

SPECIAL ISSUE 2026

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VILLAGE OF GURNEE
325 N. O'PLAINE RD.

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This newsletter is published by the
Village of Gurnee with supporting content
from Woodland District 50, Gurnee District 56,
Warren Township High School, Gurnee Park
District & the Warren-Newport Public Library.

To provide feedback, please contact:
patm@village.gurnee.il.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

I am proud to be an American! I am proud of how the people of our Nation have been instrumental in helping people around the world to be free to enjoy all that God has made them to be. I see that very thing played out here locally as Gurnee residents assist their neighbors and place others before themselves. God promises that as we take care of others, he will take care of us. One local example of this is the Gurnee Cares Commission taking their first steps as they recently awarded \$250,000.00 to various not-for-profits that service our Village. The initiative was designed to actively promote community engagement within Gurnee by forging meaningful connections between residents and local organizations, non-profit groups, and essential resources such as food banks, education programs, and health services. The Commission aims to strengthen the support network within our community, ultimately enhancing the range of services and opportunities available to all individuals and families living in Gurnee. I'm very proud of the work it has done to date and am excited about what is to come.

This past month, we have enjoyed celebrating who we are as a Nation. 250 years is a long time and it is worth stopping and considering what has happened over that period. It is quite a story to consider our first settlers from Europe and the hardships they faced in establishing this amazing country. Through all of the pivotal events, such as major wars, social movements, political developments, and economic milestones, the United States could have been so different. During these trying times, those in positions of authority courageously carried our Nation to the place it is today. All of these individuals are deserving of honor. Men and women like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Martin Luther King Jr., to name just a few, had a profound impact on shaping the United States into the great Nation it is today. Along with these astounding leaders, it is also important to recognize today's legislators and their efforts, from those serving on local boards all the way up to the Office of the President.

While our Nation is celebrating its 250th birthday this year, Gurnee will be celebrating its 100th birthday of incorporating as a Village on March 8, 2028. The Village is actually much older than one hundred years when one looks at the history. For example, the Mother Rudd House that hosts the Warren Township Historical Society was built in 1844, some 182 years ago, however, Gurnee was legally incorporated in 1928.

We currently have a Centennial Committee headed by Trustee Cheryl Ross collecting information about our history. If you have a contribution, please feel free to contact me with that information and I will ensure that it goes to the right place.

Beginning with the Gurnee Days celebration in August of 2027 through the Gurnee Days celebration in 2028, there will be a number of events throughout the year that will help us celebrate. One upcoming celebration in 2028 of note is the opening of Centennial Park, which will be immediately west of Welton Plaza. This park, like Welton Plaza, will memorialize the history of Gurnee. As we get closer to the 100th birthday, more information will be made available about the various events that will commemorate Gurnee's birthday. I hope you will join us in celebrating this historic event.

My continued hope is that we, as a Village, would be a source of compassion, kindness, and support to those around us. As always, please feel free to reach out to me to discuss whatever you have on your mind.

Sincerely,
Mayor Tom Hood

GURNEE NEWS

2025 OFFICER AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Every day, the members of the Gurnee Police Department keep our community safe while building relationships with the people they serve. This year, the department is proud to recognize two employees whose dedication, professionalism, and commitment to service have earned them its highest annual honors.



Detective Tyler Schutt has been selected as the 2025 Police Officer of the Year. Throughout the past year, Detective Schutt has distinguished himself through exceptional investigative work, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to developing others. In addition to his role as a detective, he serves as a Field Training Officer, Rapid Deployment Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, mentor, and member of the NIPAS Emergency Services Team. His willingness to take on additional responsibilities and invest in the success of his fellow officers has strengthened the department and enhanced the service provided to the Gurnee community.

Community Service Officer Allan Kalinowski has been named the 2025 Civilian Employee of the Year. Since joining the department in 2023, Allan has become an indispensable member of the Gurnee Police Department. Known for his positive attitude, professionalism, and reliability, he consistently goes above and beyond in support of officers, residents, and community programs. From assisting patrol officers and training new Community Service Officers to helping with child passenger safety seat inspections and volunteering at community events, Allan exemplifies the spirit of public service.

These awards recognize more than just individual accomplishments; they celebrate the dedication, teamwork, and commitment to excellence that define the Gurnee Police Department. Congratulations to Detective Tyler Schutt and Community Service Officer Allan Kalinowski on these well-deserved honors, and thank you both for your outstanding service to the Village of Gurnee.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: SANDY HART - LAKE COUNTY BOARD CHAIR AND DISTRICT 13 REPRESENTATIVE

Sandy Hart was elected as District 13 representative on the Lake County Board in 2012. District 13 includes Lake Bluff and Knollwood, as well as portions of Great Lakes, Gurnee, North Chicago, and Waukegan. In 2018, she was elected by her peers to serve as Lake County Board Chair and has continued that role since.



During her time on the Board, she has focused on responsible fiscal management, public health, environmental stewardship, transportation, and supporting economic growth. Her leadership has helped guide Lake County through significant challenges while maintaining a commitment to transparent and collaborative government.

A recent example of her leadership and years of dedication coming to fruition was the creation of LakeComm 9-1-1 and

the opening of the Regional Operations and Communications (ROC) Facility. LakeComm is a regional communications center handling 9-1-1 calls for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services for 30 agencies, including Gurnee. LakeComm, along with the Lake County EMA and the Joint ETSB, is located in the ROC. The ROC is a state of the art, 37,000 square foot, purpose built, net-zero energy building that was designed to withstand the most severe weather.

LakeComm and the ROC are the result of a decade long initiative to consolidate Lake County 9-1-1 Centers into a single agency to eliminate duplication of services and equipment, reduce call transfers, streamline interagency response and mutual aid, and increase data sharing between agencies and responding personnel.

This is just one example of her many efforts that has had a positive impact on Gurnee. The Village is proud to have partnered with Chair Hart on this effort, and countless others over the years, and thanks her for her continued dedication, leadership, and commitment to public service and Gurnee.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gurnee Farmers Market

Every Sunday from 10am to 2pm through September 6 at Saratoga Square, 5101 Washington Street.

Safety Stars & Dilly Bars Back to School Bash

Friday, August 14, 5pm-7pm, Welton Plaza

Join the Gurnee Police Department and Community Partners for an evening of fun at the annual Safety Stars & Dilly Bars Back to School Bash! This event celebrates the start of the school year with games, activities, giveaways, and opportunities to connect with local organizations. Gurnee Dairy Queen will provide Dilly Bars. Stop by Welton Plaza for a fun and energetic kickoff to the new school year!

