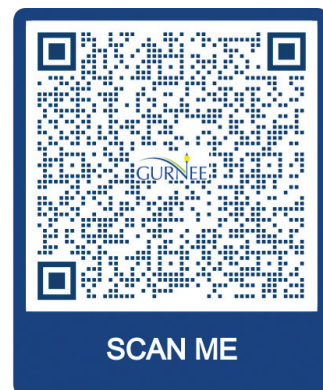
You can volunteer to be a participant by submitting an interest form online at <https://polco.us/s3rvcp> or by calling 847-599-7500 and asking to volunteer as a potential focus group attendee.

2. Community Survey

A community survey is currently underway. The survey is being conducted by the national polling firm POLCO. You can take the survey by one of the following options:

1. Visit the URL at <https://polco.us/snf8tv>
2. Pick up a physical survey at Village Hall or call (847) 599-7500 and request to be mailed a survey.
3. By scanning the QR code on the right.

Don't pass up this excellent opportunity to help shape the future of the community you call home!



Upcoming

Village Meetings

Village Board

March
7
5:00 p.m.

March
21
7:00 p.m.

March
28
7:00 p.m.

April
4
7:00 p.m.

April
18
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

March
2
7:30 p.m.

March
16
7:30 p.m.

April
6
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

March
22
7:00 p.m.

April
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.

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents:

With spring approaching, the hope of warmer and more pleasant weather is on the horizon. As usual, the Public Works Department has done a great job this winter keeping our streets salted and plowed. The Village is running well under the careful stewardship of staff and the Village Board.



I have enjoyed another Valentine's Day participating in the great program started by the Gurnee Police Department where many hand-written Valentines are gathered from schools, groups and individuals. These Valentines are delivered to our seven senior properties in town and then distributed to more than six hundred seniors. It is a great opportunity to show the seniors that we remember and honor them. Officer Kelly Hansen and Detective Shawn Gaylor, two of Gurnee's finest, have worked hard to make this program a success.

Currently, as we do at this time every year, the Village is busy assembling the budget for the next fiscal year which begins May 1, 2022. Each department carefully plans with the Village Administrator and Finance Director to develop a draft budget. The draft budget is then provided to the Board for their input and review. Staff takes the input from myself and Trustees to revise the draft budget. The final budget that is presented to the Village Board for approval will have been judiciously vetted and worked on for months. I am proud of the collegial atmosphere of all those involved. These efforts ensure that the budget provides funding for the excellent Village services to which we have all become accustomed.

The last two years, COVID-19 has tested us as a Village and we have proven up to the task. Thanks to our low debt, strong reserves and excellent employees, the services provided by the Village to our residents did not change. In fact, the Village was able to construct a third fire station to better serve the Village. The decision was made during the early stages of the pandemic because the cost of construction was greatly reduced and resulted in an estimated \$1.4 million in savings. These are the types of decisions that can be made when you are part of a great team that capitalizes on opportunities and boldly moves forward.

Finally, the Village is entering into a new season of strategic planning as the prior five-year plan has been completed. This is an opportunity for residents, business owners and other community members to shape the direction of the Village. What should the Village focus on in the next three years? Prior plans had the Village focus on exceptional service levels, fiscal sustainability, well-maintained infrastructure, pedestrian mobility and public safety. I will be reaching out to invite residents to be a part of small groups to have their thoughts and ideas heard. I am looking forward to leading us to a place where the Village becomes an even more enjoyable place to live.

Sincerely,

Mayor Tom Hood

New Resident Guide

Are you new to Gurnee? Welcome! We are glad you chose Gurnee as your new home. It can be overwhelming to find all the information you need when you are new to a community. We've put together a "New Resident" website to help you find the information you are looking for. You can find the new website by scanning the QR code to the right, or by visiting: www.gurnee.il.us/NewResidentGuide.



SCAN ME

Community Events & Updates

Gurnee Park District

Relax and enjoy being at the pool this summer at the Aquatic Center at Hunt Club Park. Opening weekend is May 28th - 30th. Purchase season tickets at www.gurneeparkdistrict.com.

AARP Tax Prep Assistance

Volunteers from AARP will be at the library on Mondays and Fridays until April 11th to assist low-income individuals with completing their taxes. The assistance is by appointment only. Call (847) 775-7062 for an appointment.

