

West-Win Homeowners Association

Spring 2022 Newsletter

individuals working together to preserve our idyllic neighborhoods



Welcome to West-Win! We are a voluntary 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. 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 when General Meetings resume!

~ WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS ~

If your newsletter was addressed to "Current Resident": You've selected a beautiful setting in which to live! We invite you to become connected and current on issues within our area by emailing your contact information to us at info@West-Win.org.

For long-time neighbors: Please let us know when a house near you gets a new owner so we can welcome them and provide an issue of our newsletter. If possible, email their name and address to us at info@West-Win.org.

Spring newsletter articles –

- Tips to avoid becoming a scam victim from Sheriff Mendrick
- West-Win board updates and responses to resident concerns
- Illinois voting and election information
- Ready your flowerpots for spring and summer planting

FYI - A wonderful resource for West-Win homeowners resides within easy reach on our website! In case you've missed past issues of the newsletter, or if you would like to reference one of the many informative articles published in the newsletters, they're just a few keystrokes away at West-Win.org, Newsletters, Newsletter Index. The articles date from 2012 to current and are listed by title. We encourage you to take a look!

Your current Board of Directors to contact is:

		Directors	
President:	Gib Van Dine	630 231-4777	Mary Bakas 773 799-4326
Vice President:	Vicki Weyer	630 400-1556	Judy Cummings 630 293-0474
Secretary:	Rose Kuntze	630 293-3162	Kathy Hydo 630 210-2093
Treasurer:	Eileen Kelly	630 876-1316	Skip Watt 630 562-1866

West-Win sincerely thanks our past board members Herb Wigder (president) and Barbara Whitney (director) for their many years of dedicated service, and to volunteer Bob Whitney (webmaster) for his website and database support and guidance. We miss their vast knowledge of West-Win and wish them well in their new homes!

email: info@West-Win.org

website: www.West-Win.org

facebook: [West-Win](https://www.facebook.com/West-Win)

In times like these how fortunate are we to live where there is still abundant open space, breathtaking nature and thousands of acres of forest preserves for us to enjoy. These unique types of communities do not just continue to exist without threat of urban sprawl. Area concerned citizens have banded together for over 50 years to advocate for this continued peaceful way of life. Yes, some of our current board members have served West-Win Homeowners Association for over 50 years and remain active on our board. We are very fortunate to have them!

We look forward to gathering again in October to meet in person, to thank past board members for their years of service, to elect new board members and to welcome new residents to our area. General Meeting details will be available in the fall newsletter. In the meantime, WW continues to monitor news in our unincorporated areas of Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Winfield. We thank you for your continued support and voluntary membership so that we can continue our mailings, website and advocating efforts.



SHERIFF MENDRICK'S TIPS TO AVOID BECOMING THE VICTIM OF A SCAM

Every year, thousands of people lose their hard-earned money to phone and Internet scams. Scammers will say anything to cheat good people out of their money – from a few dollars to their entire life savings. Some of these scammers try and gain your confidence by calling you by your first name, making small talk, or by asking about your family. Sometimes they even claim to work for a reputable company you trust. If you get unsolicited contact by someone who is pressuring you into action or asking for personal information (example: bank information, credit card information or Social Security number) – it's likely a scam.

Here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- When dealing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), they will always send taxpayers a written notification of any tax due via the U.S. mail. The IRS never asks for credit card, debit card or prepaid card information over the telephone. For more information or to report a scam, visit www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.
- If you get a call from someone who purports to be a grandson/granddaughter in trouble, resist the temptation to act quickly. Contact your grandchild or other family members to verify the information given in the call/email. Don't wire money based solely on the information given over the phone or email. This is known as the Grandparents Scam.
- Never accept checks with amounts over the agreed upon price and never send money back. If you are selling an item on eBay or elsewhere, make sure that the check has cleared the bank before releasing the merchandise to the buyer.
- Legitimate companies will not ask for sensitive information over the phone or via email. Never give anyone you don't know information concerning bank accounts, passwords, Social Security numbers, etc. Contact the organization/company using a phone number you know as genuine. Also, keep your anti-virus and anti-spyware software up-to-date.
- Do your homework and make sure that if you have a bad debt and owe money to a collection agency, you know who you are dealing with. Block all other collection calls.
- Scammers may tell you that there's an outstanding warrant for your arrest for such things as missed jury duty or bank fraud. They'll instruct you to make a settlement via wire transfer, money order, or prepaid credit card. Don't fall for this scam...a valid arrest warrant is served in person by a law enforcement officer.
- Verify all outstanding bills with the appropriate company/business. Do not accept any packages you personally did not order.
- Local utilities, such as electric and water, will never send someone around door-to-door during an outage asking for money to restore services.