Gurnee Mayor's Golf Benefit

August 28, 8am breakfast, 9am start time

Join Mayor Tom Hood for a day on the golf course on Friday, August 28th at Bittersweet Golf Club located at 875 Almond Road! The benefit is for BiG Great Lakes, whose goal is to "change the way the world views adults with special needs."

Gurnee Get-Together

Sept. 11, 5pm-7pm, Christine Thompson Park

This free, family-friendly event offers a wonderful evening of live music, crafts with the Gurnee Arts Commission, yard games, and opportunities to meet the Village's Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Don't forget your lawn chairs and get ready to enjoy the energetic sounds of the classic rock band, No Limit!

Bonfire & Brews: Taste of Gurnee

September 19, 7pm-11pm, Bittersweet Golf Club

Unwind by the fire, enjoy live music and adult beverages, and savor specialty drinks and flavors from local vendors. This 21+ event also features friendly competitions like axe throwing, giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, and bags. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Training in the Park

Join us for "Training in the Park" this September. The Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments are excited to engage with the community during their evening drills. Training and demonstrations will take place at various Gurnee parks over two weeks, beginning at 6pm. The schedule is as follows:

- September 21, Christine Thompson Park
- September 22, Southridge Park
- September 23, Hunt Club Park
- September 28, Vineyard Park
- September 29, Betty Russell Park
- September 30, Ravinia Park

GURNEE ARTS FESTIVAL

on the Plaza

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026 11 AM – 3 PM
WELTON PLAZA - OLD GRAND AVE

- Local Artists
- Live Music
- Performing Arts
- Interactive Art Activities
- Food Vendors
- Community Art Projects

A Signature Art Event

Celebrate the arts in the heart of Gurnee at the **Gurnee Arts Festival on the Plaza!** This **FREE** family-friendly community event brings together local artists, performers, and art lovers for a day filled with inspiration, entertainment, and interactive art experiences.

Browse unique artwork, meet the artists, enjoy live music, theatre and dance performances and explore art activities for all ages!



SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
LEARN MORE!



Create. Connect. Celebrate. Experience the Arts in Gurnee.

GURNEE DAYS

JOIN US FOR A
WEEKEND OF FUN!

AUGUST 7-9

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

12:00 - 3:00pm	Bike Rodeo hosted by the Gurnee Police Department
4:00 - 8:00pm	Community Art Show
	Beer Garden Stage: LIVE Music by Dave & Tara
6:00 - 10:00pm	Food Booths and Food Trucks
	Beer Garden
7:00 - 8:00pm	Gurnee Days Honoree Meet & Greet
7:00 - 8:30pm	Adult Bingo organized by the Gurnee Chamber
7:30 - 9:30pm	Teen Pool Party at Hunt Club Park Aquatic Center*
8:00 - 9:45pm	Main Stage: LIVE Music by Beyond the Blonde

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

8:00am-3:00pm	Car Show
	Food Booths and Food Trucks
10:00am-3:00pm	Beer Garden
12:00pm	"Battle of the Badges" Softball Game

*event at off site location (unless stated otherwise, all events will be held at Viking park - 4374 Old Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL)

THANK YOU TO OUR GURNEE DAYS SPONSORS:

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Woody
GURNEE
BLUES | GMC

**GREAT
WOLF
LODGE**

GURNEE
COMMUNITY BUREAU
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

9:30am	Parade
10:30am - 12:30pm	Gurnee Fire Department Open House Station 1* Gurnee Police Department Open House & Bike Rodeo* Gurnee Public Works Open House*
11:00am - 11:00pm	Food Booths and Food Trucks
12:00 - 1:00pm	Main Stage: DJ & Announcements
12:00 - 1:30pm	Family Bingo organized by the Gurnee Chamber
12:00 - 2:00pm	Beer Garden Stage - LIVE Music by Matt Nankie
12:00 - 4:00pm	KidZone: Amusement Area
	Sponsor & Vendor Booths
12:00 - 8:00pm	Community Art Show
12:00 - 11:00pm	Beer Garden
12:30 - 4:30pm	Teen Activities organized by Warren Township Teen Center
1:00 - 3:00pm	Main Stage: Gurnee's Got Talent
1:00 - 4:00pm	Mother Rudd Open House*
1:30 - 5:00pm	Dunk Tank
2:00 - 4:00pm	Loteria/Family Bingo organized by the Gurnee Chamber
2:30 - 5:30pm	Beer Garden Stage: LIVE Music by The Pelvis Brothers
	Main Stage: DJ & Contests
	Ice Cream Eating Contest
3:00 - 5:15pm	Balloon Toss
	Egg Race
4:30 - 6:30pm	Adult Bingo organized by the Gurnee Chamber
5:15 - 7:15pm	Main Stage: LIVE Music by Mockenzie O'Brien Band
6:00 - 9:00pm	Beer Garden Stage: LIVE Music by Tim Swan
8:00 - 10:30pm	Main Stage: LIVE Music by All American Drawbacks
9:00pm	Fireworks



Scan this QR Code or visit our
website at www.GurneeDays.com

GURNEE SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Dear Gurnee Community,

The three Gurnee School Districts are teaming up to wish you a happy summer! While Gurnee District 56, Woodland District 50, and Warren District 121 are three separate school districts, we work together throughout the year to serve our neighbors in the community. Collectively, we have created a Shared Services Committee with representatives from each school district to explore and expand opportunities to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and highlight the connections across our respective districts, since we serve many of the same stakeholders. The three districts work together to align our school year calendars and breaks as closely as possible, and we meet regularly to discuss safety, innovation, community resources, and best practices. When winter weather is in the forecast, the three of us discuss how best to keep our staff and students safe. All three school districts also work closely with the same community partners, so it just makes sense for meaningful collaboration and a team approach when it comes to the education of the youth in our community.

We look forward to serving you in the 2026-2027 School Year!

Dr. Luis Correa - Gurnee District 56

Dr. Robert Machak - Woodland District 50

Dr. Danny Woestman - Warren District 121

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Gurnee District 56, Woodland District 50, and Warren Township High School District 121 are deeply committed to ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and community. We believe that true security comes from connection, which is why our three districts actively collaborate to streamline emergency preparation under the guidance and partnership of our local first responders.

A Unified Response: The “I Love You Guys” Protocol

Gurnee District 56 adopted the “I Love You Guys” protocol in the 2025-2026 school year, Woodland District 50 is rolling it out to its four schools starting in August of 2026, and Warren District 121 is implementing it during the 2026-2027 school year.

