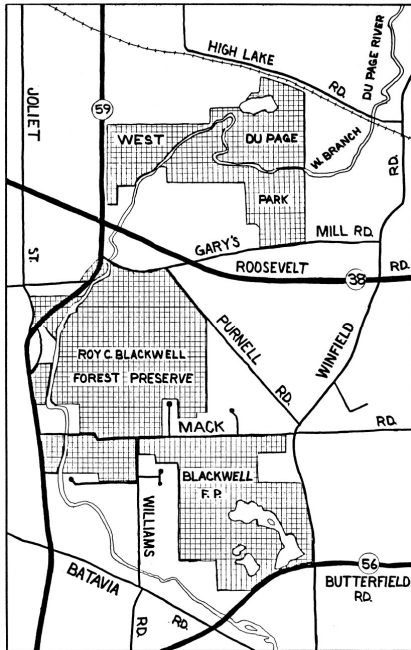


Address Service Requested
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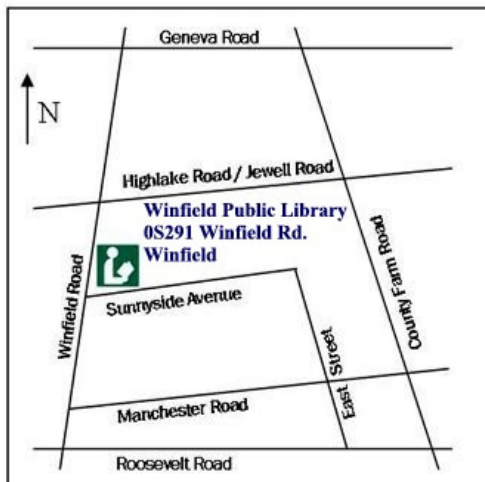
Circulation 731

October 2014 Newsletter – Inside this issue:

- Smart Electric Meters
- Waste Haulers
- Recycling Extravaganza, Saturday, October 18

OCTOBER 2014

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Fall General Meeting Agenda
Thursday, October 23rd

Where :	<u>Winfield Public Library</u> – lower level. 0 S 291 Winfield Rd. Parking lot to the North of the building. Notice this meeting is on a <i>Thursday</i> rather than our usual Tuesday.
6:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to Winfield Township officials and Sheriff's Liaison • Pay annual dues.
7:15 p.m.	Brief business meeting including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Sheriff's Neighborhood Liaison • Report from Forest Preserve Commissioner.
7:35 p.m.	Cpl David Kotovsky, Sheriff's Neighborhood Liaison, will present The Facts About The Concealed Carry Law
9:00 p.m.	Adjourn. Cleanup and Volunteers welcome.



West-Win Homeowners' Association

individuals working together to preserve our idyllic countryside

Welcome to West-Win! We are an organization of independent homeowners in unincorporated Winfield Township who have a history of protecting the ambiance of our country-like area.

Much of our work involves the exchange of mutually useful information through our semi-annual newsletter, our website and through issue-specific emails. We respond to concerns of our membership and often advocate with local governments on issues of common interest, especially those threatening the peace or security of our homesteads.

There are over 700 homes within our unincorporated area. By joining West-Win Homeowners' Association, you will be one of many organized to protect the peace and beauty of our environment.

Membership in West-Win is voluntary. Please join us! Give us your opinions and ideas for protecting or improving our area. If you are new to our neighborhood, or are an eligible household recently added to our mailing list, we look forward to meeting you at our next General Meeting!

Your current Board of Directors to contact with ideas is:

President:	Herb Wigder	847 723-5150
Vice President:	Vicki Weyer	630 400-1556
Secretary:	Bev Becker	630 293-1213
Treasurer:	Eileen Kelly	630 876-1316

Judy Cummings	630 293-0474	Tom Hornbach	West-Win@comcast.net
Kathy Earley	630 293-3309	Gib Van Dine	630 231-4777
Kurt W. Hoffmann	630 293-5725	Barb Whitney	630 231-0320

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



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CONCEALED CARRY: THE FACTS, JUST THE FACTS

At the General Meeting Thursday, October 23, Corporal David Kotovsky of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office will give a factual presentation about the new and controversial Concealed Carry law. The law has appeared in the media recently and is the subject of strong feelings from people with varying points of view. Corporal Kotovsky will present the facts, and just the facts, nothing less and nothing more.

Corporal Kotovsky is a familiar presence at West-Win General Meetings in his current position of Community Resource Officer. He provides us with a synopsis of current topics of interest such as robberies, vandalism, traffic and the 99% of daily events that require no law enforcement attention.

