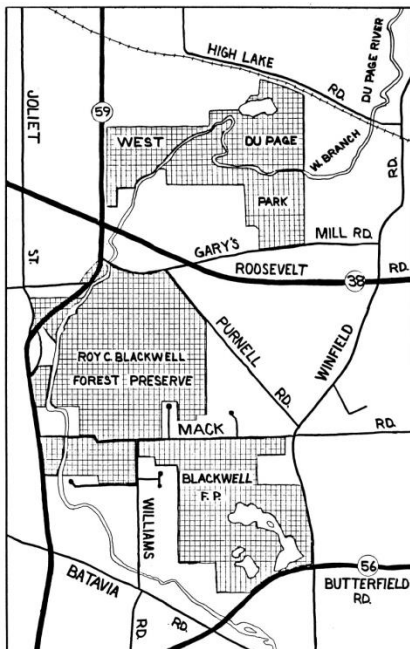


**West-Win Homeowners Association**  
**PO Box 367**  
**Winfield, IL 60190-0367**  
 On the web: [www.West-Win.org](http://www.West-Win.org)  
**Address Service Requested**

First Class

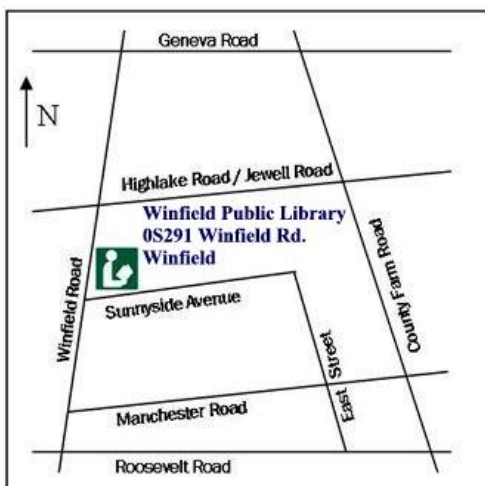


Circulation 726

**Fall 2019 Newsletter – Inside this issue:**

- Tips for avoiding phone scams
- What's ok to put in your microwave oven
- Sewing machine thread that matches any color
- How to avoid shrinking your cottons

OCTOBER 2019						
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27	28	29	30	31		



**Fall General Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Where :	<u>Winfield Public Library</u> – lower level. 0 S 291 Winfield Rd. Parking lot to the North of the building.
6:30 p.m.	Talk with local officials, West-Win Board Members and neighbors Pay annual dues.
7:00 p.m.	Brief business meeting
7:15 p.m.	Brief updates: Winfield Planning, Winfield Township Roads, Sheriff's Liaison, and Forest Preserve
7:45 p.m.	Guest Speaker: Dan Thompson, Wildlife Ecologist with the DuPage County Forest Preserve District and expert on wildlife behavior, will discuss coexisting with coyotes.
8:45 p.m.	Adjourn. Cleanup. Volunteers welcome.



## **West-Win Homeowners Association**

*individuals working together to preserve our idyllic neighborhoods*

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 area.

Much of our work involves the exchange of mutually useful information through our semi-annual newsletter, our website, our facebook page 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:

				<b>Directors</b>	
<b>President:</b>	Herb Wigder	847 723-5150	Mary Bakas	773 799-4326	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Vicki Weyer	630 400-1556	Judy Cummings	630 293-0474	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kathy Hydo	630 293-7645	Gib Van Dine	630 231-4777	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Eileen Kelly	630 876-1316	Barb Whitney	630 231-0320	

email: [info@West-Win.org](mailto:info@West-Win.org)

On the web: [www.West-Win.org](http://www.West-Win.org)

Like us on *facebook* to get notice of current events: West-Win Homeowners Association

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## **WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!**

**Especially if your Newsletter was Addressed to "Current Resident"** You've selected a beautiful, unincorporated setting in which to live. To stay connected and current on issues within our area, please email your contact information to us at [info@West-Win.org](mailto:info@West-Win.org).

**For Long-Time Neighbors:** Let us know when a house near you gets a new owner so we can welcome them to the neighborhood and send or hand deliver to them an issue of our newsletter. Please email their name and address to [info@West-Win.org](mailto:info@West-Win.org).



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## COEXISTING WITH COYOTES

Over the last century coyotes have been working their way eastward from their original habitats in the western states. They have not only joined the wildlife population in our area, but a few have even been spotted as far as the east coast. They are very intelligent, and have defeated many an effort to wipe them out. So, as with all the other wildlife in our area, they are here to stay.