When it comes to safety, clarity is everything. By aligning our schools under this single framework, we ensure that students, staff, and emergency personnel use the same terminology and procedures across all schools in the Gurnee community. This shared language eliminates confusion, ensures seamless communication, and allows for swift, coordinated action when needed. All three districts regularly train our staff and students, plan with stakeholders and first responders, and participate in drills to practice for a variety of safety scenarios.

Safety is also about building a supportive environment and we value our strong partnerships with the Gurnee Police Department, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and the Gurnee Fire Department. Each district has dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) embedded in our schools working alongside our internal safety teams. Our SROs are an integral part of our daily school communities. By walking the halls, engaging with classes, and building genuine bonds of trust, our SROs become a well-known “safe space” for students to turn to whenever they have a concern.

We are committed to working together to protect our schools and strengthen our community, but we can't do this alone. Everyone reading this newsletter contributes to a safe and supportive environment. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our children safe!

For individual school information please visit:

- **Gurnee D56:** www.d56.org/page/student-safety
- **Woodland 50:** www.dist50.net/page/safety
- **WTHS:** www.d121.org/ourschool/safety-portal



VILLAGE OF GURNEE TEACHER AND STAFF OF THE YEAR!

Thank you to the Village of Gurnee and the Henderson Foundation for celebrating educators and school employees through the Annual Teacher and Staff of the Year Program. The Village of Gurnee started the Teacher of the Year program in 2014, and the Staff Member of the Year program began in 2025.

Woodland District 50

Representing Woodland District 50, Jessica Pierson was selected as Woodland's Teacher of the Year, and Brandi Smith is Woodland's Staff Member of the Year Award.

Jessica Pierson is the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Itinerant Teacher for the district. She first started at Woodland in August 2020, and works with students and families at all four of our district schools. Jessica was selected as Woodland's Teacher of the Year because of her knowledge, expertise, and advocacy for deaf and hard of hearing students and their families. She takes great care in helping her students integrate into the general education classroom, and also helps other students in the class understand how they can be a good "hearing friend." She also provides opportunities for her students to step into the role of teacher to educate others about the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. In addition to making sure her students' needs are met, Ms. Pierson is raising awareness and championing inclusion by creating meaningful learning opportunities for her students and showing them that they belong in the W!



Brandi Smith is a Hall Monitor at Woodland Middle School. She first started at Woodland in August 2023, and works diligently to ensure students feel safe, supported, and successful. At the Middle School level, students change classes throughout the day. Supervision during passing periods can be a challenge, but for Ms. Smith this is her opportunity to really connect with the students. She always greets students by name and with a smile, making sure every child feels seen and respected. The example she sets for her students makes her a true leader in the school, and the students respond by seeking her out for conversations and advice. They know Ms. Smith will be there for them on a hard day, and give them the extra encouragement they need to keep moving forward.



Gurnee District 56

The honorees from Gurnee District 56 were River Trail School teacher Betsy Sincora who was selected as Gurnee's Teacher of the Year, and River Trail School teacher assistant Miriam Yaquian who was named Gurnee's Support Staff Member of the Year.

Betsy Sincora has dedicated 24 years to District 56 as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher, spending 23 of those years at Gurnee Grade School and River Trail School. She was selected as Teacher of the Year for her unwavering commitment to early childhood education and her ability to create a nurturing, engaging classroom where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired to grow. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Sincora serves as a mentor to colleagues and contributes to numerous district and school committees. Her impact extends far beyond academics, helping hundreds of students build confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.



Miriam Yaquian is a special education teacher assistant at River Trail School and has served students and staff for the past six years. She was selected as Gurnee's Support Staff Member of the Year for her dedication to students, families, and colleagues, as well as her exceptional ability to support communication with Spanish-speaking families. Currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Ms. Yaquian is known for her flexibility, reliability, and positive attitude. Whether assisting students in the classroom, providing targeted small-group support, or helping families navigate important school processes, she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure every student feels supported and successful.



Warren District 121

Please join us in celebrating Warren Township High School Lead Fine Arts Teacher Rocco Oddo, who has been voted by his colleagues as the 2025-2026 Gurnee Teacher of the Year! This prestigious award, presented annually by the Village of Gurnee recognizes Rocco's incredible 40-year career dedicated to education, athletics, and the arts. Since joining the Warren community in 1997, Rocco has made a lasting impact by coaching football and track, serving as Fine Arts Lead Teacher, building a thriving ceramics program that serves 500 students annually, and founding the beloved community Live Arts Festival. Celebrated by Superintendent Dr. Danny Woestman as an innovative leader who leads by example, Rocco is deeply respected by staff and students alike for his approachable nature and his unwavering commitment to cultivating a culture of creativity and excellence. Congratulations, Rocco, on this well-deserved honor!



We are equally thrilled to congratulate Special Education Support Staff Member Toni Ludwick, who has been voted by her peers as Warren Township High School's 2025-2026 Gurnee Support Staff of the Year! This honor celebrates Toni's nearly 30 years of exceptional service in special education, including her dedicated tenure at Warren since 2005. Known for her positive attitude, reliability, and unparalleled work ethic, Toni has spent decades going above and beyond for the O'Plaine campus. Cara Garland, Director of Special Education, praises Toni as a diligent, highly organized role model whose integrity and meticulous work set a high standard for the entire department. As she prepares to retire and relocate to Florida this fall to spend cherished time with her grandson, Oliver, and her family, we thank Toni for her lasting impact and wish her the absolute best in her well-deserved next chapter!



Thank you to the Village of Gurnee and the Henderson Foundation for supporting our schools and providing such a meaningful forum for recognizing outstanding educators and school staff.

WOODLAND DISTRICT 50

HOME → SCHOOL → COMMUNITY CONNECTION

At Woodland, we believe strong partnerships between the home, the school, and the community help students thrive. That is why we offer a variety of opportunities for families to become involved in their student's education and provide access to valuable resources from our community partners.

Coffee and Conversations with Dr. Machak

Join Woodland's Superintendent for informal opportunities to learn more about the District, ask questions, share feedback, and gain insight into the decisions that impact our students, staff, and families. These sessions offer families and community members a welcoming space for open conversations and meaningful connections.