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!

2022 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. 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 selection of London Planetree selected for its uniform, upright-pyramidal habit and resistance to anthracnose. Attractive, exfoliating bark of cream, olive and light brown color.
	<i>Swamp White Oak</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 55' wide at maturity) medium growing, broad spreading and majestic native oak with yellow fall color.
	<i>Autumn Blaze Maple</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 40' wide at maturity) a fast growing, hybrid maple tree with showy orange red to red fall color. Pest and disease resistant.
	<i>New Horizon Elm</i> - 2 1/2" caliper (55' tall x 50' wide at maturity) a fast growing tree with shiny dark green leaves turning a nice yellow in fall. Bred for its resistance to Dutch Elm Disease and shows many of the desirable traits of the American Elm.
	<i>Autumn Splendor Buckeye</i> - 2" caliper (20' tall x 20' wide at maturity) medium sized horse chestnut with rounded canopy, large yellow panicles of flowers in spring and maroon fall color. Resistant to summer leaf scorch.

Indicate tree location noting objects in area

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Return form with payment by April 1st Village Hall, 325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL 60031

Village Reminders

Unlimited Land Waste Weeks

Continuing for 2022 is TWO weeks of unlimited spring cleanup! Waste Management will collect unlimited containerized landscape waste at no charge to current customers the weeks of April 4th and April 11th. These dates are weather-dependent, so make sure to check the Village website closer to the date to ensure it has not been delayed. These collections 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 two feet in diameter by four feet long, no heavier than 60 lbs., with no individual branch greater than three inches in diameter. Landscape waste must be placed at the curb or the edge of the road by 6:00 a.m.

Regular landscape waste collection through Waste Management's subscription service or sticker program will begin on April 18th. Visit www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape for more information.

FY22/23 Annual Budget

The Village is currently working on a proposed annual budget for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2022 and ending April 30, 2023. The proposed budget can be viewed online at www.gurnee.il.us/FY23Budget or in person at Village Hall. The initial budget hearing will take place on Monday, March 7th at 5:00 p.m. The final budget/appropriation will tentatively be presented to the Village Board for a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:40 p.m. at Village Hall, with approval at the regular Village Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The proposed annual FY22/23 budget includes no new taxes or tax increases. The Village took a cautious approach during COVID-19 by reducing spending and saw revenue increases in sales, amusement and food & beverage taxes based on consumers returning to shop and play in Gurnee. As part of the proposed budget, the Village proposes paying off Fire Station 3 debt immediately, saving \$900,000 in interest.

Seasonal Reminders

Fire Department Spring Checklist

Spring is around the corner which means many of us will focus our attention on spring cleaning. The Gurnee Fire Department wants to make sure you have these fire safety tips on your to-do list:

- Change your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide batteries.
- Clean the dryer duct annually.
- Clear clutter from any furnace or heat generating equipment.
- Store flammable liquids safely and properly.
- Have a home fire escape plan ready.

For more fire safety tips and for help building a home fire escape plan, visit www.gurnee.il.us/firesafety.

Spring Building Permits

Spring is coming! Do you know when a permit is required for your project?

Many home projects require building permits. Are you planning a deck, fence, patio, window/door replacement, shed, pool/hot tub or other project?

Permits are required for these types of installations. Information can be found on our website at www.gurnee.il.us/permits or you can always contact our office at (847) 599-7550 and we will be happy to assist you with what is required.

Garage Sale Permits

The Village of Gurnee no longer requires a garage sale permit. Sales must conform to the following guidelines:

- Garage sales cannot last more than four consecutive days.
- Residents are allowed to hold a maximum of two separate garage sales each year (January 1 - December 31).
- Individuals who exceed two sales per year or four days per sale will be in violation of Village Ordinance and subject to notice from Village Code Enforcement.

Gurnee Days Parade Theme Contest

The Gurnee Park District, in collaboration with the Village of Gurnee, is asking the community to select this year's Gurnee Days Parade theme! The annual parade is a highlight of the two day community festival which features floats and local marching bands that embrace a common theme.



Gurnee residents of all ages are asked to submit their 2022 Gurnee Days Parade theme ideas via the Gurnee Days website at www.gurneedays.com/parade by 3:00 p.m. on March 15th. On March 21st, the top five theme entries (chosen by a panel of judges from the Gurnee Days Committee) will be placed up for voting by the public until April 14th. On April 18th, the winning theme will be announced.