Coyotes are predators, joining foxes, hawks, owls and (let's not forget) humans in our area. So, as with the other lifeforms surrounding us, it is important to learn their way of life and how it can affect us. Coyotes' behavior can at different times be beneficial, harmful, or even dangerous. They have been observed eating leftover garbage and road kill which helps clean things up. Their prey includes small animals such as mice, voles, squirrels, rabbits, opossums, some birds, and even skunks. However, if you are not careful, it could include your small pet dog or cat.

Our October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will feature Dan Thompson, a Wildlife Ecologist with the DuPage County Forest Preserve District and an expert on the behavior of many of our wildlife neighbors. Join us and learn from Dan how we can live more peacefully together.

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## LOCAL OFFICIALS

These local officials usually attend West-Win General Meetings. Speak with them at the meeting or contact them with your concerns.

### Winfield Township ([www.winfieldtownship.com](http://www.winfieldtownship.com))

Highway Commissioner	John S. Dusza	630 231-8850	<a href="mailto:road@winfieldtownship.com">road@winfieldtownship.com</a>
Supervisor	Dona L. Smith	630 231-3591	<a href="mailto:supervisor@winfieldtownship.com">supervisor@winfieldtownship.com</a>

### DuPage County Sheriff's Office ([www.dupagesheriff.org](http://www.dupagesheriff.org))

Neighborhood Liaison	Cpl. Ed Castillo	630 407-2400	24 hour Communication Center <b>911 Emergencies</b>
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### Forest Preserve District of DuPage County ([www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org))

District 6 Commissioner	Al Murphy	630 244-2674	<a href="mailto:amurphy@dupageforest.org">amurphy@dupageforest.org</a>
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## SAVE \$5 BY PAYING YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW

If you pay your dues by the end of October, you may deduct \$5. After October 31, dues are \$25 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 2020, 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 email to [info@West-Win.org](mailto:info@West-Win.org).

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,



## **\*RING\*\*RING\* “HELLO?” “HI, I’M A PHONE SCAM.”**

Most of us have caller ID. If we don’t know the phone number, we let it go to voice mail. If it was important, we know the caller will leave a message.

All of us, at some point, pick up the call only to find a Scammer on the other end. OMG! Lock the front door! Close the windows and draw the drapes! Or simply, don’t panic and **HANG UP THE PHONE!!**

If you should continue the conversation, remember this:

**NEVER** give your social security number/tax ID to a random caller. Neither the IRS, nor Social Security, nor Medicare will call you when there’s a problem. They send letters. No one needs your social security number or personal information to start a conversation. As much as free food and clothing in jail may be appealing, there are no police or FBI agents waiting to arrest you if you do not cooperate.

**NEVER** give your bank account information. You are not the sole heir to a Nigerian prince’s estate. Oh! Uncle Bob’s ex-wife’s first cousin by marriage doesn’t need bail money. You don’t even have an Uncle Bob. And if your “grandchild”, whose voice you don’t recognize, calls for money but doesn’t know your real name, most likely, it’s not your grandchild.

**NEVER** give your credit card numbers or other account numbers. If you are being called about fraudulent activity, the credit card company already has your info. If not, hang up. Call the phone number on the back of your credit card and ask for the fraud department. Reduce credit card interest? Hang up the phone and call the creditor directly should you need assistance.

**NEVER** say the word “yes” to anything. If they ask, “is this Mr. Smith?” learn to reply “speaking” or “it’s me.” They can record the call and use your “yes” response to say that you agreed to whatever they’re selling. Are you really going to use those 27 back braces that showed up on your doorstep?

**DO NOT** engage the caller in an attempt to waste their time. You may think it’s fun, but you’re only wasting your time and setting yourself up as a target. Many of these callers have software that tracks the length of the call, making you a target for more calls. The same goes for “hit 0 to opt out.” You’ve just told them it’s an active phone number.

**DO NOT** give online access to your computer. A scammer is not going to scan for malware or viruses, he’s going to program them into your hard drive. If you do give access, congratulations! You just gave away all of your logins and passwords, personal online conversations and pictures of your last vacation with the family.

**Amazon** does not randomly call people to offer them high paying jobs. They have enough job applications to choose their own candidates.

**Process servers** already know where to find you to serve you that subpoena.

**Review your bank statements and credit card statements** at least monthly. Report unusual activity.

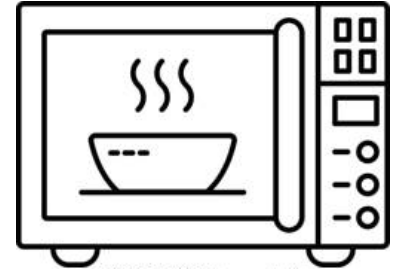
**Review your Credit Report.** It’s free to do once a year. Go to [www.freecreditreport.com](http://www.freecreditreport.com), Experian, TransUnion or Equifax.