Parent University

Parent University offers four sessions throughout the school year designed to help families support their students both academically and socially. Through these sessions, presented by Woodland staff and community partners, families gain access to valuable resources, helpful strategies, and information that can help their students succeed in school and beyond. Parent University Sessions are open to anyone in the community. Watch for information about the 2026-2027 series on our website, and save the dates! www.dist50.net/page/parent-university

WISE (Woodland Inclusion and Special Education Parent Group)

Woodland's WISE Parent Group provides support, resources, and networking opportunities for families of students in Woodland's Special Education programs. Through guest speakers, educational presentations, and community partnerships, families can learn more about available supports in the District and in the community, as well as learn how they can support their students to reach their full potential. www.dist50.net/page/special-education-parent-group

BPAC (Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee)

Woodland's Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee brings families, teachers, and community members together in support of bilingual families and the various language needs of our students. BPAC meetings offer families the chance to connect with others, learn about how they can support their students, provide input on Woodland's bilingual education program, and celebrate the diverse cultures that make up the Woodland community. www.dist50.net/o/dist50/page/bpac

Additional Family Engagement Opportunities

Throughout the year, Woodland offers events, volunteer opportunities, school celebrations, and student showcases that help strengthen the connections between home, school, and the community. We encourage all of our families to get involved, build connections, and take advantage of the many resources and support available. Through Parent Advisory Committees at each school, or through dynamic districtwide groups like the Woodland PTA, the Woodland Educational Foundation, or the Parent Mentor Program, there is something for everyone!

Save the Date for Woodland's 2026-2027 Cultural Events - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration - October 3, 2026
- Black History Month Celebration - February 6, 2027
- Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration - May 1, 2027

... And more events are in the works! Together, we can create a strong foundation for each and every student so they have everything they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

ABOUT DISTRICT 50

Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8. As one of the largest school districts in the State of Illinois, it has approximately 4,400 students enrolled from all of unincorporated Gages Lake and Wildwood and parts of Gurnee, Grayslake, Park City, Third Lake, Old Mill Creek, Wadsworth, Lindenhurst and Waukegan.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President - Mr. Joel Zwiefelhofer

Vice-President - Dr. Virginia Tate

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Board Member - Ms. Julia Plescia

Board Member - Ms. Gabriela Valverde Strobehn

Board Member - Jay Wiltshire

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Robert Machak



SCHOOLS

Woodland Primary

17366 W. Gages Lake Rd., Gages Lake
847-984-8700

Woodland Elementary School

17261 W. Gages Lake Rd., Gages Lake
847-984-8800

Woodland Intermediate School

1115 N. Hunt Club Rd., Gurnee
847-596-5900

Woodland Middle School

7000 Washington St., Gurnee
847-856-3400



WOODLAND WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATORS TO #LIFEINTHEW TEAM

The Woodland D50 Board of Education recently approved the hiring of new administrative leaders to help support the Woodland learning community.

- Dr. Christopher Harmon is the new Principal at Woodland Elementary. Dr. Harmon will replace Mr. Jared Reardon who is moving into a district level position in the Human Resources Department.
- Woodland Intermediate welcomes two new Assistant Principals to the administrative team. Ms. Heather Weidemann previously served as a P.E. Teacher and PBIS Leader at Intermediate and will now be an Assistant Principal. Ms. Saddam Raheel will be the new Assistant Principal/Special Education Supervisor at Woodland Intermediate, and she is also a parent in the district.
- Ms. Stephanie Reuter is the new Assistant Principal at Woodland Middle School where she will join the 6th grade team. Ms. Reuter is also a parent in the district.
- Mr. David Gonzalez will be the new Director of Operations and Facilities after serving as one of Woodland's Facilities Managers for the past few years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIELLE ROSARIO - BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Danielle Rosario on being named Woodland's Bus Driver of the Year by the Transportation Department. Danielle has been a valued member of the Woodland Team since 2021 and brings many years of experience as a school bus driver. She is known for her outstanding attendance, positive attitude, willingness to support others, and dedication to student safety. Danielle has a special place in her heart for our Special Education students and consistently goes above and beyond each day to support and care for them with patience and kindness.

The Bus Driver of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond the performance of his or her duties as a Woodland School Bus Driver, professionally executing safe school bus operation, while providing the students with the safest form of transportation to and from school. Thank you for always going the extra mile!



DISTRICTWIDE DAY OF SERVICE

One district. One day. One shared purpose.

During the 2025-2026 School Year, Woodland hosted a districtwide day of service centered on our ROAR values: Respect, Ownership, Accountability, and being Ready. The goal was to show our Wildcats that we have the power to make a difference, especially when we all come together to use that power for good! Across the district, we challenged our Wildcats to complete 50 Service Projects in One Day!

Each school and department planned a day of service with different activities based on the interests of their school community, age groups, and schedules. We offered options and choices so that there was something for everyone, but as a district we were united by one common goal: completing 50 service projects in one day that benefit our schools and community.

Woodland Wildcats decorated paper placemats for Senior Centers, created birthday cake kits & cards for foster kids, picked up trash outside of the school, made no-sew blankets for Project Linus, created Kindness Kits for kids in the hospital, and made spring sunshine cards for seniors in the community -- just to name a few of the projects completed that day! We are proud of our students for building community, making our ROAR values visible through actions, and creating a positive shared experience across our district. We invite the community to join us for our next Districtwide Day of Service, coming September 25, 2026.



WOODLAND IS A CLICK AWAY - CONNECT WITH #LIFEINTHEW!

- **Woodland Website:** Visit our Website today to learn more about all of our programs and services. www.dist50.net
- **LinkedIn:** Stay up to date on district news, job openings, staff spotlights, and professional achievements. [linkedin.com/company/woodland-school-district-50](https://www.linkedin.com/company/woodland-school-district-50)
- **YouTube:** Watch Board of Education Meetings on Woodland Live. [youtube.com/@woodlandlive9671](https://www.youtube.com/@woodlandlive9671)
- **Facebook and Instagram:** Follow to see the everyday magic in the classrooms, celebrate our amazing students and staff and enjoy fun moments from #LifeintheW. [facebook.com/WoodlandDistrict50](https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandDistrict50) [instagram.com/woodlanddistrict50](https://www.instagram.com/woodlanddistrict50)

THE ROAR RUN IS BACK! SEPTEMBER 11, RAIN OR SHINE

The Woodland PTA and the Woodland Educational Foundation are teaming up to bring back the ROAR Run. The ROAR Run is a fun, family-friendly event that features a 1 mile fun run and a 5K race. This is a great community event and fundraiser. Sponsors and Volunteers Needed.

