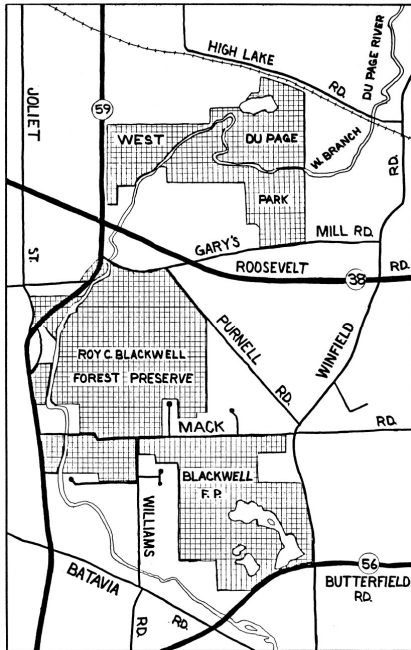


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Circulation 738

October 2013 Newsletter – Inside this issue:

- Low Flow Toilet Problem Solved
- Election For Secretary
- Factors Related to Recent Flooding

OCTOBER 2013						
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Fall General Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 29th	
Where :	Visitors Center at Cantigny Park 1S151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton. See location and entry details inside.
6:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to newly elected Road Commissioner, Forest Preserve Commissioner and also Sheriff's Liaison. • Study County topographical maps. • Pay annual dues.
7:15 p.m.	Brief business meeting including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election for Secretary • Minutes and Treasurer's Report
7:35 p.m.	Topic - Flooding Issues: County Perspective Greg Phillips and Sarah Hunn
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn. Cleanup. Volunteers welcomed.



WEST-WIN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

... dedicated to a rural lifestyle

Nowadays progress moves very swiftly. Many times this progress interferes with our lifestyles and forces us to accept conditions that are contrary to our "country living." There may be other unfavorable situations or issues that concern you. By joining the West-Win Homeowners' Association, you will be one of many organized to protect our rural atmosphere and any other interests of concern to our unincorporated area. Join us - give your opinions and ideas for a better environment. If you are new to our neighborhood, or are an eligible household recently added to our mailing list, welcome!

Your current Board of Directors to contact with ideas is:

President:	Dennis Clark	630 231-4634
Vice President:	Herb Wigder	847 723-5150
Secretary:	vacant	
Treasurer:	Eileen Kelly	630 876-1316
Ass't Secretary:	Bev Becker	630 293-1213
Ass't Treasurer:	Sue Hodgson	630 231-2738

Judy Cummings	630 293-0474	Gib Van Dine	630 231-4777
Stuart Feinberg	630 520-0373	Vicki Weyer	630 400-1556
Kurt W. Hoffmann	630 293-5725	Barb Whitney	630 231-0320
Tom Hornbach	West-Win@comcast.net		

On the web: <http://West-Win.Home.comcast.net>
email: West-Win@comcast.net

ELECTION FOR WEST-WIN SECRETARY

Bev Becker has agreed to be the West-Win Secretary with term ending April 2015. Our Bylaws require an election for this position at the next General Meeting. Voting will take place during our brief business meeting prior to our speaker and program, on Oct. 29.



Printed On Recycled Paper



Why Did This Spring's "100 Year" Rain Cause Flooding?

Come to our General Meeting Tuesday, Oct 29, and find out!

People frequently remark about our picturesque area and how surprisingly "hilly" it is. And a number of private ponds within our territory provide hours of delight for children and adults alike, as well as the water-loving creatures we all enjoy in our semi-rural, unincorporated area.

Some of us have lived in the same house for many years, and even during heavy "100 year" rains have never had any flooding. Our area has had very little concrete or blacktop added over the years. So after this spring's "100 year" rain, some people were surprised by the flooding that took place. The following questions emerged:

What changed?

Did this "100 year" rain have more inches coming down faster?

Has a nearby pond gradually filled with silt?

Is there an old underground drain pipe that is now clogged? (Our area used to be farm land!)

Did the flooding come from only one nearby property?

Or did it begin further away, flooding a nearby property, which in turn flooded another property?

Or did a river, creek or stream overflow?

Where is the highest point in our West-Win territory, and how high is it?

The lowest point?

Come to our fall General Meeting on Tuesday evening, October 29, and hear Gregory Phillips, PMP, from DuPage County Public Works, give an overview of our entire area, complete with topographical maps. Gregory will be joined by Sarah Hunn, Senior Project Engineer in Stormwater Management. They will also address funding that might be available for such things as:

Assessing problematic runoff from a nearby property,

Dredging ponds, and

Installing or repairing major conduits for future heavy rains.

The presentation may also address such questions as:

Am I free to fill in a "ditch" along the side of my property line? I don't *think* it will cause any flooding for anyone else...