"Gurnee Days is all about celebrating Gurnee together! This year's parade contest is a great way to get involved," shared Susie Kuruvilla, Executive Director of Gurnee Park District.

Gurnee Days will be held Saturday & Sunday, August 6 & 7, 2022. Additional festival details will be shared as events are confirmed. Watch the Gurnee Days website for more info!

Spring Flooding and How You Can Protect Your Home

Flood Hazards

With spring showers on the horizon, the potential for riverine or localized 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 which can lead to riverine flooding. If you are a property owner in the flood plain, you potentially 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 localized flooding. To report debris in one of the Village's waterways, please contact the Gurnee Public Works Department at (847) 599-6800. Please note that it is illegal to dump materials into a waterway and violators may be fined. If you see this occurring, please contact the Gurnee Police Department at (847) 599-7000.

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 at (847) 599-7550. Qualified staff is also available to visit a site upon request.

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. Information on flooding in Gurnee and preventative tips can also be found at www.gurnee.il.us/residents/safety/flooding-in-gurnee.

Orion Water Device Change Out Program

In 2021, the Village kicked off a multi-year program to change out all Orion communication devices in the community to a modernized unit. The Orion device is what transmits data from the water meter to the Village to record usage. Currently, the meters have a short range that requires crews to drive through neighborhoods to collect meter data.

The new Orion devices will communicate water data in real-time via a cellular network. This will allow residents to get timely updates on their water consumption and identify any leaks or spikes in usage.

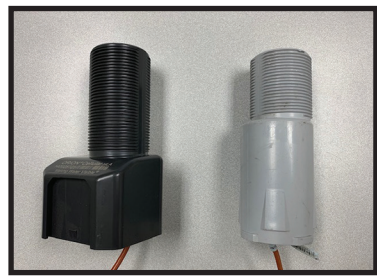
The change out will occur over a four-year program. Staff will work through a neighborhood one house at a time to remove the old Orion and install the new one. Although a majority of the change out process takes place outside, there may be instances when Public Works staff will need to set up an appointment with you. If an Orion device is located inside or if there are issues prohibiting an exterior change out, 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 change out, water service will not be disrupted. Employees will have Village identification, including bright yellow vests and identification badges. Staff will knock on doors prior to beginning work to keep residents informed.

After the Orion device has been upgraded, residents will be able to set up an online account or download the EyeOnWater app to monitor their water usage. Residents will know their device has been changed out when they receive a door tag containing instructions for the EyeOnWater app after the change out. If you have not received a door tag or other communication from the Village, your device is not yet compatible with EyeOnWater.

Change Out Program FAQs:

- **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.*
- **When can I expect my meter to be upgraded?** *This will be a multi-year rollout program. You will be notified via letter or door tag once your device has been upgraded.*
- **How can I tell if my device has already been upgraded?** *Residents who have had their device upgraded will receive either a letter or a doortag. Below are a few photos of the the new Orion devices (black reader with a tan weather shield) vs. the old devices (gray reader with a gray weather shield).*



New Orion (left) vs Old Orion (right) with weather shields removed.



New Orion (tan color).



Old Orion devices type 1 and type 2. Both are gray.

Referendum Info

June 28, 2022 Primary Election

State legislators have moved the 2022 General Primary Election, typically held in March, to June 28th, 2022. Mark your calendar so you can be sure to exercise your right to vote!

Gurnee Village Hall (325 N O'Plaine Road) will be an early voting location for all Lake County residents. More information on voting locations and early voting hours will be listed on the Village website soon.

WTHS Referendum

On June 28, residents of Warren Township High School District 121 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.

The District had placed a 35-cent operating rate increase question on the April 6, 2021 ballot, which failed with 3,753 yes votes, and 4,700 no votes.

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, ensure full participation in career and technical education classes at the Technology Campus and preserve 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 for more info

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.

Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

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

Postal Patron

Lake County Fire Expo: May 14, 2022

After a two year hiatus, the Fire Expo is returning to Gurnee Mills on May 14th, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come visit the Gurnee Fire Department at this free family event. Not only will all of the apparatus from various departments be returning to this free event, but the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit will make its debut at the Expo. The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit is a tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, including the 343 members of the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) who made the ultimate sacrifice.

