

West-Win Homeowners' Association

Fall 2024 Newsletter



General Meeting ~ 7pm Tuesday October 22nd

Winfield Township Road District Office ~ 30W575 Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago

- 6:30 📌 Welcome & check in. Meet your Board & talk with members & local officials.
- 7:00 📌 Brief business meeting.
- 7:15 📌 Updates from Winfield Township, Forest Preserve, Sheriff & Fire Depts.
- 7:45 📌 Guest speaker: Naturalist Pam Otto.
- 8:30 📌 Adjourn.

Fall bird migrations and dark skies initiatives are what brings our featured guest speaker, Naturalist and St. Charles Park District Outreach Ambassador, Pam Otto back to West-Win! Her entertaining and informative cicada presentation at our April meeting was so well-received that all attendees were anxious to have her return! Not sure if we'll be able to "name that bird" by the end of her talk but we will be able to appreciate the wonder of how birds innately know when and where to go as the seasons change. Their use of celestial cues is key to their travels and Pam's explanation of dark skies initiatives will provide details as to how we can help our feathered friends safely navigate to their destinations.

Let's have a drink...water is heavy stuff, but even knowing that, the total weight of rain is a real shocker. One West-Win homeowner measured 2 and 5/8 inches of rain in April, in addition to about 4.25 inches received earlier in the year. Then more rain in May, and a downpour of over 2 inches in June. That means in the first half of the year we received over 10 inches of rain! Checking the weight of all that is the surprise!

To calculate, one inch of water covering one acre weighs 113 tons. Using 10 inches, we would get 10 x 113 tons or roughly 1,130 tons of water over every acre in our neighborhoods. And some areas got a lot more. Our yards deserve a special shout out for the work they do in "drinking" up nature's bounty. Cheers!

~ You know it's fall when the mosquitos are wearing flannel shirts ~

Current Board of Directors

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President: | Rose Kuntze | 630 234-8891 | Directors: | |
| Vice President: | Skip Watt | 331 218-5653 | Mary Bakas | 773 799-4326 |
| Secretary: | Tim Van Hiel Jr | 773 383-2677 | Anthony Gosling | 630 689-8430 |
| Treasurer: | Eileen Kelly | 630 876-1316 | Kathy Hydo | 630 210-2093 |
| Past President: | Gib Van Dine | 630 231-4777 | Collette Klouda | 630 334-3348 |

West-Win is a voluntary, information-sharing association in unincorporated Winfield Township that includes about 700 independent homeowners bounded by Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton & Winfield

A message from the president...

Hello Members,

West-Win's founding mission 50+ years ago was "preserving the ambiance of our area" and its focus remains steadfast today!

My husband and I moved to unincorporated Winfield in July 1994. As new residents we were grateful to be invited to join West-Win's community. Through their General Meetings, semi-annual newsletters, website, and emails we were, and still are, provided with vital information as to events that could enhance our lives and/or to issues that might threaten or be detrimental to the peace, privacy, safety and security of our neighborhoods. Things we all care about!

Joining the all-volunteer Board about 5 years ago surprised me with the amount of daily effort that goes into keeping West-Win members apprised of what's currently happening, and more importantly, what's proposed. Directors monitor newspapers and media, county, township and municipal governments, fire and police department information as well as forest preserve communications just to name a few. The Board responds to members' questions and concerns received from them either via email, a note on their information sheet, or by phone. Please note the Board's contact numbers are published on the front page of the newsletter for your convenience.

Here come the asks. Our database has contact information for just under 700 members. If you appreciate West-Win's communications and believe they benefit you, there are 2 easy ways for you to help us continue our mission.

- 1) Inflation has impacted us all. Our printing, mailing and website costs have risen but West-Win's minimal \$25 voluntary annual membership dues have not. Statistics show that only 25% of our members pay dues! The member information sheet included with this newsletter indicates your payment status. If you're current – THANK YOU! If not, please consider supporting our efforts by remitting your dues today using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.
- 2) Our ability to quickly communicate urgent or time-sensitive information to members is sadly curtailed because we lack your email address(es). Issues regarding our neighborhoods rarely coincide with the spring and fall newsletter mailings. The simplest way to help us keep you informed is to check the information sheet, add or correct your contact information, and include the form with your payment. You can also email corrections to us at info@west-win.org. Member information is confidential.

