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THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Recent events have changed the way our community interacts with one another. To achieve a healthier environment for everyone, we have altered our behaviors when dining in restaurants, attending live events, or socializing with friends and family. The Neighborhood Watch program, along with other police department programs, were placed on a temporary hold for the foreseeable future. The Gurnee Police Department has altered its communication practices to maintain the long-standing relationships we have built with our residents. Although we do not have the opportunity to conduct meetings with our residents, we will continue to provide you with relevant information about our community and deliver guidance you can reference to promote crime prevention in your area.





2020 CRIME TRENDS

Overall, crime trends from 2019 to 2020 have decreased, but we did experience an increase in vehicle burglaries and stolen autos. Many of you may have received information through Facebook, NextDoor, or the Neighbors App during the summer and fall months regarding motor vehicle burglaries in the area. Gurnee residents saw a 17.5% increase in motor vehicle burglaries and an 18% increase in motor vehicle thefts in 2020. These crimes are often referred to as "Crimes of Opportunity" because they are just that. Our records indicated that an overwhelming majority of police reports mentioned the vehicles were unlocked while parked outside. This information is a stark reminder that we should not take the simple effort of locking our doors for granted.

As winter weather approaches, residents will be inclined to warm up the car before going for a drive. If your car does not have a keyless remote starter, do not risk leaving your keys in the ignition while you briefly run back into the house or building. Vehicles can be stolen in a matter of seconds when the keys are in the ignition.

Another crime often reported in the weeks leading up to the holidays is package thefts. Annual increases in online shopping has escalated the number of thieves willing to profit from your purchase. Take proper precautions to save your packages and deliveries by utilizing the tips listed here.

When witnessing possible suspicious activity, call police immediately.

Nearly 1 in 4 U.S. residents have had packages stolen.

(Research conducted by shorr.com)

VEHICLE SECURITY

- Lock your doors
- Completely close the windows
- Park in a well-lit location
- Never leave the car running unattended
- Never leave the valet key in the vehicle
- Hide or remove valuables
- Take the garage door opener out of the vehicle

A motor vehicle is stolen once every 42.2 seconds in the U.S.
(FBI Uniform Crime Report Data)

SAFEGUARD PACKAGES

- Set up a P.O. Box or have the package delivered to your office
- Consider a local package locker
- Track the package delivery and be there when it arrives
- Require signature on delivery
- Install security cameras
- Ask a neighbor to collect the package for you





The police department receives questions every year about street parking, especially during the winter months. As a reminder, parking on Village streets between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM is prohibited by ordinance (Sec. 78-102). We understand that some parking circumstances are unavoidable, and we allow parking permissions for limited periods of time for limited reasons. If your vehicle must be parked on the street, please call 847-599-7000 and press "0" to speak with a dispatcher about your situation.

WINTER REMINDERS

When deciding to live within a neighborhood, we agree to cooperate with Local Ordinances and Home Owner's Association rules. Many of these rules change with the varying seasons, but we can all do our part to ensure we remain respectful to our neighbors and community.

According to Code Enforcement Officer Tim Lavris, some of the most frequently cited violations occur after a snowfall. As snow accumulates on the streets, Gurnee Public Works begins to plow the major roadways and neighborhood streets. It can be frustrating to see a pile of snow at the end of your driveway following the passing of a snowplow, but there is no feasible way to avoid snow from collecting there. Whether you shovel or use a snowblower to remove the pile, do not push the snow back into the street.

In the event of snowfall, keep cars off of the roadway. This allows snowplow crews to clear the entire road, and it prevents your vehicle from being plowed in, ticketed, or towed. Citations may be issued to vehicles parked on the street when we receive (2) or more inches of snowfall.



For questions about code enforcement or to report a violation, visit the Village of Gurnee website at gurnee.il.us, or call Tim Lavris at 847-599-7576.

Is your vehicle ready for the winter? Before taking to the roads, be sure to check out the Safe Winter Driving checklist provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by visiting nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips.

DID YOU KNOW?

Snow removal in Gurnee is handled by three different agencies due to our combination of local, county, and state roads. Here is the breakdown

IDOT

- Grand Avenue
- Milwaukee Avenue
- Route 120
- Route 45
- Route 41

Gurnee

- Most Residential Streets
- Almond Road
(between Grand & Washington)
- Tri-State Parkway
- Dada Drive

Lake County

- Hunt Club Road
- Washington Street
- Stearns School Road
- Gages Lake Road
- Rollins Road

ARE YOU NEIGHBORLY?

According to surveys conducted nationwide, the likelihood of you knowing your neighbors' names are decreasing. Hectic lifestyles and social media interactions are often considered contributions to the lack of in-person human exchange. For many, leaving early for work and coming home late provides minimal time to socialize with neighbors. When confronted with the opportunity to speak with neighbors, many prefer a courteous wave over a face-to-face conversation. Why is that?