Several years ago someone filled in a ditch, and ever since then I have had annoying flooding in heavy rains. Are there services available to me as a taxpayer to have an assessment made?

For flooding near the river, would it help to install an additional (or larger) culvert to handle water runoff to the river?

The street in front of my house was closed off due to deep water, and my basement had major flooding. Am I eligible for funding for cleanup and repairs?

(continued on next page)

(100 Year Rain – continued)

Would a deeper ditch along some roads help avoid flooding in the future? If so, does the County evaluate that and the Township install the ditch?

Does the County, or other governmental agency, have funds available for dredging a pond, repairing or enlarging drains, etc.?

What is the difference between a detention pond and a retention pond?

What things can residents do to prevent flooding?

If we experience run-off and ponding/pooling in a heavy rain, do I need to be careful walking through the water? If so, what are the risks of walking through the water?

Bring your questions to the meeting on Tuesday evening, Oct. 29. If possible arrive 30 minutes early to study the topographical maps on display, See the cover for location and time.

Highway Commissioner Retired

Joe Jedlovec, Jr. has retired after 24 years with the Winfield Township Road District. Many of you will remember him, having met him on the road in front of your house or at one of our West-Win meetings. Joe could sometimes be seen filling in for absent team members doing hands-on work to help keep our roads in shape.

If you ask Joe to go fishing with you, he might finally have the time to do it, now that he is retired as Highway Commissioner of Winfield Township Road District. And fishing is something he's enjoyed all his life while growing up right in and near the West-Win area. He knows a lot of the wooded areas and waterways by heart from years of first-hand exploring. If Joe has to say no to your fishing invitation, it might be because he is busy with grandfathering activities.

At one West-Win meeting, Joe explained that it took 5 hours to make one circuit of snow plowing. Some of us were fortunate to be near the beginning of the circuit, and found, on the way to work, that our township roads were plowed long before the county or state roads. Those near the end of the circuit still received good service.

Joe was the President of the Township Highway Commissioners of DuPage County, who met to coordinate with each other. The relationships developed during the meetings of this group were helpful later for reciprocal aid after a storm.

If you're new to the area, you might not already have the latest Township Road District Homeowners' Handbook for 2013. This handy booklet has pictures and drawings to help you know where to place your mailbox, when and how leaves and brush will be picked up, when and how to obtain permits and other helpful information. The booklet was created for you by Joe and his team.

Prevent a Wet Basement

Several Ways! Many of them Free!

Why do some basements stay bone dry after a heavy rain, while others get water? A few simple techniques can sometimes make all the difference. Don't wait until after the next heavy rain to learn about them as you mutter to yourself, "If only I'd known"! Instead, be proactive and invest 5 minutes to get armed with some tips available at our next General Meeting, Oct. 29.

We also hope to have available a list of what you can do in case of an area-wide flood that does affect you or a friend or relative. Sometimes the professional "aftermath" services are booked for days; and time is of the essence. These tips would help you through that scenario.

After the "100-year" rain this spring, a number of people were wondering about taking out flood insurance, and there was a lot of misinformation and speculation being bantered about. One of the elusive points was what actually constitutes a "flood" from an insurance point of view. We hope to



have available at our meeting a long-time specialist who mucks around in the "aftermath" of flooded basements, assessing damage and cause. This is one professional you hope you'll never have to meet in your own home!

(Note: Whenever West-Win is able to have information or perspective presented to you, and it happens to be from a vendor, please understand that we are not promoting or trying to push any product, service, or company.)

LOW FLOW TOILET PROBLEMS?

Fellow homeowner shares advice from experienced plumber

Over time, one of our low flow toilets became increasingly sluggish then finally quit flushing altogether. We called the plumbing company that installed the toilets and they sent a plumber out to investigate the problem. He asked for a five gallon pail, filled it with water and poured it briskly down the toilet. After a moment or two of hesitation, the toilet spontaneously went into a full power flush! Two or three successive normal flushes, using the flush handle, worked perfectly!

What happened? Here was the plumber's explanation: Most quilted and two-ply toilet paper is manufactured with a type of "wax" to hold it together. This "wax" prevents it from dissolving quickly and completely. With the limited amount of water available for each flush, this undissolved paper may not be completely propelled along the horizontal drain line and begins to build up in the elbow underneath the toilet discharge, eventually resulting in poor flushing and finally a plugged line.

The preventive solution is to use Scott Extra Soft toilet paper. This product is manufactured without "wax" and disintegrates rapidly when placed in water, without breaking down during use. The result is a complete flush without toilet paper buildup in the elbow. An additional benefit for our area is that it is safe for septic systems.

We made the switch and have had no more flushing problems. We hope our experience and the simple solution may save you an unnecessary plumber's bill.