Corporal Kotovsky has been a Deputy with the Sheriff's Office for 26 years. During this time he has worked in various capacities including patrol, Evidence Technician, School Education Officer and his current role as Community Resource Officer.

Come to the meeting on Thursday, October 23, to see and hear Corporal Kotovsky's presentation of "Just The Facts" about this timely topic.



WELCOME TO WEST-WIN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

West-Win Homeowners' Association welcomes new homeowners to unincorporated Winfield Township. We also welcome residents of longer standing who and are now becoming aware of the organization. The Association covers unincorporated areas of Winfield Township, Illinois, bounded by West Chicago, Winfield, Warrenville and Wheaton. We monitor for situations that could interfere with the quiet, open character of the area, and address other topics of mutual interest to the membership. More information is at <http://west-win.home.comcast.net>.

The Association holds 2 general membership meetings a year, usually the last Tuesday of April and October. There is a speaker who presents information about a subject of general interest. At one meeting the topic was wildlife that lives near us and among us. Another dealt with wells and septic systems.

About 2 weeks before a general meeting, you will receive a West-Win Newsletter, which announces the time and location of the meeting as well as the speaker's topic. In the newsletter you will also find articles about such subjects as how to maintain a hummingbird feeder or points to consider about seal coating a driveway.

Dues for the following year are collected, beginning with a short "early bird" discount period in October. Dues paying households are eligible to vote for the Board of Directors and any other matters that arise. Dues support our website (<http://west-win.home.comcast.net>), newsletter, meetings, and matters to defend the area's character.

Please join us at the next meeting to talk with your neighbors and local government officials, as well as West-Win board members. We look forward to seeing you there.

West-Win Homeowners' Association

LET'S TALK TRASH

In our last newsletter West-Win members were requested to tell us about their waste haulers. The companies shown below were contacted to provide information as of September 1, 2014. This information is presented to facilitate comparison between companies. When comparing companies, contact them to be sure you have current information.

A few words of caution are appropriate when comparing different companies. The prices shown below represent monthly costs although most companies bill for 3 months at a time. Not all companies service the entire West-Win area. Prices are subject to change, so it's important to ask when a quoted price might change. Other potential differences between companies include:

- Contract required
- One time set-up fee
- Fluctuating fuel or other charges
- Additional charges for yard waste & large items
- Fee to provide trash totes
- Discounts for seniors and pre-payments
- Manure removal

Company Name	Advance Disposal	DuPage Disposal	Flood Bros.	Groot Recycling Services
Phone Number	630-587-8282	630-268-9253	630-261-0400	877-775-1200
Price	Prices start at \$21.00 no additional fees,	Prices start at \$24.99 no additional fees	Prices start at \$20.77	Prices start at \$20
Senior / Other Discount		senior & annual prepay discounts	Senior discount	
Contract Required				Yes*
Containers Provided	Wheeled containers	Wheeled containers	Available for additional fee	Wheeled containers
Restrictions	Not all areas serviced	1 large item free per week	large item pick up available.	1 bulk item per week included.
Manure Removal	Contact company	Contact company	Contact company	Contact company

*: Mention West-Win Homeowners' Association

Company Name	Republic	Roy Strom	Waste Management
Phone Number	847-429-7370	708-344-5000	888-588-3611
Price	Start at \$17.75, Approx. \$25 with all applied fees	Prices start at \$25.75 no additional fees,	Start at \$20.60; one-time account set-up; other fluctuating fees.
Senior / Other Discount	Senior discount		Senior discount on some options
Contract Required		Yes,. Contact Karen	
Containers Provided	Wheeled containers	Wheeled containers	Size options
Restrictions		Only services some Woods of Cantigny areas.	Limited to what fits in containers; 1 large item free per week
Manure Removal	Contact company	Contact company	Contact company

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(Talk Trash – continued)

This information will get the Trash Talk started in our neighborhoods. Look at your neighbors' trash cans to see who they use. Ask if they might be interested in a lower price if several neighbors use a single hauler. Each neighborhood could possibly contact providers to get a reduced rate for their residents. Let's keep the information flowing. Reducing the amount of heavy truck traffic on our roads is in everyone's best interest. Please send any additional information to share about your trash haulers for future newsletters to vickiweyer@icloud.com.

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA

Fall cleaning is always a good time to find unwanted items and it is good for the environment to recycle. Often the items can be re-used by someone else or precious metals/materials can be reclaimed and/or reused.

Winfield Township Road District is holding a **drive-through recycling drop off event** on, **Saturday, October 18, 9:00 am to noon.**

It will be held (**Rain or Shine**) at the Road District Facility at 30W575 Roosevelt Road, West Chicago.

