

Keeping Posted

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Gurnee Days Weekend Returns! August 7th & 8th

The Gurnee Park District and the Village of Gurnee are proud to announce the decision to move forward with a modified Gurnee Days Weekend on Saturday, August 7th and Sunday, August 8th, 2021.

While details are still pending, officials have confirmed that Saturday evening concert and fireworks, Sunday parade (themed The Great Outdoors), car show, food booths and Exchange Club of Gurnee's Ribfest are all in the works.

Additional details will be released as each activity is confirmed.

Outdoor Sirens

Summer weather means an increased chance of summer storms. The Village has twelve outdoor sirens to warn residents to get indoors and seek shelter in the event of severe 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.

Residents should NOT call 911 expect to report an emergency situation requiring Village services. Please 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.

Upcoming Events

Village Meetings

Village Board

June
21
7:00 p.m.

June
28
7:00 p.m.

July
12
7:00 p.m.

July
19
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

July
7
7:30 p.m.

July
21
7:30 p.m.

Aug.
4
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

June
22
7:00 p.m.

July
27
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 2nd
7:00 a.m.

Hunt Club Park | 900 Hunt Club Rd.

Enjoy a walk around the pond while reading storyboards from the book "Small, Small Pond"
www.wnpl.info

Coffee with the Mayor

Saturday, June 19th
10:00 a.m. to noon

Gurnee Donuts

Meet Mayor Tom Hood for Coffee!
4949 Grand Avenue
www.gurnee.il.us/coffeewiththemayor

Looking for more events?

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

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

I am honored to have been elected as your Mayor. I am following a distinguished group of mayors that have led Gurnee with excellence. Previous Mayor Krysti Kovarik was no exception as she is due great honor for all that she did for Gurnee.

I appreciate the many residents who encouraged me on the campaign trail as I went door to door to meet with you in your neighborhood. The conversations were insightful as each of you shared what was important to you. Thank you for being so welcoming.

I heard concerns about our businesses and their ability to make it through this past year. I will continue my visits to businesses affectionately called "Tom's Tours" where I highlight two businesses a month to bring to light all that a particular business has to offer. I am happy to report that Gurnee businesses have continued to bounce back more quickly than first expected. That is a testimony to the strength of the businesses in the Village and each of you being willing to shop local. Please continue to show your support to our local businesses.

Residents also requested that I address the panhandler situation in Gurnee. You will see in this newsletter some information that will help educate residents on how to respond. Those that generously give to those that stand on various corners in Gurnee sometimes only make that person's problem worse. I am looking at every option to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. The ideal solution is one that honors the individual requesting assistance but also protects the residents of Gurnee from the unscrupulous.

I also heard concerns about the emissions of ethylene oxide (EtO) in Gurnee. I have been working directly with Stop ETO, a group of concerned citizens, as well as legislators and staff to directly address this issue. The ultimate resolution will come through federal and state laws that will address EtO emissions since the US EPA and the Illinois EPA govern air quality. Regardless, I will work hard to search for solutions that will protect Gurnee residents.

I am looking forward to this summer as all that Gurnee has to offer will be on full display. Six Flags, Gurnee Mills and Great Wolf Lodge will be going full tilt along with the wide variety of local businesses located in Gurnee. Neighborhoods will come alive with block parties as we get that opportunity to see our neighbors again. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy Gurnee Days with the ever-popular Rib Fest, fireworks, parade and much, much more.

Hats off to the Village employees, the various boards and the partners of the Village that make all of this possible. I serve with an exceptional group of people that are very talented and dedicated to representing the residents of Gurnee.

This year will give us all an excellent opportunity to appreciate what we have. We all have experienced losses of some type during this past year. I pray that this year we enjoy all that God has gifted us and to especially appreciate those that He has placed in our lives.

Sincerely,

Tom Hood
Mayor



Panhandling: What Can Be Done to Help?

Panhandling can be found in most busy communities, generating many questions and complaints from residents. 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.

The good news is that Lake County has many services and staff dedicated to help those in need, but we need your help.

We encourage you to not give money to panhandlers.

Why? Because giving money to panhandlers encourages more panhandling. Donations of cash will not help solve the underlying reasons why someone panhandles. Here are some important things to know about Gurnee's approach to this issue:

What Are the Laws?

- 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.
- Stepping into the roadway to accept money is not allowed and is a violation of Sec. 50-38 of the Gurnee Municipal Code.
- A property owner may ask a panhandler to leave their 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.
- The Village of Gurnee monitors legal developments related to panhandling.

What About Public Safety?