Here come the thanks. First and foremost, to the 25% who help us pay the bills! Second, to those of you who will help us raise that percentage by contributing today. Third, to our advertisers for their continued support. And lastly, to my fellow board members for their wisdom, patience, and guidance.

Enjoy the fall newsletter! We've tried to make it helpful, informative, and a little light-hearted to boot. Mark your calendars to join us at the October 22nd General Meeting. Come out, meet your Board, talk with other members and local officials, and listen to our super guest speaker Pam Otto. We're a fun bunch – seriously!

Rose Kuntze



- ✓ If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. Now that's humerus.
- ✓ I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes. Now I have Heinzsight.
- ✓ Practice safe eating - always use condiments.



Speed KILLS...even on suburban roads!

“Do you feel like an outlier traveling 70 mph on Illinois toll roads? Several readers do and asked why drivers are getting away with 90 mph.” So wrote Marni Pyke of the *Daily Herald* under the headline “Speeding is tied to 55% of crash deaths in Illinois. So why does it persist?”

You may be thinking that this shocking statistic relates to freeway speeding and, horrific though it is, what has that to do with our unincorporated area roads?

A further *Daily Herald* article a week later clarified that 55% crash death statistic. “Readers may be forgiven if they assume most of those deadly crashes occur on interstates and tollways, where the 70 mph speed limit appears to be a mere suggestion for most drivers. But take a closer look at the numbers, and a surprising fact emerges: Most of these fatalities are on local roads, the kind with lower speed limits. Consider: Between 2010 and 2019, traffic fatalities surged 34% in urban/suburban areas. **Nearly half of those happened on roads with speed limits of 35 mph or lower.**”

Whatever road, street, drive, etc. you live on, you will undoubtedly resonate with these articles. Speed limits really do seem to be a “mere suggestion” and any sign of enforcement is more often than not ignored.

Take Purnell Road for example. It is a suggested route if using GPS apps to go in either direction between Route 59 and Winfield Road. You may recall some years ago West-Win opposed the building of the Trillium Farm subdivision not least because of the potential increase of traffic on an already overused “rat run” between Route 59 and Winfield Road. Previous promises of controlled speed and restricted access at peak times proved to be ineffective to say the least, and those responsible for such promises could be accused of window-dressing to get approval for the development. Certainly, the speed limit was reduced to 35 mph, driver speed/speed limit indicators were put up, and turn restriction signs were erected at the Purnell/Garys Mill intersection but faced with the same attitude of drivers to speed and signed restrictions as the *Daily Herald* articles report, and only occasional official enforcement,

these have for the most part been ignored. For residents who live on or near narrow and shoulder-less Purnell Road, this means speeding traffic, long lines at peak times, semi and car hauler size trucks driving through rural residential neighborhoods, an increase in vehicle noise, and the threat of serious injury or worse when the inevitable crash occurs and adds to those horrific statistics mentioned above. For emergency vehicles when responding to resident calls it could be a matter of life or death.

Purnell Road was recently split between two enforcing authorities. A short length of the road between Garys Mill Road and Gardner Way, where the morning and evening turn restriction is located, came under the police jurisdiction of West Chicago although the remainder of the road remains under the DuPage County Sheriff’s Department. *

A representative of the relevant West Chicago authority reported that “Officers have conducted 14 extra patrols, including specific traffic enforcement periods. Officers have made 47 traffic stops, resulting in either citations or warning tickets.” Just to be clear, that’s 17 months of data not including August 2024 since jurisdiction changed. 14 extra patrols is less than 1 per month. Traffic stops work out to less than 3 per month. And it’s unknown if tickets or just warning citations were issued. Hardly impressive and certainly not a deterrent.

Frustratingly, the representative reported, “We have not received any calls for service or complaints related to traffic concerns in West Chicago’s jurisdiction”.

