

West-Win Homeowners' Association

Fall 2025 Newsletter



General Meeting ~ 7pm Tuesday October 14th

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

- 6:30 👉 Welcome & check in. Meet your Board, other members & local officials
- 7:00 👉 Brief business meeting
- 7:15 👉 Updates from Winfield Township, Forest Preserve, & Winfield Fire Dept
- 7:45 👉 Guest speakers: Jim Zay and Melissa Martinez
- 8:30 👉 Adjourn

✓ **Come hear perspectives** from our District 6 County Representatives, Board Member Jim Zay and newly appointed Board Member Melissa Martinez. Following introductory comments from both, West-Win meeting attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns about our area directly to those guiding government policy in DuPage County.

✓ **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, then click the downward arrow and select Newsletter Index. The articles date from 2012 to current and are listed by title. Worth a look!

✓ **School is in session** – keep a look out for stopped buses! School bus drivers will indicate an intended entrance or exit to the bus by students when activating the yellow flashing lights prior to a stop. When bus drivers activate the flashing red lights and the stop sign on the left side of the bus, students will be loading or unloading. Stop if the red lights are flashing. When a school bus is on a four-lane roadway with at least two lanes of traffic traveling in the opposite direction, only those lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. When a school bus is traveling on a two-lane roadway, all lanes of traffic must stop. The majority of children injured or killed in student transportation are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm. Be alert, obey the laws, and help keep our children safe.

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.

~ It's autumn - let the gourd times roll ~

Board of Directors

President:	Rose Kuntze	(630) 234-8891	Directors:	
Vice President:	Skip Watt	(331) 218-5653	Mary Bakas	(773) 799-4326
Secretary:	Bill Kovacs	(630) 362-0975	Lisa Gaspero	(630) 334-2055
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Past President:	Gib Van Dine	(630) 231-4777	Giulia Naccarato	(312) 339-3195



A Message From the President...

Hello Members,

We're excited to have you join us at our October 14th General Meeting! Your participation is vital as we receive key community updates from local government and forest preserve representatives.

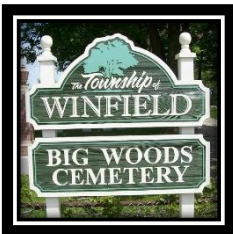
More and more these days our lives are saturated with numbers – phones, PINs, etc. Here are a few more that you may find interesting. Winfield Township is 1 of 9 in DuPage County and is comprised in whole or part by 7 towns – Aurora, Batavia, Naperville, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Winfield covering 36 square miles. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County boasts 26,000 acres, 175 miles of trails, and 60 preserves with 5.9 million annual visitors. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, DuPage County has a total area of 336 square miles, of which 327 is land and 8.9 is water.

West-Win, a voluntary information-sharing association, has served its almost 700 members for over 50 years. The current 9-member West-Win Board brings their knowledge and expertise gathered over a cumulative age of 629 years and have resided in DuPage County for over 400 years of their lives! That's just 2 items that make West-Win unique in who we are but #1 in what we do best, and that's caring about our community. Every day, in some way, the all-volunteer Board monitors local entities to keep our members informed when issues arise that might disrupt the ambiance of our area or the safety of our homes and families. We listen to residents' concerns and strive to work in concert with them to address those concerns whenever possible.

To continue our mission West-Win needs your support. A minimal \$25 from you allows us to publish our semiannual newsletter and maintain our website. If you haven't already done so this year, please send your 2025 dues to us today using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Thank you for your past and continued support. Enjoy the fall newsletter! We've tried to make it helpful, informative, and maybe bring a smile to your face. Mark your calendars to join us at the October 14th General Meeting. Come out, meet your Board, talk with other West-Win members and local officials. Hope to see you there!

Rose Kuntze



Did you know... Big Woods Cemetery, located on Eola Rd just south of Butterfield Rd, is maintained by Winfield Township? This historic cemetery is the resting place of Israel Warner, who joined the Revolutionary War in 1777 at age 9 as a messenger boy and scout until the end of the war in 1783. His father was Seth Warner, co-founder of the famous Green Mountain Boys, with Ethan Allen. Also buried there are seven veterans from the Civil War, one from the Black Hawk Indian War, two from World War I, and four from World War II. Plots are still available. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Township office at (630) 231-3591.

😊😊😊 **Chuckles** 😊😊😊

- ✓ I did some financial planning & it looks like I can retire at 85 & live comfortably for 11 minutes.
- ✓ A police officer came to my house & asked me where I was between 5 & 6. He seemed irritated when I answered: "Kindergarten"
- ✓ I bought a little bag of air today; the company that made it was kind enough to put some potato chips in it as well.



Traffic Safety Updates - Our last newsletter included an article summarizing concerns of our neighbors about traffic safety issues on Winfield Road, steps that were being taken to address our concerns, and what we had heard would be the next step from the officials tasked with addressing the issues. At West-Win's Spring General Meeting, we hosted Jim Zay, County District 6 and Transportation Committee Board representative, and Stephen Travia, Director of DuDOT, to discuss the steps that were being taken to address the problems.