Items that will be accepted at this event are: Electronics, Scrap Metal, Holiday Lights, Bicycles, Keys, Old Flags, Hearing Aids, Eye Glasses, Gently Used Office Furniture, Wheel Chairs, Crutches, Yarn, Portable Sewing Machines, Musical Instruments, Books, Crayons, Gently Used Clothing, Small Housewares. More information is at the Winfield Township's website www.winfieldtownship.com.

Also Note:

Winfield Township Road District is a permanent collection site for used vegetable oil.

Collection days are:

Mondays (except Holidays), (7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Third Saturday of the Month, (7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 29 (7:00 am to 11:00 am)

Recycling Extravaganza, Saturday, October 18 (9-Noon)

Vegetable oil only - No animal fat. Oil needs to be in a sealed plastic container and dropped off at the Road District Facility

For more information you can visit the Winfield Township's website at www.winfieldtownship.com, or contact the Road District Office, 630-231-8850.

Help make this Recycling Extravaganza a great success!!!



SMART ELECTRIC METERS - THE BIGGER PICTURE

NOTE TO READERS: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS REFERENCES TO SEVERAL WEBSITES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. ACTIVE LINKS (CLICK ON THE LINK AND GO TO THE SITE) TO THESE SITES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NEWSLETTER POSTED ON <http://west-win.home.comcast.net/~west-win/>, WEST-WIN'S WEBSITE. THE LINKS ELIMINATE THE NEED TO TYPE THE SITE NAMES INTO THE ADDRESS LINE OF YOUR BROWSER, BUT THAT TACTIC WILL ALSO WORK.

There is a rampant flood of misinformation circulating about electrical (and soon gas) smart meters. A number of these issues are discussed below (see the "Scuttlebutt" section), along with references. By way of a quick summary, however, smart meters are quite safe, do not invade your privacy, and are more likely to prevent a fire than to cause one. First, however, a perspective of the bigger picture is needed to see how smart meters fit in.

THE SMART GRID

The issue of Smart Electrical meters is part of the larger issue of the **Electrical Smart Grid**. For very good reasons, this is taking place all over the world, not just locally. While a number of factors such as electrical system reliability, efficiency, and cost to the consumer are involved, as well as the coming trend toward electric vehicles, the biggest change for consumers is that **we can now save money by participating in the electricity market**. We've long been doing that in food and merchandise retailing. At the supermarket you will either be aware of, and respond to, market conditions, or you will pay a higher price for buying what you want when you want it regardless of price. You save money by buying things on sale and avoiding things that are priced too high.

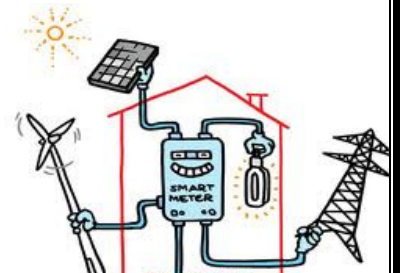
In the case of electricity the price varies minute by minute all through the day, just like the stock market, though much more predictably. When the demand is high, during the day and early evening, the price is high. But at night, the price can be extremely low. If we are in a hot spell with all our air conditioners running, power companies have to bring on line older, less efficient generating plants, or buy power from distant locations (at higher prices because of transmission losses along the way), or from "Peaker Plants," like the one on Eola Road in Warrenville, IL. That plant sits idle most of the time, but, when the electrical demand exceeds the power company's generating capacity, it fires up and can sell power into the grid at extravagant rates.

So part of what the "Smart Grid" is bringing to us is involvement in the electrical market via a new range of billing options termed "Residential Real Time Pricing", coupled with hour by hour measurement of our usage by smart meters. But each meter is also a communications device that is part of an internet-like network that transmits usage information back to the power company. So, **no more meter readers** coming around to your house, and resultant power company savings will be reflected in your electric rates.

Electrical billing has long been at a "Flat Rate". That equates to using power when you want to regardless of momentary price, and this will continue to be an **option** whether your usage is billed by ComEd or by an aggregator chosen by your community. BTW, a chart of the aggregation rates paid in each town or township is available at <http://www.pluginillinois.org/MunicipalAggregationList.aspx>. Generally speaking, if your usage pattern is inflexible, with your usage generally during peak hours, this is still the way to go. However, if you can modify your usage by running appliances (or charging your new electric car) more at night when costs are low, a Real Time Pricing option should be better.

Service will improve as the system evolves. Power failures will be fewer, but if a storm or accident does take out your power you will **NOT** have to report it. Due to the communications capability of

(continued on next page)



(Smart Meters – continued)

the network, the power company will immediately know who has lost power, and from the outage pattern will be able to more quickly locate the problem and fix it.