Say neighbors should look out for each other



Know their neighbors' names

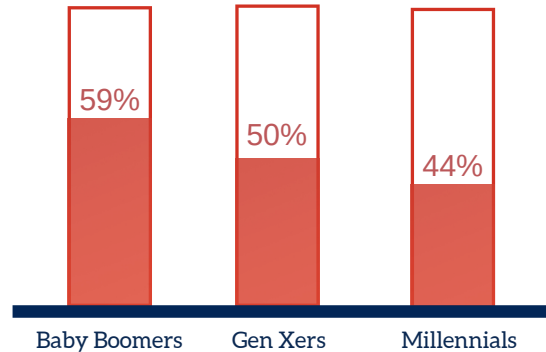


Feel safer when they know their neighbors

Many researchers have determined our community's need for social interaction has shifted to social media. Becoming members of online community groups fulfills the desire to relate to, communicate with, and connect with others. The same can be said for texting and calling established friends. These avenues of communication create less anxiety than introducing yourself to neighbors and building new friendships. However, are we jeopardizing our neighborhood safety by neglecting to meet the people who live around us?

Baby Boomers are more likely to know their neighbors than Gen Xers and Millennials.

(Research conducted by Safe Home)



Community groups and established relationships provide commonalities that attract us to a comfortable communication environment. Relationships with neighbors, on the other hand, tend to focus solely on proximity and often lack substance. Research has shown that there are two key factors that aid in neighborhood safety. Knowing your neighbors on a personal level, and having an open line of communication with local law enforcement. Both relationships create a greater impact on your community's safety than most realize. Two-way communication and information sharing between neighbors and the police department promotes awareness and the natural instinct for us to look out for one another. We are more likely to report suspicious activity when we feel connected with neighbors and the police.

Even during a pandemic, we can find ways to safely meet our neighbors. We challenge you to make the initiative to say hello and start the conversation.

THE IMPACT OF KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS

72%

of homeowners stated, because they know their neighbors, they are confident their neighbors will do something if suspicious activity occurs around their home.



35%

of Americans who know their neighbors have shared information with them about crime and safety in the neighborhood.

SENIOR COMMUNITY NEWS

Defense Against Scams

Each year, the senior community accounts for nearly \$3 billion in losses related to financial fraud. Criminals often target the senior community because they tend to be trusting and polite. Additionally, many have acquired wealth through lifelong earnings, property ownership, and maintaining excellent credit stability. All of these attributes are attractive to scammers looking to gain from someone else's accomplishments.

We saw an increasing number of Government impersonation scams in our community in recent months. Criminals performing these scams often pose as police officers, county sheriffs, or federal agents threatening to put you in jail if you do not pay outstanding fines or fees. When calling their victims, criminals can change the phone number on your caller ID to make it appear as though the police department is calling you. The manipulation of phone numbers with the use of technology is called "spoofing." While speaking with you, they will often request you to urgently wire money or send gift cards to a specified address. Government agencies will never ask you for payment over the phone.

Scammers are successful because they aggressively pressure you to send money; avoid falling for this trap. Studies have also shown that seniors victimized by these scams are less likely to file a report to the proper authorities or mention the victimization to their families. In many instances, seniors feel ashamed at having been a victim, while others claimed they were concerned their relatives would lose faith in their abilities to manage their financial affairs. The most popular

reason given for not reporting these crimes was because many did not know who to call or what information to supply to investigators. If you or a family member has become a victim of fraud, you can report the activity to your local police department as well as the Federal Trade Commission. In most circumstances, authorities will ask for the following information:

- Name of the scammer / company
- Date of the contact
- Means of communication
- Phone numbers or email addresses used
- Method of payment requested
- Overview of your interactions with the scammer



Photo taken in January 2020 at Bickford of Gurnee

It can be hard to determine if a phone call or email received is a scam or legitimate purpose. Based on recommendations from the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, there are several things you can look for to help you make the proper determination and to avoid becoming a victim. Continue reading on the next page for additional information on common scams.

Protect Yourself From Common Scams

GRANDPARENT SCAM

The criminal will pretend to be a grandchild or younger family member faced with an urgent emergency. The caller will ask you to quickly send or wire money to a specified address to assist them with paying overdue rent, college expenses, or car repair.

In a similar instance, the con artist will act as a representative of a family member who has had an accident and is currently in the hospital. They will ask you to send money to help with the medical expenses. In both of these cases, hang up on the caller and contact another family member who can verify if the information is correct.