Additionally, it was clear from comments of our membership that safety concerns were not limited to Winfield Road but also included Purnell and Mack Roads, with emphasis on the intersection of these two roads with Winfield Road. We have therefore expanded our focus beyond the speeding and safety issues of Winfield Road to include all three roads with special attention given on these intersections.

As a result of your feedback and the efforts of West-Win, progress is being made on several fronts to reduce safety issues.

- The DuPage County Sheriff has dispatched a radar trailer to the area to monitor speed on northbound Winfield Road. It is hoped that this automated speed monitor will make drivers more aware of their speed versus the posted speed limit and provide a calming of drivers on this stretch of the road.

- West-Win has reached out to and met with the officers of the Trillium HOA to address efforts along Purnell Road. It is hoped that coordinating the efforts of West-Win with the County for the east portion, with Trillium and the City of West Chicago for the west portion, will allow us to overcome the jurisdictional issues for a coordinated solution.
- West-Win's Ad Hoc Traffic Committee has reached out to the DuPage County Sheriff management team requesting a meeting to discuss obstacles and possible resolutions to the enforcement issues noted by many at the Spring General Meeting. While the meeting requested is with the sheriff, we opened the door to have representatives from both the County Board's Transportation Committee and DuDOT attend the meeting also. It is hoped that progress will accelerate if all stakeholders are present at the same meeting.

This summer has been particularly challenging for Winfield Road and its feeder roads due to additional traffic volume and congestion caused by concurrent construction of both Route 59 and Roosevelt Road. While the construction with its obvious congestion may have temporarily slowed drivers somewhat, we don't think this condition will last when construction is completed this fall. West-Win continues to pursue a long-term solution to make the roads safer for all of us.





***St. James Farm* — a testament to its beginnings as a Native American Homeland, Pioneer Homestead, Private Retreat and Equestrian Facility**

Local residents were grateful when St. James Farm — long the private retreat of Brooks McCormick and family, first opened to the public. Thanks to the care of the McCormick family, the farm was preserved, including many of its early structures. Today's visitors enjoy beautiful paths and idyllic forests as well as a living museum showcasing the farm's rich history as the McCormick family's private residence and 1st class equestrian center.

The farm and greater area are part of a storied past. For thousands of years this farm and area now known as Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties once belonged to Native Americans. When the early nineteenth century brought homesteaders to the area, many conflicts arose. In 1816, a treaty granted this land to the Potawatomi, Sac, Fox and Winnebago tribes. In 1832, this treaty was broken which created further conflicts, culminating in the Black Hawk War of 1831.

Around this time, a council of local Indian tribes was told that President Van Buren had heard they wished to sell their land. Legend has it that the Native Americans responded that "The Great White Father must have seen a bad bird which told him a lie. Far from wishing to sell our land, we wish to keep it." Ultimately, a treaty was signed transferring the land to the government. Six years later, about one-twentieth of this land became what is now known as DuPage County.

Homesteaders began arriving in the late 1830s. Jude and Erastus Gary were among the first and built a farm on what is now known as St. James Farm. What we know as DuPage County was much different then. The area was remote and wild, and settlers were subject to harsh living conditions. Through perseverance, the Gary family and other settlers were able to survive and grow. Over time, the Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties developed into what we see today.

Thanks to careful preservation efforts, these early structures can still be seen today at St. James Farm. These include the remains of a barn's fieldstone foundation, a massive wood-planked German-style barn with cantilevered floors, and a gabled roof-and-wing farmhouse which is one of the last of its kind in DuPage County.



St. James Farm is a treasure nestled in the beautiful woods and prairies of DuPage County. Whether it be a hike, bike, or run on its meandering paths, or viewing the numerous historical buildings on its grounds, residents can take advantage of its gifts throughout the year.



Follow this fall garden checklist to prep your yard for winter because it is coming!!!

Get your lawn ready for winter

As the weather cools off, autumn lawn care is a combination of clean-up and encouraging new growth. It's also a good time to help your grass recover from being trampled during backyard games of catch or maybe bocce ball this summer. So pave the way for lush, healthy grass next spring with these fall gardening tips:

- ✓ **Deal with fallen leaves.** Mow over them to chop them into smaller pieces that will add nutrients to the soil.
- ✓ **Seed or lay sod.**
- ✓ **Aerate your lawn.**
- ✓ **Keep up with weeds.**
- ✓ **Raise your mower blade.** Keeping your lawn taller will encourage more root growth, which helps grass survive the winter better.

Prep the perennial garden

Stop deadheading in early fall and leave the above-ground parts standing even after frost kills them (unless pests and diseases are an issue). They'll provide both food and shelter for wildlife. Songbirds will enjoy the seed buffet, and many pollinators like native bees overwinter in standing stems and brush.