Mack Road and Winfield Road, under the Sheriff’s Department’s jurisdiction, are also notorious for speeding and reckless driving. At least 3 fatalities and numerous collisions in recent years attest to those facts.

Traffic volume and speeding are the two most frequently reported concerns brought to West-Win’s attention by its members!

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So how should West-Win residents respond? **Clearly, we need to inform the relevant authorities when posted speed limits and traffic restriction signage are blatantly ignored.** It seems that is the only way in which we will get enforcement to be taken seriously. We appreciate that resources are not unlimited and often stretched thin but we are speaking of potential property damage, personal injury, and even life-threatening incidents here. That is not hyperbole. The statistics tell the sad story of something that can be avoided or at least reduced if we take note and act responsibly.

West-Win sincerely appreciates local and county law enforcement's efforts on their behalf and we remain anxious and willing to work with them to ensure our and their safety.

Who to contact:

- Have an emergency? Please call 911!
- West Chicago - If you have a non-emergency situation that you need assistance with or wish to file a complaint, please contact the West Chicago Police Department at (630) 293-2222 or police@westchicago.org.
- DuPage County Sheriff's Department – Non-emergency number 630-682-7256.

*As reported in a previous edition of the West-Win newsletter: *West Chicago is now responsible for enforcing the turn restrictions, plowing, and all other maintenance of Purnell Road that is along Trillium Farm.*

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Mount Hoy aka Mount Trashmore

2/19/21 article reprinted with permission from the Warrenville Historical Society



Did you know that Warrenville's most famous sledding hill was built up in a most unusual way?

Since its founding in 1833, Warrenville kept its rural feel with many connections to nature. The majestic open space led the community to attract visitors seeking a retreat from the more urban areas of Chicago and busier suburbs. In the early 1960's the DuPage County Forest Preserve set to capitalize on Warrenville's recreational reputation by remaking a worked-out gravel pit that occupied land originally settled by the Hoy family into a fine recreation area that would be known as the Blackwell Preserve. In 1964 when the remaining gravel was sold to pay for construction of the preserve, clay that was found under the gravel proved to have little to no value. This clay became the heart of a plan to build a large hill that would serve as the centerpiece of Blackwell.

Starting in 1965 trash collection agencies and community members were invited to drop off junk and other discarded garbage items. At the end of each day county workers spread the clay, which they had excavated, onto the growing pile of garbage named Mount Hoy after the pioneering family.

Mount Hoy quickly earned its nickname of Mount Trashmore. As the *Chicago Tribune* article in 1973 announcing the completion of the project read, the hope was to create a popular ski destination by literally "turning garbage to ski slopes." Although the idea seems a bit farfetched, the City of Evanston was undertaking a similar project and many were trying to convince the City of Chicago to do the same thing.

Overall three millions cubic yards of garbage and clay went into Mount Hoy, becoming a 150 foot hill. By 1974 Mount Trashmore was supposed to host four ski slopes, a snow machine, and a chair lift along with 2 toboggan slides, however a less elaborate setup welcomed skiers and tubers to the area.

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The plan for preventing contaminated groundwater by encasing the garbage in the clay also failed and in 1990 the Environmental Protection Agency enrolled the site in the Superfund Program due to the presence of contaminated groundwater. The EPA cleanup repaired the landfill cap, installed an extraction system, treated and disposed of the landfill leachate, and installed additional landfill gas vents successfully allowing winter sports and tubing to continue to this day. In September of 2020 the EPA deleted the site from its National Priorities List.

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Ever wonder about the origins of DuPage County and our local area? Continue reading to find out!

Throughout the 1700's and early 1800's, trappers and traders came into the area. The best known was a French fur trader named DuPage. Both the DuPage River and county were eventually named for him.

The first actual settler in DuPage County was Bailey Hobson in March 1831. Shortly thereafter, other families joined him to settle in the area. One of the best known was Capt. Joseph Naper from Ohio, who operated a grist mill and built his cabin nearby. The area became known as Naper Settlement, which was later incorporated as the Village of Naperville in 1857.