Learn more: www.roarrun.com

- **Friday, September 11, 2026** - rain or shine!
- **4pm** - Packet pick-up and/or Registration
- **5:15pm** - 1 Mile Run/Walk for all ages!
- **5:35pm** - 5K Run/Walk
- **6:30pm** - Awards Ceremony
- [instagram.com/woodlanddistrict50](https://www.instagram.com/woodlanddistrict50)

DISTRICT FINANCES

Credit Ratings (*Moody's ratings indicate high quality; Standard & Poor's ratings indicate a strong capacity to meet financial obligations.*)

- **Standard & Poor's (S&P):** AA+ (2020-2025)
- **Moody's:** Aa2 (2019-2024)

Financial Recognition

- **Illinois State Board of Education:** Recognition (2020-2025); Review (2019)



GURNEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 56

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Gurnee District 56 brings together students, families, staff, and the community through four annual cultural celebrations that highlight the diverse backgrounds and traditions represented across the district. These events are an important part of the district's commitment to belonging, connection, and celebrating the heritage of its students and families.

Each event features music, arts and crafts, hands-on activities, and food, with student performances often taking center stage. Community organizations are also invited to share resources and information for families. Each school hosts one event each year, helping make the celebrations a true districtwide effort.

Prior to each event, students across the district learn about the highlighted culture through classroom activities and lessons connected to state standards and the district's Portrait of a Graduate competencies.

"Our cultural events help students see themselves reflected in our schools while also giving them opportunities to learn about and appreciate others," said Superintendent Dr. Luis Correa. "These celebrations strengthen connections between our schools and families and help create a sense of belonging for everyone in District 56".

The events begin in early October with the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. This year, families were invited to share a photo of a loved one for an ofrenda; attendees enjoyed a mariachi band performance; and students created papel picado, traditional Mexican folk art featuring intricate designs cut into colorful tissue paper.

The district's Black History Month celebration follows in February. This year's event included performances by Arlecia Stapleton, African American storyteller Shanta Nurullah, and the Elite Striders Drill Team.

Leading up to the celebration, students across the district studied the impact of African American artists and their work on American visual arts, music, and cultural movements. River Trail Middle School students researched Black inventors, influential leaders, music and food traditions, then created presentations to share with younger students. At Spaulding School, students created Kente shirts as part of an art activity. Kente is a colorful fabric from Ghana made by weaving strips of cloth together, with colors and patterns that often carry special meanings and are commonly worn during celebrations.

In celebration of Women's History Month, District 56 hosts a Maker Faire each March. The event features more than 50 vendors offering hands-on "make and take" crafts, interactive activities, community displays, and unique items for sale.

"The purpose of our Maker Faire is to inspire our diverse student community to be creative individuals who are prepared to solve problems and make meaningful and innovative contributions to society," Dr. Correa shared. "We want all students to see that there are people in the community who support that goal and can inspire them with their innovation and creativity."

Lessons and activities leading up to the event focus on women in STEM and their accomplishments.

The final event of the year is Asian American Pacific Islander Night. This year's celebration featured a ping pong tournament, martial arts demonstrations, and student artwork displays of paper lanterns, dragons, and fans. Attendees could also create origami, practice calligraphy and receive Henna art.

Because this year's event was hosted at Viking Middle School, students played an active role in planning and carrying out the celebration. During Advisory, students researched an Asian or Pacific Island country and collaborated to create posters that were displayed during the event. Students also designed the flyer used to promote the celebration.

For more information about participating in District 56 cultural events, contact Lisa West, lwest@d56.org. Dates for the 2026-27 events will be posted on the district website, www.d56.org, at the beginning of the school year.

ABOUT DISTRICT 56

Gurnee School District 56 is an elementary school district covering early childhood through Grade 8.

It services portions of Gurnee, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Beach Park.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Luis Correa



SCHOOLS

Spaulding School
2000 Belle Plaine Rd., Gurnee
847-662-3701

Prairie Trail School
13600 W. Wadsworth Rd., Wadsworth
847-623-4333

River Trail School
333 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee
847-249-6253

Viking Middle School
4460 Old Grand Ave., Gurnee
847-336-2108



NEW ADMINISTRATORS

New faces will join D56's administrative team in the upcoming school year. These changes reflect the replacement of leadership positions essential to our continued commitment to provide the best educational experiences for our students. Here are the new faces that you can expect to see at the district and school buildings office next school year:

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Lisa West will serve as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction starting July 1.

Dr. West currently serves as the Principal of North Barrington Elementary in the Barrington 220 Community Unit School District, where she's worked since the 2021-22 school year. During her time in Barrington, Dr. West was highly involved in strategic planning, implementing the learner profile competencies into the classroom, and serving on several strategic planning teams. Her collaborative leadership resulted in exemplary student growth and staff development. As the Principal Lead for District 220, Dr. West worked to standardize the in-district student transfer process and improve communication about kindergarten placement. Dr. West was deeply involved in the recent transition to full-day kindergarten, providing significant leadership and input on D220's innovative kindergarten lab program, housed at Barrington High School.

Prior to that, Dr. West served as Principal of Woodland Intermediate School and Woodland Elementary School in Woodland School District 50. She started her career as an elementary school teacher for Glencoe District 35, teaching 5th and 6th grades.

She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Iowa State University. Dr. West is passionate about curriculum and instruction and is thrilled to join the D56 school community.

Dr. West currently lives in Wauconda with her husband and two fur babies, Murray and Finn. Dr. West and her husband love Las Vegas, Michigan State, Iowa State, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Prairie Trail Assistant Principal

Josh Coon brings 23 years of experience in education and a strong commitment to student success, instructional excellence, and innovative leadership.

Most recently serving as a technology director, Josh led district-wide technology initiatives, enhanced digital learning opportunities, and supported strategic planning to ensure equitable access to educational resources. Prior to this role, Josh served in school administration for eight years as both a dean and assistant principal, where responsibilities included fostering positive school culture, supporting student achievement, overseeing discipline and student services, and collaborating with teachers to strengthen instructional practices.

As assistant principal, Josh is committed to partnering with students, staff, families, and the community to cultivate a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every student can thrive.

He and his wife Elizabeth have two children, Joslin (a junior at Lakes High School) and Emillie (a 7th grader at Prince of Peace Catholic School). Josh spends most of his extra time in gyms with his daughters and wife watching volleyball or wrestling.



GURNEE D56 DEVELOPING LEARNING FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

Supporting student success requires a shared vision for teaching and learning. To help ensure all students have access to meaningful, high-quality learning experiences, Gurnee D56 has been developing a Learning Framework that aligns with its goals and Portrait of a Graduate.

The Learning Framework is designed to help educators create deeper learning experiences that encourage students to think critically, collaborate with others, solve problems, and apply their learning to real-world situations. It also provides a consistent approach to teaching and learning throughout the district while supporting school improvement efforts and professional development for staff.