Complete the following tasks in your perennial garden in the fall

- ✓ **Remove weeds.**
- ✓ **Add mulch.** After the ground freezes, add a 4- to 5-inch-thick layer of bark mulch over the crown of perennials planted this growing year and those that are frost-tender in your area.
- ✓ **Plant spring-blooming bulbs.**
- ✓ **Dispose of diseased or pest-ridden plants.**
- ✓ **Water once a week if dry.**

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Refresh your vegetable garden for next year

Whether you have an elaborate kitchen garden or a small patch for raising edible plants, things will start to slow down in the fall as you harvest the last of your tasty bounty. Once a few frosts finally bring the growing season to an end, check off these vegetable garden chores to prepare for next season's harvest.

- ✓ **Clean out beds.**
- ✓ **Add compost.** Spread a 2- to 3-inch-thick layer of compost over your beds to enrich the soil. No need to till it in; precipitation and soil organisms will do the job for you.
- ✓ **Expand planting areas.** If you'd like to increase your planting space, fall is an excellent time to set up new raised beds or start a lasagna garden where you want to smother grass for an in-ground bed. Lasagna gardening is a no-dig, no-till organic gardening method that results in rich, fluffy soil with very little work from the gardener. The name "lasagna gardening" has nothing to do with what you'll be growing in the garden. Instead, it refers to the method of building the garden: adding layers of organic materials that will "cook down" over time, resulting in nutrient-rich soil that will help your plants thrive.

Care for trees and shrubs

Did you know fall is an excellent time for planting trees and shrubs?

- ✓ **Plant new trees and shrubs.** Add deciduous trees and shrubs until about a month before the ground usually freezes. You can also plant evergreen species in fall, but they tend to do better when planted in spring.
- ✓ **Provide plenty of water.** Newly planted trees and shrubs—and established ones—will tolerate harsh winter conditions better when well-watered in fall. Likewise, extra water for evergreens is essential in fall.
- ✓ **Replenish mulch.** Keep mulch from touching the trunks to prevent rot and other diseases.
- ✓ **Prune after dormancy starts.** Trimming after August will trigger tender new growth that's easily damaged in winter. Instead, wait to prune until leaves have fallen from deciduous species.
- ✓ **Guard trunks against deer and sun damage.**

Organize your tools and gardening gear

As the growing season winds down, don't forget to prep your garden tools for winter. Cleaned and refreshed, your favorite garden helpers will be ready when you are, come spring.

- ✓ **Clean hand tools.** Remove dirt, then place the metal ends of garden trowels, weeders, and other tools in a bucket of sand laced with vegetable oil.
- ✓ **Sharpen blades.**
- ✓ **Drain hoses and irrigation lines.**
- ✓ **Clean out sprayers.**

Clean up annuals and containers

- ✓ **Clean out flower beds and empty containers.** The freeze and thaw cycle can crack containers, especially those made of clay left full of potting mix. After cleaning them out, store your pots and planters in a protected, dry area like a shed or garage.
- ✓ **Collect and store seeds.** Place each type of seed in a labeled envelope and stash them in a cool, dry place until sowing them in spring.

~ Article taken in part from *Better Homes and Gardens* for members' benefit ~

WEST- WIN ON POINT !!!

Winfield Road Safety – Following from our Spring Newsletter and General Meeting presentation, the West-Win Ad Hoc Transportation Committee continues to monitor and maintain contact with the authorities concerning traffic safety along Winfield Road as well as Purnell and Mack Roads. Due to jurisdictional issues, West-Win has met with, and may coordinate efforts with, the Trillium Homeowners Association concerning the west end of Purnell (within city limit of West Chicago). Our efforts have also expanded to include sheriff department enforcement of speed limits in all areas as well as restriction of overweight vehicles on Purnell. Much more needs to be done so we will continue to monitor and engage residents in the area as potential resolutions and options are presented and discussed.

Mack Road Bridge – West Branch DuPage River Bike Path – The City of Warrenville has filed condemnation complaints with DuPage County courts for the impacted residential properties on the north side of Mack Road. The initial hearing was held in August, and the court approved a motion to consolidate the cases into a single proceeding. The homeowners have also filed a “Traverse” to have the case dismissed. The next court date will happen after the printing of this newsletter but prior to our Fall General Meeting so we may have an update at that time. West-Win opposes the taking of private property for this project. South side Mack Road Forest Preserve property is the obvious choice.

Blackwell Forest Preserve Fleet Maintenance Campus – Forest Preserve staff officially held the groundbreaking ceremony near the current maintenance facility on June 3rd. Construction of the new facility is anticipated to take approximately 18 months followed by removal and/or renovation of the existing facilities in 2027.

Winfield Road Potential Development – Action concerning potential sale and development of the properties on Winfield Road just south of the Casey’s has been publicly quiet this summer so nothing new to report from the Board.

DuPage County Highway Maintenance Facility – DuPage County is proceeding with plans to construct a new highway maintenance facility on the northeast side of the County Fairgrounds. The facility will be approximately 178,000 sf of maintenance shops, offices, material storage, and garages. Construction is currently planned to begin next spring.



Riddle me this - What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast?

Answer – A synonym roll!!