## WHAT'S OK TO PUT IN YOUR MICROWAVE OVEN?

The first thing you must **not** run in a microwave oven is **nothing at all**. The microwave energy generated by its magnetron has to go somewhere, so if you don't provide something to absorb that heat energy, it will all go back into heating the magnetron itself and destroy it if left on long enough.

So what's safe to put in there? For one thing, it's a common belief that it is unsafe to ever put metal in a microwave oven. That's basically not true, but you must understand the underlying principles to get full use out of your microwave oven safely.



Simply put, microwave energy (a "radio wave" or "electromagnetic wave") will pass right through things that do not conduct electricity, and **reflect off** things that conduct electricity well. So in neither case do these materials **absorb** the energy to produce heat. What gets heated are things that **conduct electricity, but not too well**. That characteristic, called electrical "resistance", is the equivalent of mechanical friction. And that converts the incoming energy to heat.

Insulators like glass or plastics are transparent to microwaves. Metals which conduct electricity well just reflect the microwave energy, so neither of these gets heated. You can keep a spoon in a bowl of soup being heated with no problem; the only heat it gets is from the soup. What does get heated directly are things like water or fats, which will conduct electricity but resist the current flow.

A related thing to watch for is to never put a glass container in the microwave that has decorative metal designs on it. That metal conducts electricity but, like a very thin wire, has significant resistance and will quickly get burned off.

Aluminum foil is something that can go in a microwave if done right. It conducts electricity well enough to reflect the microwaves. You can heat food in a shallow aluminum tray with no problem. It just reflects the microwaves back into the food as do the walls of the microwave oven itself. But never put a piece of aluminum foil over top of the food as you often do in a conventional oven. The microwaves would just reflect off without reaching the food, and you will have created the same situation as running your microwave with nothing inside to absorb the energy.

Plastics in a microwave can create problems all their own. For one, they get softened, and some maybe even be melted, by the high temperature of the food being heated. And there is some concern about whether chemicals from certain heated plastics can leave unhealthy residues in the food. You will have to do your own research on that.

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## SEWING MACHINE THREAD THAT MATCHES ANY COLOR

A Sewing Machine - do most of you still know what one of those is? It's really old tech! Nevertheless, it seems likely that there are among you those who not only have, but actually use, a sewing machine. If you do, you recognize what a pain it is to try matching the thread color to what you are sewing. And then, what if you are making or repairing something out of cloth having a multi-colored pattern across which you must sew?

Yes, you could compromise with black thread. But what if you could get a thread that is clear and transparent so that it matches any color, and is many times stronger than cotton thread? You can! It's called four-pound test fishing line. You can just replace the thread spool with the fishing line one on your machine, wind a bobbin full for inside, and you're almost ready to go. The "almost" is because you might need to adjust thread tensions to get even stitching.

But then you are done for life. You can sew anything from thin fabrics to heavy canvas knowing that you have plenty of strength for, say, a lawn chair seat, and throw away your collection of colored threads.

## AVOID SHRINKING YOUR COTTONS

Whenever you do a load of wash, it's always apparent that the man-made fabrics hardly shrink, but your beloved cotton ones do. Actually, that's a misstatement. Your washing machine is not doing much shrinkage - it's your dryer that's doing the dirty work. If your grandmother hung her wash on a clothes line in the sun, she would have gotten (possibly a little faded) but germ-free fabrics with comparatively little shrinking. So what's so bad about your dryer?

As fabrics are tumbled about extensively in a typical drying cycle the cloth is constantly being flexed back and forth, so the fibers that make it up are constantly being rubbed against each other. The important thing to note is that water is a lubricant. As long as the fabric still has some water content, the fibers tend to just slide over each other. However, once all the water is gone, continued flexing at a high heat can do damage. This doesn't much bother a fabric of, for example, pure polyester because the threads are pretty solid at a micro scale. But cotton threads are entirely made up of thousands of tiny intertwined fibers. That fluff is what makes cotton feel so nice against the skin, makes it transport perspiration through to outside air so well, and retards air flow through it to make it warm. But, when these threads are forcefully dragged over each other with no lubrication, they pull out fibers from each other that wind up as lint in your dryer screen. And with some of its material now missing, the cloth has shrunk.

If a towel shrinks a little, you hardly notice it. But if an article of clothing shrinks, it demands of you that you lose some weight. So, given the above, it's OK to leave towels in until they are completely dry. But if you would like to minimize shrinkage of clothing with substantial cotton content, they really should be removed from the dryer before they are totally dry. Then just put each on a hanger, or lay them on the bed, to air dry the last few percent.



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