- 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.
- Police officers refer panhandlers they encounter to available county social services, such as PADS Lake County, but cannot force them to receive services.
- If a law is broken, a ticket will be issued.

Who Are Panhandlers?

- Not all panhandlers are homeless, but they may be in need of other critical services.
- Many of the stories panhandlers use to solicit money are not true.
- Some panhandlers operate as part of organized, professional panhandling rings.

What Can You Do?

- Refer panhandlers - or anyone you see who may be in need - to United Way Lake County's 211 program. They have a wide-range of services and housing resources. They can dial 2-1-1 at any time to connect with services that help those in need.
- You can also contact PADS Lake County directly at (847) 616-5557. PADS will send one of their Outreach Staff to try and engage them and determine what services may be needed.
- Consider making a donation or volunteering for United Way's 2-1-1 Lake County, which is dedicated to assisting Lake County residents in need.

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.

2020 Water Quality Report Available

The Village has published its annual water quality Consumer Confidence Report at the following website address: www.gurnee.il.us/2020waterquality. 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 also 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 our office 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 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 wait 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 Change Out Program

Starting in 2021, the Village will be kicking 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 live updates on their water consumption and identify any leaks or spikes in usage.

The change out will occur over a four-year program. Almost all current Orion devices are located on the exterior of homes. Change out 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 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.



Examples of Old Orion Devices Prior to Change Out



New Orion Device

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.

In the near future, residents will be able to set up an online account or download the EyeOnWater app to monitor their water usage and/or set thresholds for text or email alerts. More information will be available on the EyeOnWater in future editions of the Keeping Posted newsletter once the service becomes available.

2021 Construction Program

Summer is not only time for fun and relaxation but also the start of our busy construction season. A number of projects are underway in the Village of Gurnee that will impact local traffic patterns and improve infrastructure, including the following:

Village of Gurnee Projects:

- **2021 Road Resurfacing Program:** For 2021 the Village of Gurnee will be investing approximately \$2 million to improve pavement conditions in the community. A few of the 2021 construction season maintenance projects include: Cheyenne Road (Belle Plaine to West End), Clearview Avenue (Magnolia to Belle Plaine), Lee Avenue (Belle Plaine to East End), Kilbourne Road, Emerald Avenue, Revere Court (Hartford to Danielson), Panorama Lane (Vista to Greystone), Vista Drive, Mayflower Court, Pilgrim Court, and Middle Road. Additionally, heavy patching will be performed in various areas throughout the community.
- **Stearns School Road Overpass:** When the Illinois Tollway announced the replacement of the Stearns School Bridge, they provided the Village the opportunity to enhance pedestrian accessibility. The project will now include a pedestrian path on the north side and a sidewalk on the south side of Stearns School Road. The Tollway continues to make progress on this project, with a target completion of October/November 2021.
- **Waveland Stormwater Culvert and Watermain Replacement:** The cross culverts that extend below Waveland Avenue at University Avenue were replaced due to age. Construction for the Waveland watermain is complete and the storm sewer crossings are the last major items to finish for the project. Some minor items that remain are pressure testing the watermain, installing new water services, pavement patching, and restoration.
- **Old Grand Avenue Watermain Replacement:** Old Grand Avenue is one of the oldest roads in Gurnee. Underneath the roadway are miles of original water main that continue to deteriorate. The Old Grand Avenue water main is an aging cast iron water main that is prone to breaking. Replacement of this main is being done in multiple phases to minimize traffic impacts on Old Grand Avenue and keep access to Viking Middle School and other businesses. Phase I was completed in summer of 2020 and included replacement of the main from Ferndale Street to First Street. Phase II is from First Street to just east of Emerald Avenue and will begin after Gurnee Days is completed in August.

Illinois Department of Transportation Projects:

- **US-41 / Grand Avenue Bridge Widening:** IDOT has indicated to the Village that their goal is for all roadwork to be completed by July 4th of this year barring weather delays, with traffic light change out, restoration and other finishing improvements completed this summer.

Lake County Department of Transportation Projects:

- **Gages Lake Road Culvert Repair:** LCDOT announced that Gages Lake between Hunt Club and Route 21 will be closed in sections to allow the replacement of two culverts under Gages Lake Road.

Work on Village roads and other capital projects has been funded primarily by a 0.5% sales tax increase that went into effect on January 1, 2015. Remember: every dollar spent locally helps support local roads and other vital infrastructure.