WW BOARD UPDATES AND RESPONSES TO RESIDENT CONCERNS...

Traffic – Increased cut through traffic, excessive speed and semi or tractor-trailer size trucks, especially on Purnell, Mack, Garys Mill and Winfield Roads are high on the list of WW resident concerns. As the construction of Trillium Farm and the Casey's gas station progresses it is expected that traffic issues will only worsen. The No Turn signs located at Purnell and Garys Mill Roads, meant to deter excess traffic during the morning and evening peak times, are virtually ignored by motorists and unenforceable unless police witness an infraction. We continue to communicate WW's concerns to the sheriff's department.

Casey's Gas Station – Winfield Village Board trustee Phil Hardy advises, in the *Winfield Glimpses Spring 2022* issue, that the Casey's gas station, convenience store and car wash project did not meet its targeted completion date and has experienced numerous setbacks. Part of the slowdown is due to modifications to the building's interior design plan, which are now resolved and, more recently, delays have been caused by problems with the global supply chain. However, it is anticipated that the Casey's will be finished in 2022. Additional update from Winfield President Carl Sorgatz states "The most recent date for the start of construction is mid-to late May. The total construction time from start to finish should be around 120 days."

Forest Preserve Destruction of Wildlife Habitat – If you're a WW resident the natural wooded areas that surround us, and the wildlife habitat they provide, may be what attracted you to this locale. We continue to communicate with President Hebreard of the DuPage County Forest Preserve regarding resident concerns as we see significant clearing of natural areas resulting in loss of habitat as well as the possible expansion of garage/maintenance buildings at Blackwell (which would add truck traffic on Mack Rd).

The following is based on Forest Preserve website information: Although the Spring Brook Creek area of Blackwell may appear as if habitat is being destroyed, it is actually a long-term project that will improve the habitat by removing invasive nonnative vegetation and planting native species, replacing a straight ditch with a meandered waterway, creating wetlands to convey upstream stormwater, connected the creek to the floodplain allowing nutrient-rich floodwaters to more easily flow into the surrounding forest preserve to revitalize the floodplain's natural ability to temporarily store and filter stormwater, removed a dam to allow fish to swim freely upstream and added gravels, cobbles and boulders to the creek to improve habitat for macroinvertebrates, fish and freshwater mussels. For further details see: <https://www.dupageforest.org/news/upcoming-projects/spring-brook-wetland-creek-restoration>.

If you believe we're losing too much habitat or have other concerns about our tax-funded Forest Preserves, WW encourages you to contact Mr. Hebreard at dhebreard@dupageforest.org and our District 6 Commissioner Al Murphy at amurphy@dupageforest.org. Mr. Hebreard is very responsive to criticism of the Forest Preserve and has personally responded to both letters and newspaper Op-Ed opinions.

Blackwell Forest Preserve Garage Expansion – A recent reply regarding this issue from President Hebreard states "We are exploring the project right now. Actually the goal is to have a better, more efficient grounds and natural resources campus that will be more aesthetically pleasing. No board action has been taken to design or fund this as of yet. I anticipate the design will be started soon, however."

Carjacking/theft – Some suggestions to remain safe may be to keep your vehicle locked at all times, even if it's in your own driveway and do not leave your keys/key fob or valuables in the vehicle. When approaching your car in a public area, keep your keys concealed in your hand to possibly deter a thief from following you to your vehicle. When you get to your vehicle and unlock the doors, get in and lock them right away, especially if you feel you may have been followed. If you are loading anything into your car, put your purse, your children and other valuables in the car before groceries or other purchases but keep your keys with you. Always lock your doors then start your vehicle before fastening your seat belt, returning a text or doing anything else. And always be aware of your surroundings. Should a carjacker make his move to get your keys while you are outside the vehicle, try to throw the keys as far away as possible and start screaming. Chances are good that they'll run away or go for your keys, giving you time to get to safety somewhere nearby (i.e., back into the grocery store). When you are safely away from the immediate area, call 911 and let them know where the incident occurred and your best description of the perpetrator.

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(Updates and concerns - continued from previous page)

Burning Yard Waste – Here are the rules for unincorporated DuPage County.

What's not allowed? The burning of any garbage, debris, refuse, landscape waste in an open fire.