What's New

Now Open in Gurnee:

1313 AVE (Gurnee Mills) - custom apparel & accessories • **Attorneys' Title Guarantee Fund** (1790 Nations Dr) - title insurance • **Bombe Beauty** (3561 Grand Ave) - beauty salon • **Cre'A's Love Butter** (Gurnee Mills kiosk) - beauty products • **Crossfit UXO Elite Training** (900 Tri-State Pkwy) - relocation/ training gym • **Crown Vanity** (Gurnee Mills) - furniture store • **Demetre K. Chatman Art** (Gurnee Mills kiosk) - airbrushed artwork • **Donald J. Fontana, CPA PC** (135 N. Greenleaf St) - certified public accountant • **Dreysi Galvez Farmers Insurance Agency** (495 N. Rt 21) - insurance • **Essence Salon Suites** (3701 Grand Ave) - salon services • **Fox Pest Control** (4197 Grove Ave) - inspections & services • **Hobby Lobby** (Gurnee Mills) - arts & crafts retailer • **I'll COP Those** (Gurnee Mills kiosk) - vegan/gluten free cookies • **Illinois Gastroenterology Group** (35 Tower Ct) - medical office • **Illinois Representative Joyce Mason** (495 N. Rt. 21) - District office • **Juggernaut Tattoo** (3900 Washington St) - tattoo and piercing • **Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois** (1425 Hunt Club Rd) - medical office • **Nohadra Food Market** (5101 Washington St) - remodel/specialty food store • **Papo's Express** (6498 Washington St) - car wash • **Primerica** (5101 Washington St) - financial planning • **Rodgers Tax Firm** (5101 Washington St) - tax and accounting services • **Signature Heating & Cooling** (83 Ambrogio Dr) - HVAC contractor • **TFW Surveying & Mapping** (1761 Dilley Rd) - land surveying • **Tonya's Savvy Events & Banquet Hall** (5101 Washington St) - event space • **World of Art** (Gurnee Mills) - canvas printing

Be in the Know

Coming Soon to Gurnee:

Abundance Care & Wellness (5101 Washington St) - home health care • **Anthony Buick GMC** (5589 Northridge Dr) - relocation/auto dealer • **AZ Polymers** (5675 Centerpoint Ct) - polycarbonate sheet production • **Base Solutions** (1840 Northwestern Ave) - HVAC supply • **BTB USA** (209 Ambrogio Dr) - machinery parts • **China Experience** (Gurnee Mills) - remodel/restaurant • **College of Lake County Advanced Technology Center** (7735 Grand Ave) - post secondary education, manufacturing curriculum • **Cooper's Hawk** (7735 Grand Ave) - restaurant & winery • **Crumbl Cookies** (7105 Grand Ave) - cookie bakery • **Discount Tire** (1508 Nations Dr) - tire sales/service • **Eagle Fence** (3660 Washington St) - remodel/addition • **Gurnee Travel** (5455 Grand Ave) - travel agency • **Jack Martin State Farm** (1741-61 Dilley Rd) - relocation/insurance office • **Kohl's** (Gurnee Mills) - remodel/Sephora Beauty • **Lake Villa Dental** (5649 Manchester Dr) - dental office • **Leica Biosystems** (905 Lakeside Dr) - medical device repair • **Letom USA** (1460 St. Paul Ave) - wholesale textiles • **Lou Malnati's** (4949 Grand Ave) - pizzeria • **Meyer Machine** (1400 St. Paul Ave) - duct and vent cleaning/insulation • **Mr. Cow Corn Dogs** (Gurnee Mills) - restaurant • **NMA Group** (345 N. Rt. 41) - transportation/logistics • **One Hope United** (1790 Nations Dr) - social services • **Popeye's** (6593 Grand Ave) - restaurant • **Restaurant Depot** (1501 Tri-State Pkwy) - wholesale restaurant supplies • **Tropical Smoothie Cafe** (7010 Grand Ave) - restaurant • **Two Men and a Truck** (1350 Tri-State Pkwy) - movers/storage • **University Foot Associates** (731 S. Rt 21) - podiatry office • **US Bank** (6593 Grand Ave) - financial institution • **Way Through the Word** (151 N. Greenleaf St) - ministry • **Zuma Law** (401 N. Riverside Dr) - expansion/legal services