

Keeping Posted

Volume XLVIII No. 5

Winter 2021

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Thursday, December 2nd

A celebration of "Holiday Lights" at Welton Plaza on Old Grand Avenue will be held on Thursday, December 2 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)!

This one night, all ages event will include holiday carolers, food trucks & snacks, hot cocoa, live petting zoo, music, a tree ornament craft station, s'more making, visits with Santa Claus, holiday lighting and MORE!

In addition, donations will be collected for the Warren Township Food Pantry & the Northern Illinois Food Bank, a nonprofit organization that strives to provide food to those in need in northern Illinois. Guests who bring non-perishable food items or cash donations to the event will receive a ticket for a FREE snack at the snack tent.

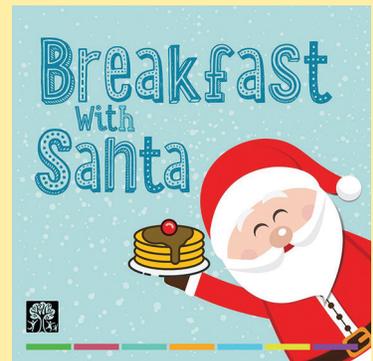
This event is co-hosted by Gurnee Park District, Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce.

Breakfast With Santa

Santa Claus is coming to Viking Park in Gurnee on Saturday, December 11! Enjoy pancakes, sausage and Canadian bacon with your family at the Gurnee Park District's annual holiday breakfast.

Visit with Santa, share your holiday wishes and take home a special gift. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the unforgettable holiday memories!

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.
6
7:00 p.m.*

Dec.
20
7:00 p.m.

Jan.
10
7:00 p.m.

Jan.
24
7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

Dec.
1
7:30 p.m.

Dec.
15
7:30 p.m.

Jan.
5
7:30 p.m.

Feb.
19
7:30 p.m.

Other Boards

Dec.
21
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 Commission Meetings.

*Public hearing at 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 6th.

Community Events

Holiday Lights at Welton Plaza

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Welton Plaza (Old Grand Ave)
(See front page for details)



Frosty Fest 2022

Saturday, January 8, 2022
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bittersweet Golf Course
875 Almond Road



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!

Gurnee Announces COVID-19 Business Relief Program

The Village of Gurnee is pleased to announce a new business assistance program that includes over \$425,000 in assistance dedicated towards COVID-19 recovery for businesses. Included in the program is a liquor license fee waiver for qualifying business, a business license fee reduction and \$250,000 appropriated a small business capital investment grant.

The new initiatives, recently unanimously adopted by the Village Board, include:

- For all licensed permanent businesses, a 50% reduction in the 2022 Business License fee
- For small businesses (a brand with fewer than 20 locations) with narrow exceptions, within the categories of Retail, Restaurant/Event, or Entertainment:
 - 100% waiver of 2022 on-premises liquor license fee
 - \$10,000 in matching grant funds for capital investment

Business License Fee 50% Reduction

Business License Fee renewal notices reflecting the 50% reduction for qualifying businesses were sent in November for the 2022 calendar year renewal. No action is required on the part of the business other than timely submittal of the required documentation and continued compliance with all requirements.

Liquor License Fee 100% Waiver

Liquor License renewal notices reflecting the 100% waiver for qualifying businesses licensed as of December 31, 2021, will be sent in February 2022 for a May 1 renewal. No further action is required on the part of the business other than timely submittal of the required documentation and continued compliance with all Village requirements.

Small Business Capital Grant - Applications Now Open!

The Village Board approved \$250,000 to assist qualifying businesses with capital projects within the Village of Gurnee. The Small Business Capital Grant (SBCG) program authorizes each qualifying applicant to receive, on a reimbursement basis, up to \$10,000 in 1:1 matching funds for capital projects. Projects completed as early as January 1, 2020, may be eligible, and the program will remain open as long as funds remain.

Eligible applicants include businesses of any size located within the Village of Gurnee corporate limits as long as the business meets all of the criteria eligibility below:

- Generates sales tax, food & beverage tax or amusement tax and is current with remittance of all such taxes payable to the Village
- Must have a Village of Gurnee business license (this program excludes home occupations and temporary businesses) and be properly licensed in all other respects
- Must be in good standing with the Village of Gurnee and compliant with all obligations
- Must not be associated (including as a franchisee) with a brand of 20 or more locations, with one exception: businesses associated with a national brand that has relocated within the Village of Gurnee during the eligible period, incurring eligible expenses in so doing
- Excludes grocery, pharmacy, fuel stations, packaged liquor, vape/smoke, body modification establishments, professional services, and hotel/motel

Capital projects are those which enhance or improve an asset; in this case, commercial real estate. Capital projects are typically defined as new construction, expansion, or renovation of a property. Eligible projects for the SBCG Program include, but are not limited to: roof replacements/repair, patio structure of a permanent nature, parking lot resurfacing, signage improvements, plumbing, electrical and HVAC improvements.

Interested applicants can apply on the Village's website: www.gurnee.il.us/smallbusinessgrant.

Mayor's Message

Dear Residents:

The holidays have arrived and we have much to celebrate. This time of year provides ample opportunity to be thankful and to share the joy of the Holiday season.

This year the Village, Gurnee Park District and the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce are joining together for some holiday fun on Thursday, December 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Welton Plaza in "old Gurnee". Treats, Santa, plaza lighting, crafts and more will provide fun for all. It is an event that I believe we will continue for many years to come.



This time of year also brings snow and ice and the Village is prepared. Under the capable leadership of Heather Galan, Public Works Director, Public Works is prepared for the ice and snow events this time of year brings our way. The snowplow drivers have been checking and practicing their routes to provide the very best of service.