What are the exceptions? "Recreational fires" are defined as an outdoor open fire for entertainment, leisure or cooking purposes, and which does not require a governmental permit. Recreational fires must be outdoors, but in all instances shall comply with the following: Fuel for a recreational fire shall be limited to the burning of clean, seasoned, dry firewood. Firewood shall include dried logs and dried branches without leaves or greenery. Firewood shall not include grass, brush, roots, or other similar vegetation, construction materials, treated woods, plywood or pressure-treated wood. Recreational fires shall not use any fuel that produce excessive smoke, cinders or other emissions characteristic of non-seasoned wood. A recreational fire shall not be used to dispose of any garbage, debris, refuse or waste (including landscape waste). Recreational fires shall be controlled burns which shall mean a fire that is physically contained by fire pit, grill or other recognized containment method, and which is under constant, direct adult supervision at all times a flame or glowing embers are visibly present.

What are the penalties? A person shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Please visit the DuPage County website for complete information. https://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Waste_Recycling_and_Energy/64218/

Caution – Never burn poison ivy, oak or sumac! Burning them carries the oils through the air. Inhaling the smoke can cause rashes to appear all over the body, including inside the mouth, on the lips, and other areas, depending on the extent of one's exposure to the fumes. The more extreme reaction, however, is caused by the rashes developing along the lining of the throat and lungs, which start to inflame due to the toxin. The inflammation affects the airways and makes breathing very difficult. The oils can also travel through the bloodstream.

Mosquito Abatement - The WW area in general does not have mosquito abatement although the Wheaton Mosquito Abatement District might include your address. The DuPage County website may provide the information you need. https://www.dupageco.org/CountyBoard/Appointive_Bodies/31605/ (Wheaton Mosquito Abatement District). Contact them directly to determine if you are covered within their spraying area.

Do you want to be notified of nighttime adult mosquito applications? You can sign up for notifications by going to www.clarkeportal.com/hotline. Click 'Register For Service Notifications' at the bottom. Complete the information and create your own password, then click 'submit'. Your location will be verified to see if you live along an application route.

What You Can Do - Ensure that you and your family wear insecticide and protective clothing to reduce annoyance and risk of disease from mosquitoes. Avoid going out at dawn or dusk when mosquitos are at their worst. Empty standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths on a regular basis. If trying to enjoy time on your deck or patio a portable fan will not only cool your skin but will effectively blow those pesky critters away! Some homeowners contract with private services for the spraying of their property or do it themselves.

Mack Road Bike Path/West DuPage River Trail - The West Branch DuPage River Trail is a 26-mile regional trail, roughly paralleling the DuPage River-West Branch that, when complete, will connect the North Central DuPage Regional Trail on the north to Naperville and into Will County on the south, where it will intersect with the East Branch DuPage River Trail and continue south as the DuPage River Trail to Channahon. The Forest Preserve District has been working with DuPage County, local municipalities and park districts to implement this trail for decades. With the completion of the trail segments through downtown Winfield and along Fair Oaks Road, from 2016-2018, the only unfinished trail segment is the segment located between Blackwell and West DuPage Woods. This segment is approximately 0.7 miles in length and includes a bridge crossing the West Branch DuPage River and Roosevelt Road (IL-38). Construction on this project is expected to begin in early 2023 with completion in 2024.

Did you know? Place a rubber band over the head of a screw before trying to remove it with a screwdriver. That will add extra friction, allowing you to remove that stubborn stripped screw with ease.

PREPARING TO VOTE IN ILLINOIS' PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Illinois voters are months away from a pandemic-delayed primary scheduled for June 28. So, now's the time to begin preparing for an election that will determine candidates for county, state and some federal offices.

Normally, the Illinois primaries are held in March or April, but the COVID-19 crisis delayed reporting of the census data used to determine new congressional and legislative boundaries, pushing back the timeline for the Election Day. With some added time for decision making, here's a guide to voting in the primary, which will decide candidates for governor, U.S. Senate, Congress, General Assembly, county offices and more for the Nov. 8 general election.

Registering to vote

Registration cards can be found at your local post office, library or county clerk's office. If you want to register in person, the deadline is May 31. Registering online offers a wider window, with the deadline on June 12. To register online or to check your registration, go to ova.elections.il.gov.

Finding your congressional and legislative districts

For both Congress and General Assembly seats, the best way to find the district you are in, especially since district maps are changing, is to go online to the Illinois Board of Elections website, www.elections.il.gov.