Editor's note: Using Scott 1000 or Scott Natural should also work for preventing clogging.

Remembering a West-Win Volunteer

A faithful volunteer who enjoyed working consistently in the background for 9 years, on your behalf, passed away this summer. (His family prefers to keep him anonymous.)

This fine man carefully checked The Daily Herald newspaper each day, looking for any legal or zoning notices, etc., that might apply to the West-Win area. Any notice that could threaten our semi-rural setting was emailed to the West-Win Board's attention so that plans for inappropriate development would not be approved. Without intervention by West-Win, our area would have a very different and displeasing appearance.

Fortunately, while our volunteer was ill, the West-Win Board had one more opportunity to again thank him, restating how much we have appreciated his work.

SAVE \$5 BY PAYING YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW

If you pay your dues by the end of October, you may deduct \$5. After October 31, dues are \$20 per household once a year - which is still a bargain!

On the top line of the cover sheet is the last year for which your membership dues have been paid. If you have already paid for 2014, we thank you. You have helped us to continue our efforts to protect our semi-rural environment. If you have questions or concerns, please send an e-mail to West-Win@comcast.net.

You may pay your dues at the October meeting or use the envelope provided in this newsletter to mail your dues to:

West-Win Homeowners' Association, PO Box 367, Winfield, IL 60190-0367.

Please put your member number (located on the top line of the cover sheet) on your check and fill out and enclose the cover sheet.



Plenty to Do in 30 min. Prior to West-Win General Meeting!

Arrive at least 30 minutes early for the General Meeting on Oct. 29 so you can:

- Meet new Road District Commissioner, John Dusza, who will be available to answer your questions.
- Meet newly elected District 6 Forest Preserve Commissioner, Shannon Burns. Her Forest Preserve work has recently been in the newspapers.
- Talk with Sheriff's Neighborhood Liaison, David Kotovsky.
- Get handouts of easy tips for preventing future flooding.
- See County topography maps brought by the speakers.
- Pay your annual dues (\$15 before Oct. 31, \$20 after).

Needed: Volunteer to Review Daily Herald Newspaper

Recently the West-Win Board had to scramble to find an immediate temporary substitute to review legal notices in the Daily Herald newspaper. It was important that not one day would be skipped. We found a person who is doing a great job, but he needs a back-up to be available in case he has to travel out of town. Or if someone preferred to be the main newspaper reviewer, he's willing to be your back-up. West-Win would cover your Daily Herald subscription cost. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer position, please contact West-Win at **West-Win@comcast.net**.

West-Win Wants You!

Volunteer Opportunities Available

A West-Win volunteer can not only help keep our area semi-rural, but often has a chance to network among neighbors. For example, it's not unusual to donate an hour or two twice a year to prepare the newsletter for mailing and, at the same time, learn from other newsletter volunteers about a great plumber or a good way of attracting hummingbirds.

Volunteer positions are listed below to help you select the one(s) that **you** would like to do. Please send an email with contact information and the position(s) you're interested in, to **West-Win@comcast.net**. Thanks! We don't think you'll be sorry you did it! Probably just the opposite.

Help with newsletter mailings Needed twice per year, usually the first weekends in April and October. Join others as the newsletter is inserted into envelopes and stamps and address labels are applied.

Greeter for General Meetings Needed twice per year, usually the 4th Tuesday evening of April and October. Welcome people at the door and direct them to the various tables for sign-up, dues payment, and collection of handouts.

Monitor of Daily Herald Newspaper Search the paper 5 minutes a day, 7 days a week, Check newsprint version(not online) of Daily Herald for hearing notices that could affect West-Win area. Example: If there's an obscure notice that someone wants to erect a 10 story building in our area we don't want to miss that until after the hearing! West-Win offers to pay for the volunteer's subscription to the Daily Herald and provides guidelines for monitoring.

Help with West-Win Website and IT
Various times throughout the year. Need may fluctuate.



NOTICE!

Fall Meeting Will Be at Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park has again offered West-Win the Auditorium in the Visitors Center in the Winfield Library for the Fall 2013 General Meeting while the Winfield Library undergoes renovation.

At the gate, tell the attendant that you are there for the West-Win meeting. There will be no parking fee, and you will be directed toward the Visitors Center.

Please enter the Visitors Center through the main entrance, between the flagpoles. There will be signs inside directing you to the meeting location.

Cantigny Park is south of Roosevelt Road on the east side of Winfield Road. From the Winfield Library, our usual location, you would turn left (south) onto Winfield Road and proceed past Roosevelt Road. Very shortly, the entrance will be on your left. The map below shows Cantigny Park's location.

West-Win appreciates having this beautiful location for the October meeting and thanks Cantigny Park for again offering us the use of the space.