Finally, I would ask that you consider shopping local. Our businesses have had a rough go of it but they are coming back. Make their comeback complete and patronize these local stores for the holidays and beyond. Local businesses provide the Village with the revenue necessary to provide the excellent Village services residents expect and deserve.

The Holiday season is also a time to be thankful for the blessing of others in our life – family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates. This is a great time to invest in relationships and let people know we appreciate them. I'd like to encourage each of us to reach out to those in our community who feel isolated or alone – a visit, a card or a telephone call can make a real difference.

May you enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful Holiday Season!

-Mayor Tom Hood

Styrofoam Recycling Event

The Village of Gurnee, Representative Joyce Mason and the Dart Container Corporation will be hosting a special recycling event of Polystyrene, more commonly known as Styrofoam™, at the Gurnee Village Hall (325 N. O'Plaine Road) on Saturday, December 11. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Individuals are asked to bring their clean, dry Styrofoam™ to be recycled. Styrofoam™ must have the #6 symbol on it. NO straws, lids or packing peanuts will be accepted.

The Styrofoam recycling event is an initiative of Gurnee's Environmental Sustainability Committee. Committee member Shelley Lazarus was the driving force for bringing a Styrofoam recycling option to Gurnee.

"I have been saving Styrofoam throughout the pandemic. We ordered a LOT takeout in an effort to support our local restaurants," said Lazarus. "Whether you're nuts like me or are just beginning your styrofoam pile, bring it all to Gurnee's special collection event. If you don't, it's just going to sit in the landfill for the next 500+ years!"

For more information about this event, contact the Village of Gurnee at 847-599-7500.

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/.

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.

Christmas Tree Collection

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 5, 2022
- Wednesday, January 12, 2022
- Wednesday, January 19, 2022
- Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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 26, 2022 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.

Keeping Posted

THOMAS B. HOOD, MAYOR
Andy Harris, Clerk

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Jeanne Balmes Karen Thorstenson
Greg Garner Cheryl Ross
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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ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Gurnee, IL
Permit No. 45

Postal Patron

Small Business Capital Grants Available

As mentioned on page 2, the Village is offering qualified small businesses the chance to apply for up to \$10,000 in 1:1 matching funds for capital projects, subject to funding availability. The program was launched on November 1st to help businesses recover from COVID-19 and the financial impact of mitigation measures. Applications and qualification criteria are available on the Village website at www.gurnee.il.us/smallbusinessgrant.

Village Updates

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

New Businesses:

2nd & Charles (Gurnee Mills Entry B) - buy/sell/trade - games, music, collectibles • **Bubblelicious** (Gurnee Mills Entry B) - homemade bubble teas, lattes • **Diosa Skin** (1790 Nations Dr) - esthetician • **Fake Meats** (122 Ambrogio Dr) - e-commerce distributor of vegetarian and vegan products • **Makeup LaVonne Studio** (5101 Washington St) - makeup services & instruction studio • **MK Dress** (Gurnee Mills Entry A) - women's apparel • **Oldenburg, Susan A.** (1790 Nations Dr) - accountants and advisors • **Raising Cane's** (6415 Grand Ave) - quick service restaurant • **Seedbox Solutions** (1761 Dilleys Rd) - agricultural services office • **Six Flags Great America Holiday in the Park** (1 Six Flags Pkwy) - holiday entertainment • **Soiree** (3563 Grand Ave) - event space • **State Farm - Stefanie Curtis Agency** (4949 Grand Ave) - insurance • **Tiki Tako** (Gurnee Mills Food Court 2) - Asian & island inspired tacos • **WAM USA** (1528 St. Paul Ave) - sales/warehouse, materials handling equipment

For the latest up-to-date project news, check out the Village's monthly Projects in Progress publication! www.gurnee.il.us/projectsinprogress.

Be in the Know

Coming Soon:

Anthony Buick GMC (5589 Northridge Dr) - relocation/auto dealer • **AZ Polymers** (5675 Centerpoint Ct) - polycarbonate sheet production • **College of Lake County Advanced Technology Center** (7735 Grand Ave) - post secondary instruction, manufacturing curriculum • **Cooper's Hawk** (7735 Grand Ave) - restaurant & winery • **Everything Pretty Salon** (726 S. Rt. 21) - salon • **Glo'More Microblading & Beauty Academy** (505 N Rt 21) - training classroom • **Henry Broch & Co.** (1947 N. Delany Rd) - food processing/packaging • **His & Hers Hair and Beauty Supplies** (Gurnee Mills Entry J) - beauty supplies • **Hobby Lobby** (Gurnee Mills) - arts & crafts retailer • **Illinois Gastroenterology Group** (35 Tower Ct) - medical office • **Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois** (35 Tower Court) - medical office • **NMA Group** (345 N. Rt. 41) - transportation/logistics • **Papo's Express** (6498 Washington St) - car wash • **Popeye's** (6593 Grand Ave) - restaurant • **Illinois Representative Joyce Mason** (495 N. Rt. 21) - District office • **Restaurant Depot** (1501 Tri-State Pkwy) - wholesale restaurant supplies • **Signature Heating & Cooling** (83 Ambrogio Dr) - HVAC contractor • **State Farm - Steve Roth Agency** (495 N. Rt. 21) - insurance • **TFW Surveying & Mapping** (1761 Dilleys) - professional land surveying • **Tropical Smoothie Cafe** (7010 Grand Ave) - restaurant • **Truly Title** (1761 Dilleys Rd) • **US Bank** (6593 Grand Ave) - financial services • **UXO Elite Training** (900 Tri-State Pkwy) - relocation/CrossFit training gym