In 1832, Winfield Township was settled by Erastus and Jude Gary. They established a lumbering settlement called Gary's Mill, which eventually became known as Fredericksburg due to a significant German-speaking immigrant population. In the late 1800's, it was renamed Winfield after war hero Winfield Scott.

In 1833, Warrentown was founded by Julius Warren and his father, Daniel. They claimed land and established an inn and tavern in 1838, which still exists today as Warren Tavern Museum. After six unsuccessful attempts, Warrentown was finally incorporated as a city in 1967.

Wheaton was founded by Jesse Wheaton, Erastus Gary, and Warren Wheaton in 1837-38 when they claimed hundreds of acres of land in the area. They strategically offered the railroad several miles of free right-of-way through their property, and it initially became known as Wheaton Depot. In 1859, as the region began to prosper, the Village of Wheaton was incorporated.

Turner Junction was another early DuPage County town. It was the first community in Illinois created by the coming of the railroads in 1849. Three railroads met here by late 1850: the Galena & Chicago Union RR, the St Charles Branch RR, and the Dixon Air Line RR. In 1896, in an effort to attract industry, the name of the town was changed to the Village of West Chicago.

As to DuPage County itself, it was actually a part of Cook County until 1839 when it was separated and organized into a distinct county. Naper Settlement was chosen as its first county seat. The nine townships of DuPage County were organized in 1850. An attempt was made in 1857 to move the county seat to Wheaton due to its more central location. This attempt failed, but in 1867 it was passed by a referendum and Wheaton became the county seat as it remains today.

It's interesting to note that many of our streets are named after these early settlers.

PS – History pop quiz to follow...just kidding!



WEST-WIN ON POINT !!!

✓ **ADU Zoning Ordinance** – West-Win (WW) followed this closely through the approval process in the Zoning Board of Appeals, the County Development Committee, and the County Board. Member's responses to a WW survey indicated their strong opposition to the ordinance. While our goal was to have it rejected, the change was approved by the County Board, but WW did achieve a major win by modifying the original petition to change from a "by right permit" to a "conditional permit" and to require all ADUs rented to have minimum 6-month leases. Thank you to all members who

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attended the meetings with us, spoke their opinions, responded to our survey, and those that submitted comments for consideration by the County Board.

✓ **Forest Preserve Acquisition** – As reported in the 8/6/24 *Daily Herald*, Forest Preserve (DCFPD) commissioners authorized district leaders to negotiate and enter into a contract to acquire the Gladstone Ridge horse boarding center, also known as Bolger Farm, along Leask Lane. The cost is anticipated to be \$12 million.

✓ **Blackwell Forest Preserve Fleet Maintenance Facility** – The DCFPD plans to reconfigure current and construct new buildings at their existing facility on Mack Road. Attendees at the 7/27/24 open house were told the District hopes to limit negative impact on adjoining residential properties and preserve visitors, to reduce noise, and to lower nighttime lighting. The cost is anticipated to be \$35 to \$40 million.

✓ **Mack Road Bridge - West Branch DuPage River Bike Path** - Replacement of the bridge and new construction of a multi-use path on the north side of Mack Road will require easements and/or right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. Four resident's properties will be significantly impacted. Those residents are fighting Warrenville's hostile acquisition of their properties. An ongoing question is why the south side of Mack Road, already Forest Preserve property, is not being used for a project that benefits path users, Warrenville and the DCFPD, and which would NOT take land from north side residents. It seems that while this is still in the planning stage it is the right time to make the correct decision for all entities and place the path on the south, Forest Preserve side, of Mack Road. A petition has been established by the owners of the private dwellings and you can get further details, keep up to date with developments, and sign the petition by using this QR code.



✓ **DuPage County Forest Preserve Referendum** – On the ballot this November is a referendum for the DCFPD to increase their component of the property tax rate. If the referendum passes your tax bill would increase approximately \$11.67 per year for every \$100,000 of your home's value. Note that this increase is permanent.

Hope to see you at the October 22nd General Meeting!