District leaders believe that investing in educators through ongoing learning and collaboration ultimately benefits students by helping them develop the skills and competencies identified in the Portrait of a Graduate. The framework is intended to ensure all students have access to engaging, high-quality learning experiences that prepare them for future success.



LEARNING FRAMEWORK

GURNEE DISTRICT 56

BUDGETING AND REPORTING

Copies of Gurnee District 56’s budget, teacher’s contract, and required compensation disclosures are all available on the District’s website. Go to www.d56.org, select “Menu,” under Services, then select “Business Office.” Residents with questions can contact the District Office at 847-336-0800.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Gurnee District 56 has developed a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for maintenance of our buildings. The five-year plan includes roof replacement and other maintenance items to achieve the most efficient use of energy. In addition, this summer the District will be building a central kitchen facility at our Prairie Trail School campus moving the operations of our food service department from Warren Township High School O’Plaine Campus. This move will allow opportunities for continuous improvement to our nutrition offerings and increase our ability to do scratch cooking. The District will include the costs for these projects in its annual budget and are the final expenditures from the Working Cash bond the district borrowed funds for in 2023.



WARREN TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

ABOUT DISTRICT 121

Warren Township High School (WTHS) District 121 is a comprehensive four-year high school with an enrollment of approximately 3,600 students. Warren is one of the largest high schools in Lake County, Illinois.

District 121 covers over 50 square miles and includes all or part of Beach Park, Gages Lake, Grandwood Park, Grayslake, Gurnee, Millburn, Old Mill Creek, Park City, Third Lake, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Wildwood.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Stephen E. Carlson

Dr. Tasia Fields

Susan Squires

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Daniel S. Woestman



FACILITIES

Warren Township High School is one high school district with two campuses. Each campus houses two grade levels. The O'Plaine Campus generally houses 9th and 10th grades and the Almond Campus generally houses 11th and 12th grades.

Almond Campus

34090 Almond Road, Gurnee
847-662-1400

O'Plaine Campus

500 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee
847-662-1400

Transportation Center

3801 Swanson Court, Gurnee
847-662-1400

Warren's Budget: How We Fill Our Backpack

Think of our school year as a single school day, and the budget as the backpack that carries our students through it.

Just like a student's school backpack, public school finances are strictly organized. We are legally required to keep our funds in distinct "pockets" that cannot easily be mixed or swapped.



Main Compartment (General Operating Fund): Holds our daily learning needs. This pocket covers teacher and staff salaries, textbooks, classroom learning technology, and day-to-day utilities.

Side Mesh Pocket (Capital & Infrastructure Fund): Specifically reserved for structural and physical gear. This pocket pays for school building roof repairs, maintenance of school bus routes, and structural safety updates.

Front Zipper Pouch (Restricted Grants & Bonds): Strictly locked for external support. This pocket contains state or federal funding dedicated solely to localized services (such as special education) or voter-approved construction bonds.

Our Budget Timeline - When We Pack Our Budget: Building a school budget is a year-round effort involving teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education.

Here is how we pack to make sure everyone is ready for every school day. Our timeline is the same every year to make sure we know exactly when and how our students need the support.

Phase 1: Winter & Spring - Checking the Supply List

- January - April: Our Business Office meets with teachers and principals to evaluate what supplies, athletic gear, staff, and building fixes will be needed for the upcoming year.

Phase 2: Summer - Organizing our Pockets

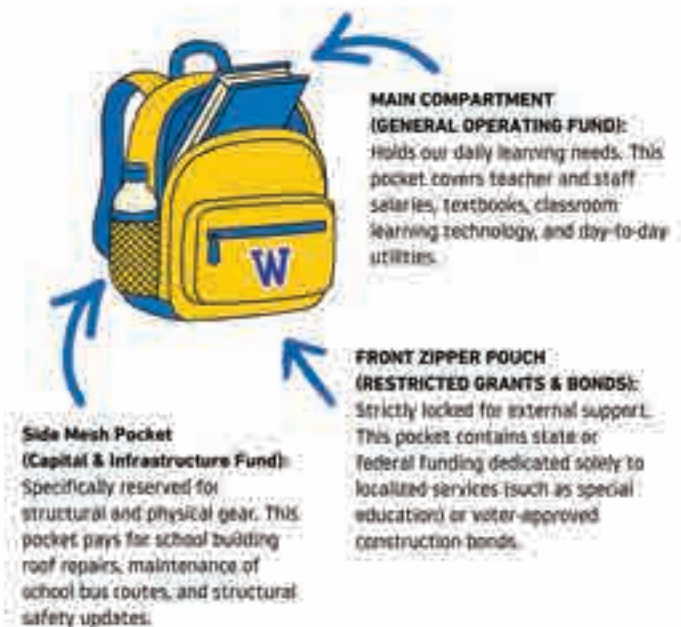
- May - August: A draft budget is completed by our Business Office, presented to the Board, and available for 30 days so community members can inspect our plans.

Phase 3: Fall - Zipping It Up

- September - December: Following a public budget hearing where community members can ask questions and share feedback, the Board of Education votes to adopt the budget.

Dr. Danny Woestman

Superintendent



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

For many years, the district delayed repairs and renovations due to lack of funds. With the improved health of the district's finances, we have prepared a 10-year Facilities Plan to prioritize projects. Some of the current projects are:

1. O'Plaine Campus Locker Room Addition: Many community members know our current locker rooms are located in the lower levels of the school and are subject to flooding and, sometimes, sewage backup. The new addition will be located at the south end of the school. The addition will house both physical education and athletic locker rooms along with an athletic trainer's room and staff offices.
2. The boys' swim locker room will be moving up to the first floor of the building next to the pool. It is being renovated to include showers and lockers for our aquatics programs.
3. In addition to the new locker room at O'Plaine, the south parking lot will be redesigned for better traffic flow, improved safety barriers, aesthetics, and structural integrity. No more potholes and ugly barriers!



BLUE DEVIL BADGE: FREE ENTRY FOR GURNEE RESIDENTS 60+!

The Blue Devil Badges were a huge success last year, and we want to keep the momentum going! All Gurnee residents aged 60 and older are eligible for a free pass to any IHSA regular-season home athletic event for the 2026-2027 school year.

Enjoy free entry all season long for sports including:

- Football & Girls Flag Football
- Basketball (Boys & Girls)
- Volleyball (Boys & Girls)
- Baseball & Softball
- And more!