For regularly updated information, visit the Village's Road Construction Updates page at www.gurnee.il.us or call the Engineering Division at (847) 599-7550. To sign up for email updates from the Village's Construction Updates email Listserv, visit www.gurnee.il.us/subscribe and click on the "Construction" option.

CommunityNews

Environmental Sustainability Survey

The Gurnee Environmental Sustainability Committee invites you to take a brief survey on environmental & sustainability issues that are important to you! To participate, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/GurneeEnvironmentalSurvey.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee was formed in late 2020. The committee devised the survey to help draft long-term plans, green initiatives and to look for opportunities to improve the community's carbon footprint.

Results from the survey will be available on the Village website in July at www.gurnee.il.us/ESC.

Sounds of Summer Concerts

Join the Gurnee Park District for the Sounds of Summer FREE concert series.

The 2021 dates announced include:

- **Dancing Queen (ABBA Tribute Band)**
Thursday, July 22
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Viking Park Band Shell | 4374 Old Grand Ave
All Ages Welcome
FREE!
- **Blooze Brothers**
Thursday, August 19
7:00 - 8:30 PM
Viking Park Band Shell | 4374 Old Grand Ave
All Ages Welcome
FREE!

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 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.

Keeping Posted

325 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031

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Gurnee Fire Department Blood Drive - June 19th

Want to help the Gurnee Fire Department save lives? Join us on Saturday, June 19th for a mobile blood drive at Fire Station 2 (6581 Dada Drive) from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All blood types are needed. All donors are required to wear a mask and make an appointment prior to arriving. Use group code G110 when making your appointment. You can make your appointment today by visiting www.vitalant.org.

Can't make the drive? Stop by Vitalant's Gurnee office (5250 Grand Ave) and use code G110 to take part in our event!

Welcome New Businesses

- Air Force/National Guard (Gurnee Mills) - recruiting office
- All Star Sports (Gurnee Mills Entry B) - licensed sportswear and novelty items
- Evolve Counseling (5101 Washington St) - Youth & Family counseling services office
- Frontline Defender (Gurnee Mills Entry E) - first responder apparel/uniforms, ornaments, plaques
- Geek Snobb Boutique (1810 N. Delany Rd) - retail apparel, general merchandise
- Hanger Clinic (35 Tower Ct) - prosthetic/orthotic fittings
- Hot Bargain Deals (3608 Grand Ave) - liquidation retail
- Just Leggings (Gurnee Mills Entry E) - retail apparel
- NutriSense, Inc. (4233 Grove St) - Health & Wellness office/warehouse
- Removery (5250 Grand Ave) - new ownership, formerly Vamoose Tattoo Removal
- Superior Medical Solutions (401 N. Riverside Dr) - medical staffing agency
- Top Shelf Ice Arena (Gurnee Mills near Entry H) - ice rink under new ownership, new hockey training facility/Bar & Grill
- UroPartners LLC (95 N. Greenleaf St) - radiation oncology services

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

New Businesses Coming Soon

- AllStaff (1761 Dilley Rd)
- Anthony Buick GMC (5589 Northridge Drive) - relocation
- Ariel's Closet (Gurnee Mills, Entry E)
- AZ Polymers (5675 Centerpoint Ct)
- Bee Cool (1810 N. Delany Rd)
- Books a Million (Gurnee Mills Entry B) - relocation
- Bubblelicious (Gurnee Mills Entry B)
- College of Lake County Advanced Technology Center (7735 Grand Ave)
- Custom World (Gurnee Mills Entry B)
- Dairy Queen (401 N. Rt. 21) - relocation
- Design Society (5101 Washington St)
- EcoLogic Industries (1820 Northwestern) - relocation
- Everything Pretty Salon (726 S. Rt 21)
- Fake Meats (122 Ambrogio Dr)
- Global Box Machine (4001 Grove Ave)
- Happy 8 Collectibles (Gurnee Mills Entry A)
- Henry Broch & Co. (1947-1953 Delany Rd)
- Hobby Lobby (6136 Grand Ave)
- JD Fields & Co. (495 N. Rt 21)
- My Sister's Cottage (401 N. Rt. 21) - relocation
- Oldenburg, Susan A. (1790 Nations Dr)
- Papo's Express Car Wash (6498 Washington St)
- Popeye's (6593 Grand Ave)
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers (6415 Grand)
- S2 Masonry (4175 Grove Ave)
- Seedbox Solutions (1761 Dilley Rd)
- Trio Car Wash (3419 Grand Ave)
- Truly Title (1761 Dilley Rd)
- US Bank (6593 Grand Ave)
- WoodSpring Suites Hotel (5742 Northridge Dr)