Under the heading "Voter Services," click on "Find My Elected Officials." You'll find a map of Illinois. Click on the map and you'll see the state with a large white screen to the right. At the top of the white screen, type your address in the window under the words "Find My Elected Representative." A list of offices will appear, including one called "2022 United States Congressperson." When you click on this link, you will see the congressional district you are in under the new map. For your state Senate district, click on the link called "2022 Senator," and for your House district, click on "2022 State Representative." You will not see any current officials named at these links. To see your current congressmen or legislators, you can click on the appropriate links listed, but remember, it will show you the current officials. They may change under the new maps.

Voting by mail

The first day to file an application for a vote-by-mail ballot is March 30, 2022. Online applications for a mail-in ballot open up on the same day. Your local county clerk's office must receive your request by June 23 if you wish to vote by mail in the June primary.

Early voting in person

Limited early in-person voting begins at county clerk's offices and some temporary community locations on May 19. On June 13, early voting expands to permanent locations other than the clerk's office -- such as village halls or similar public sites -- and polls must be open on holidays and weekends until early voting ends on June 27.

This article was taken in part from the 1-26-22 Daily Herald newspaper for West-Win members' benefit.

ARE YOU ASKING "WHERE'S MY MAIL"?

Informed Delivery[®] by USPS[®] allows you to digitally preview your mail and manage your packages scheduled to arrive soon! Informed Delivery allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mail pieces and track packages in one convenient location.*

** Images are only provided for letter-sized mail pieces that are processed through USPS' automated equipment*

<https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>

Helpful Hint - Use Ice Cubes to Clean Your Garbage Disposal

This is one you'll want to run and try right now. You probably know that a lemon rind in your garbage disposal will leave it smelling fresh, but did you know that ice cubes really do the trick when it comes to getting the grinders clean? Try adding in a cup of ice cubes and letting them grind before running hot water and adding in citrus peels for freshness.

TIME TO SPRING INTO ACTION!

Ceramic Pots: Cleaning and Prepping

Anything you leave outside is bound to get weathered, whether it's a ceramic pot, a pair of shears, or even the leaves on a tree. While a tree can shed old leaves and grow new ones, your garden pots won't magically renew themselves. They need to be cleaned and maintained. Here's how to give them a bath and prep them for new plants either in the fall or spring!

How to Understand Stains

Crusted on soil and dirt stains - that's the fate of most garden pots. But what about the white mineral build-up? Ceramic pots are well-known for absorbing water. As the water evaporates, salts get left behind and caked onto the walls. And then there's the problem of mold and mildew. All of these stubborn stains call for more than a simple hose-down.

- **Water and Vinegar:** A simple water and vinegar solution remains the best way to clean a dirty garden pot. How much vinegar you use for cleaning is flexible but aim for about 4 cups of water to 1 cup of vinegar.
- **Scrub and Soak:** Once you've brushed away excess soil, place the pots in the solution. Scrub away the stains with a stiff brush. Not coming off? Soak them for 30 minutes and try again. The vinegar will dissolve the salt and kill off any bacteria and mold.
- **Rinse and Dry:** After you're done, rinse them well in plain water to remove any lingering vinegar. Let them air dry completely before storing or planting so you don't attract more mold.

How Do You Clean Glazed Ceramic Pots?

Glazed pots are even easier to clean than unglazed ones, because the glaze prevents stains and mineral caking. If a simple hose-off is not sufficient, rinse and scrub them in a vinegar solution as described above, and dry accordingly.

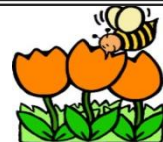
How to Clean Ceramic Pots with Baking Soda

Vinegar is not the only cleaner you can use. Baking soda works just as well to neutralize and dissolve salt stains. Instead of making a solution for dunking the pots, just add enough water to make a baking soda paste. Rub the paste on the ceramic and then scrub it away with a sponge. As you rinse them off, your pots will look brand new.

This article was taken in part from the Platthill Nursery website for West-Win members' benefit.



Spring Quote - "In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours". ~ Mark Twain



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBER\$HIP DUE\$?

Being united as a voluntary homeowners association, we have been very effective in protecting the environment in which we reside. Your paid-up membership helps us ensure that you receive information to help protect one of your most valuable assets, the large lot sizes and natural land around you.

The newsletter cover sheet indicates if you have already paid your \$25 dues for 2022. If you have, we thank you! You have helped us to continue our efforts to protect our country-like area. If you have not yet paid, please mail your dues to:

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

Your member number is on the top line of the cover sheet. Please put it on your check and fill out and enclose the cover sheet. If you have questions or concerns, please send an e-mail to info@West-Win.org.

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