How to get your badge: Stop by the Warren Township High School District Office to pick up your pass.

- Location: 34090 Almond Road (by the tennis courts)
- What to bring: A driver's license or state ID showing your address within the school district boundaries

Once you have your badge, just present it at the gate before any regular-season game. We can't wait to see you in the stands!

BRIDGING THE GAP: HOW GURNEE SCHOOLS ARE UNITING FOR OUR STUDENTS' FUTURE

As a community, we all share the same goal: helping our children grow, learn, and succeed. We also understand that major transitions can bring a mix of excitement and uncertainty for both students and families. Moving from middle school to high school is an important milestone, and it's completely normal for students to feel a little nervous as they prepare for this new chapter.

That is why Warren Township High School (WTHS) is committed to working closely with our local feeder schools to ensure every single student feels supported, welcomed, and ready for a successful transition. Together, we are creating a seamless experience that helps students build confidence, make connections, and become familiar with their new school community before they walk through the doors as freshmen.

A Warm Welcome to Warren: By the Numbers

This year, the halls of Warren were filled with the excitement of our future Blue Devils! We were excited to welcome more than 700 eighth grade students from Millburn, Prairie Crossing, River Trail, Viking, Woodland, and St. Patrick's.

These visits were more than just a tour of the building; they were an opportunity for students to experience life at Warren firsthand. Through our shadowing program, eighth graders spent part of the school day alongside current WTHS students, attending classes, exploring the campus, meeting teachers, and getting a feel for the high school experience.

By stepping into the shoes of a Warren student, our future Blue Devils were able to see that while high school may seem like a big change, it is also a welcoming and supportive community where they can learn, grow, and find their place.



DISTRICT 121 RECOGNITIONS

Class of 2026 by the Numbers:

- 938 Graduation candidates in the Class of 2026
- 226 Students graduated with academic honors
- 117 Illinois State Scholars
- 3 National Merit Semifinalists/Finalists
- 4 National Merit Commended Students
- 56 National Recognition Program Scholar Students
- 62 Students earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- 57 Students earned the Commendation Towards Biliteracy

Blue Devil Champions

Notable team athletic achievements

- Football - NSC Champion, IHSA State Playoffs 2nd Round
- Boys Basketball - NSC Champion, IHSA Regional Champion
- Girls Bowling - IHSA State Qualifier
- Competitive Cheerleading - IHSA State Qualifier
- Girls Wrestling - IHSA Regional Champion
- Baseball - IHSA Regional Champion
- Girls Soccer - IHSA Regional, Sectional, Super-Sectional Champion, IHSA State 3rd Place
- Softball - IHSA Regional Champion
- Boys Volleyball - IHSA Regional Champion

Notable group and individual extracurricular achievements

- Illinois Music Education Association All-State Musicians: Colin Coyle, Isaiah Fields, David Wurl
- Jazz Ensemble was selected to play at the Illinois Music Education Conference
- Jazz Ensemble won Grand Champion at the Jazz in the Meadows Festival
- Avanza, Future Latino Leaders: 1st Place for the Varsity team at the Chicano College Bowl Competition
- Esports - IHSEA Marvel Rivals and Minecraft State Champions
 - Marvel Rivals Team: Jeakien Carino, Landen Davis, Isaiah Hernandez, Jacob Oh, Michael Rueth, Oscar Sarmiento
 - Minecraft Team: Ashwin Gollavilli, Jaden Gould, Aaron Jackson, Phillip Runyan, Xazier Zamora
- FBLA National Qualifiers: 28 students qualified to attend the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio
- Science Olympiad: 15 Individual State Qualifiers and 10 State Champions
 - Clement Bedwell - State Champion
 - Joe Borucki - State Champion
 - Gabriel Dowling - State Champion
 - Arsalan Enayathulla - State Champion
 - Nicole Lau - State Champion
 - Lucie Phillips - State Champion
 - Rohan Nitin Rao - State Champion
 - Iniya Saravanan - State Champion
 - Lucas Steres - State Champion
 - Gabriel Vinnik - State Champion
 - Jordan Penfold - State Qualifier
 - Abhishek Sahoo - State Qualifier
 - Aadhav Sivasankar - State Qualifier
 - Vandana Sriachitananda - State Qualifier
 - Safa Waris - State Qualifier



MAKING THE BIG SCHOOL FEEL WELCOMING AND CONNECTED

We know that a successful transition to high school takes more than just a single visit; it requires ongoing support, meaningful connections, and opportunities for students and families to feel a sense of belonging. That's why Warren has developed programs designed to help every student feel welcomed, supported, and confident as they begin their high school journey.

Link Crew: Students Helping Students One of the greatest sources of support comes from students who have recently experienced this transition firsthand. Through Link Crew, incoming freshmen are paired with trained upperclassmen mentors who serve as a positive role model and trusted resource. These student leaders help welcome freshmen on their first day and stay connected throughout the school year.

Family Liaison: Helping Families At Warren, we recognize that the transition to high school is an important milestone for families as well as students. That's why we have a dedicated Family Liaison to help families navigate the move to WTHS. Whether connecting families with resources, answering questions, or helping build relationships with staff, the Family Liaison serves as a partner in ensuring every family feels informed, supported, and connected to the Warren community.



DISCOVER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS!

Looking for a meaningful career right here in your community? There has never been a better time to join the teams at Gurnee District 56, Woodland District 50, and Warren Township High School District 121. While each of our districts has its own unique hiring processes and current openings, we share a common goal: finding passionate, dedicated individuals to support and inspire our students.

Our schools are building diverse teams of talented and passionate community members to serve our amazing students. We are currently looking for candidates across a wide variety of departments, meaning you don't need to be a teacher to work in a school!

- In the classrooms: teachers, substitutes, paraprofessionals
- In the schools: administrative support, hall monitors, lunch supervisors
- In the districts: bus drivers, custodians, maintenance staff, technology and data specialists, and more!

These are very important positions that support our students every day, and we want you to be part of this team! To learn more about career opportunities in the schools, visit our websites:

- Woodland 50: www.dist50.net/page/careers
- Gurnee D56: www.d56.org/o/gurnee/page/human-resources-employment
- Warren 121: www.wths.info/openpositions

WARREN-NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

ABOUT WARREN-NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

The Warren-Newport Public Library District, founded in 1973, serves a population of approximately 66,000 within a 55-square mile area that covers all or most of Warren and Newport Townships, including Gurnee, Wadsworth, Park City, Wildwood, Grandwood Park, Old Mill Creek, and portions of Grayslake, Millburn, Lake Villa, Libertyville, and Waukegan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Caroline Costa Beadle, Trustee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ryan Livergood



WARREN-NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

224 N. O'Plaine Road
Gurnee, IL 60031
847-244-5150

Our Library Reimagined: A New Chapter Begins

After months of planning, construction, and transformation, the Our Library Reimagined project is complete, and we are excited to welcome the community into the newly renovated spaces throughout Warren-Newport Public Library.