You will have the ability (only if you choose) to monitor your own electrical usage pattern to save money by the timing of your usage. It will be available on the internet for you and, if you want, you can buy a display device for your home that is wirelessly updated by your smart meter. That can tell you not only how much electricity you have used in each hour, but how much specific appliances use. And (again only if you choose) you will be able have some of your appliances automatically regulated to use electrical power only during times of the day when rates are lower. Actually, this has long been done with electric water heaters.

It is also true that the power company will be able shut off power to individual homes remotely. That can be because you are way behind on paying your bill. But it can also be at the request of the homeowner during sale of the home. If a tornado strike damages both natural gas pipes and electrical power lines in a home, automatic power shutoff can reduce the chance that sparks will ignite the gas.

Another new wrinkle in the electric supply picture relates to the increasing generation of “Green” power - that from natural sources like windmills and solar panels. These sources are characteristically intermittent and weather dependent. More people are joining the ranks of those who own such generation capability because now **smart meters** support that - they can measure “negative” usage as well as positive. So those who are generating more power than they are using get paid at the going rate while this occurs.

One of the philosophies of the Smart Grid is to evolve toward "distributed electrical generation" which specifically means to include a wide range of companies and homeowners who send power into the grid. This is intended to provide much greater resiliency to damage of part of the grid from a major storm, major solar flare, or even enemy attack.

Viewing the electric grid more globally, note that your bill consists of three separate sections:

- Electrical Supply includes the charges for the actual electricity from power plants that you are consuming.
- Transmission Service is the charge for the transport of that electricity from the generation source to the local distribution system over High Voltage transmission lines.
- Distribution Service includes the charges for delivering the electricity to your home or business by power companies like ComEd.

These portions represent three physically separate portions of the grid, each of which will be more effectively managed and maintained by the Smart Grid. New equipment is being mounted on the transmission towers, and in local distribution points, that measure electrical current, voltage, power factor and other characteristics that can be adjusted for keeping transmission efficiency up, and your costs down. They will also detect incipient problems and improve reliability.

SOME MORE INFO:

- Start with: https://smartgrid.gov/the_smart_grid. This gives an overview of the smart grid in simple terms.
- Then: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_meter

SCUTTLEBUTT: Misinformation being circulated about smart meters:

Rumor: Smart meters emit dangerous levels of RF (Radio Frequency) radiation.

(continued on next page)

(Smart Meters Scuttlebutt – continued)

The facts: The **exposure** that you get from radiation depends on its strength and the total time you are exposed to it. The distance you are from the source is a strong factor, as is any shielding from materials between you and the source. The smart meter radiates one watt of power and transmits a total of about five minutes a day. It is located a number of feet away from you, and is separated by one or more walls of your house that provide some shielding. Your cell phone radiates up to one-half watt, but is located right next to your ear. Further, typical daily talk times greatly exceed five minutes a day. Nevertheless, numerous studies have found cell phones to be safe because they operate at very low frequencies compared to the ionizing (cell damaging) frequencies of ultraviolet or x-ray radiation. In summary, you get more damaging radiation from standing in direct sunlight than you do from your cell phone, and the phone greatly exceeds what you get from a smart meter that is far from your head.

See <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/> and [https://www.comed.com/Documents/newsroom/Grid Mod Fact Sheet RF 2013.pdf](https://www.comed.com/Documents/newsroom/Grid_Mod_Fact_Sheet_RF_2013.pdf) scroll down to the RF Emissions Comparison chart.

Rumor: Smart Meters start fires

The facts: Fires at meters are usually caused by old and corroded wiring. As crews install the new meters they clean up and repair degraded connection points and so help prevent future fires.

Rumor: Smart meters interfere with garage door openers.

The facts: In the pilot program of 30,000 homes two cases were found of openers that operated at conflicting frequencies, which were fixed by shifting the opener to a different frequency. On the other hand, there are many cases where people have installed new LED lighting (typically in the kitchen) which did interfere with garage door openers. All house-powered LEDs use electronic circuits to convert the high voltage AC to the low voltage DC required by the LED itself. Some brands produce a lot of RF interference. One brand having very low interference is Halo.

Rumor: Smart meters represent an invasion of privacy, and burglars can identify when people aren't home by seeing low power usage.

The facts: No personally identifiable information is transmitted by smart meters (and what is transmitted is encrypted). The power usage information goes only to the power company.

SAVE \$5 BY PAYING YOUR 2015 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 2015, we thank you. You have helped us to continue our efforts to protect our peaceful 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.