MEDICARE SCAM

A scammer will pose as a Medicare representative and claim your Medicare benefits are at risk, or you qualify for free medical supplies. They will create a sense of urgency for you to "Act Now" or risk losing your benefits. If they ask for your personal information, such as your Social Security Number or credit card information, hang up the phone. Contact the Medicare office directly and ask to speak to someone to confirm your benefits are not at risk of being canceled.

OVERDUE UTILITIES

Scammers may call or appear at your house, claiming to be a utility worker. They may wear a utility worker uniform or shirt indicating the utility company. They will fear you into thinking your utilities will be shut off unless you provide payment for an overdue utility bill. End the conversation and call the utility company directly to confirm whether you have a delinquent payment.



HOME REPAIR - BURGLARY

Similar to the utility scam, imposters will pose as repairmen or women and offer to repair parts of your home or property. They lure you to an area of your residence to discuss the repair, such as the basement or backyard. While you are distracted, a second person enters your home to steal your valuables. Do not give in to these repair offers, no matter how good the deal sounds. Ask for their card and tell them to leave.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Each year the Gurnee Police Department organizes and participates in several charitable events that allow us to give back to our local area. This year is no exception. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gurneepd for updates.

Photos taken in 2019

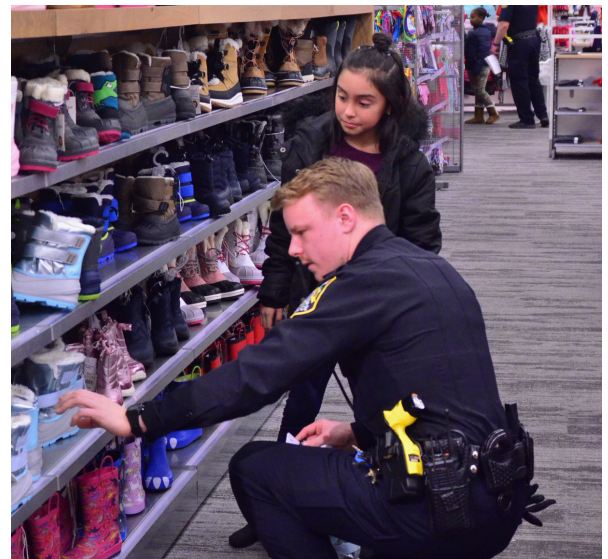
COAT DRIVE

We are once again participating in the Midwest Veterans Closet coat drive by collecting gently used winter weather gear. The not-for-profit organization supports military families, enlisted military, and veterans in our local area. Last year, we collected over 250 coats, and we hope to exceed that number in 2020. We are no longer able to accept donations in our department lobby, but you can drop off your coats, hats, gloves, and children's winter apparel at their location in North Chicago. Visit midwestveteranscloset.org for details.



SHOP WITH A COP

This year marks the 6th annual Shop with a Cop event in Gurnee. To keep families and kids safe, we will be conducting the event virtually, limiting all contact. Instead of officers meeting with kids one-on-one and shopping for much-needed clothing and holiday presents together, our event will take on a virtual element with video chat meet-and-greets. Officers will shop for the presents on the child's wish list and deliver them to each house, wrapped and ready for the holiday.



SOLDIER'S TREE

Another long-standing tradition within our department is the Soldier's Tree. Each year our department adopts several military families experiencing difficult circumstances that make it impossible for them to provide Christmas for their children. The families represent each branch of our armed services and receive presents from members of our police department. We also donate gift cards to help support each family with paying bills or purchasing groceries.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Although we are unable to gather together for events such as Gurnee Days, Neighborhood Watch, Citizen's Police Academy, and Coffee with a Cop, we are doing what we can to maintain communication with our residents. If you have not registered with our four forms of electronic communication, please take a few minutes to join our network. You will receive critical incident alerts, crime alerts, police department news alerts, and information about what our officers are doing around town.

We love hearing from our residents! You can contact the Crime Prevention Office at any time with questions or concerns. Contact information for Det. Shawn Gaylor is below.



Emergency Alerts -
Connect CTY

<https://11297163.bbcportal.com/>



Link through NextDoor

nextdoor.com/agency-detail/il/gurnee/village-of-gurnee/



Follow us on Facebook

facebook.com/gurneepd



Join us on Neighbors

Available in the App Store:
Neighbors by Ring

CONTACT US



Detective Shawn Gaylor
Crime Prevention Detective
Office: 847-599-7124
Email: sgaylor@police.gurnee.il.us

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Number: 847-599-7000
Press "0" to speak with a dispatcher

Going out of town this holiday season?

If you will be away from home for a period of (3) days up to (3) weeks, you can request a Vacation House Watch from the police department. The form is available on the Village of Gurnee website at www.gurnee.il.us (Search "Vacation House Watch Form") or [click here](#).