This project was designed with our patrons in mind, creating more flexible, welcoming, and engaging spaces for learning, creativity, and connection. From updated seating and improved technology to reimagined areas for children, teens, and adults, every enhancement supports the ways our community uses and enjoys the library today.



If you haven't had a chance to visit since the renovations were completed, we invite you to stop by and explore what's new. Whether you're discovering Coco's Cove, spending time in The Point, finding a cozy place to read, or using one of our updated technology offerings, there's something new for everyone to experience.

Our renovated spaces are just one part of an exciting new chapter for WNPL. Learn about our evolving approach to programming, including new pop-up activities and experiences for all ages. You'll discover our new laptop kiosk, making it easier than ever to borrow a laptop while visiting the library, a brand-new catalog coming in September, offering improved searching, easier browsing, accessibility upgrades, and new community features, and you'll also get a look at our new strategic plan, which will guide our priorities and growth in the years ahead.

Thank you for your patience, support, and enthusiasm throughout this project. We can't wait for you to experience all that our reimagined library has to offer.

Ryan Livergood
Executive Director
Warren-Newport Public Library



NEW AT THE LIBRARY: SELF-SERVICE LAPTOP VENDING KIOSK

Access to technology just got even easier at Warren-Newport Public Library!

We're excited to introduce our new Laptop Vending Kiosk, a convenient, self-service station that lets you check out a laptop in seconds - just like checking out a book. Whether you're working on a project, applying for jobs, or simply need a device during your visit, a laptop is ready when you are.

With 9 laptops available in the kiosk, this new service expands access, helps reduce wait times for public computers, and gives you more flexibility during your visit. Grab a laptop, find a comfortable spot in one of our new seating or work areas, and settle in for whatever you need to do.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Use your library card to check out a laptop directly from the kiosk
- Enjoy up to 3 hours of use per session
- Designed for quick, easy access - no waiting, no hassle

GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY: WNPL'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

At Warren-Newport Public Library, we are always looking for ways to better serve our community. Our new Strategic Plan will guide the library's priorities through 2029, helping us create a more welcoming, connected, and accessible experience for everyone.

The plan focuses on five key areas: welcoming everyone, connecting people, enriching learning, improving access, and strengthening our organization. In the years ahead, you will see improvements such as more multilingual and accessible services, expanded opportunities to connect with others, practical learning experiences, easier access to library resources, and continued investment in the people and services that make WNPL a community hub.

Whether you are a longtime library user or have not visited in a while, this plan is centered on you. We are committed to reducing barriers, increasing opportunities, and ensuring the library remains a place where people can learn, create, connect, and belong.

As we move forward, we will continue sharing updates and progress along the way. Thank you for helping shape the future of your library.



PROGRAMMING REIMAGINED!

Our programming team has been hard at work designing a new service model to engage our users. We imagine a library bustling with activity and focused on human connection—where learners of all ages can grow together as a community.

Our renovations in Coco's Cove and The Point allow our programming team to make use of these innovative and welcoming new spaces, creating opportunities for staff to host pop-up activities alongside traditional library programs. Our library will be a space where families can participate in a scavenger hunt, learn a new craft, or attend a story time, all in the same day. These spaces will become busier, as staff use new equipment and a refreshed set of toys to encourage our users to see the library in a new light.

Tweens and Teens will have a new voice in shaping the library, as we develop a Teen Advisory Group to guide us in creating youth-focused activities and events! The Vault, our teen space, will blend a relaxing hang-out space with drop-in programming and next-generation technology to allow our teens to choose the kind of experience they want when they enter our doors.

For all ages, we will continue to develop programming that celebrates the diverse cultures, voices, and talents within our community. Stop by and see what our amazing staff has in store for you.



POSTAL PATRON

A NEW CATALOG IS COMING TO WNPL

This September, WNPL will launch a new catalog called Bibliocore, which is designed to make finding, discovering, and managing library materials easier than ever.

It offers a more modern, user-friendly experience with improved search results, personalized recommendations, curated lists, and enhanced browsing features. You will be able to easily discover books, movies, audiobooks, eBooks, and more from across the CCS (Cooperative Computer Services) library consortium's shared collection of millions of items.

More information, previews, and helpful resources will be shared on our website and social media channels as we get closer to launch.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY PANTRY

WNPL's Free Community Pantry is a simple way we can help support neighbors who may be facing food insecurity or other challenges. Available to anyone in need, the pantry offers nonperishable food and personal care items free of charge. Donations of unexpired, nonperishable food and personal care items are always appreciated and can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk. Our Amazon Wish List has also been a tremendous help, allowing supporters to easily purchase needed items and have them shipped directly to the library. For more information, please visit our website at www.wnpl.info.



NEW BUSINESSES

CD One Price Cleaners
6549 Grand Ave.

Chicago Speech Therapy
1 S. Greenleaf St.

Farmers Insurance - Austin Villalobos
5455 Grand Ave.

Gurnee Mills - AJ's Putt 'N' Play,
Abuela's Market, Mida-K Beauty
6170 Grand Ave.

Integrated Family Behavioral Health
3575 Grand Ave.

Jim & Steve's Sportcard Shop
3500 Grand Ave.

Lake Harbor Treatment
3915 Oglesby Ave.

Moon Star Boutique
4262 Old Grand Ave.

Nene's Lash Spa
135 N. Greenleaf St.

Saratoga Square - Destino
Ristorante (Expansion), The
Play Loft
5101 Washington St.

Tabularasa Integrative Health
135 N. Greenleaf St.

COMING SOON

BIGGBY Coffee
3430 Grand Ave.

Gurnee Community Bank
7320 Grand Ave.

Gurnee Hyundai (Expansion/
Remodel)
6251 Grand Ave.

Gurnee Mills - Sky Zone
Trampoline Park, Victoria's Secret
(Relocation), IKEA
6170 Grand Ave.

HassleLess Mattress
6409 Grand Ave.

Liberty Point Apartments
10 Woodlake Blvd.

Mastec
905 Lakeside Dr.

Moose Creek Pool & Spa
200 Ambrogio Dr.

Seasons at Gurnee Apartments
1500 Tri-State Pkwy.