

WEST-WIN Homeowners' Association



FALL 2026 Newsletter



General Meeting 7pm Tuesday October 27th

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, Sheriff, & Winfield Fire Dept
- 7:45 👉 Guest speaker: Winfield Township Assessor
- 8:30 👉 Adjourn

✓ **Come hear from the newly elected Winfield Township Assessor** about how our property taxes are calculated, how the rates are established and what we can do if we have issues. West-Win thinks that this is a subject that will be of interest to all homeowners since it is so near and dear to our wallets. Come hear how the process is done and what you may be able to do to manage your bill.

✓ **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 and entertaining articles like our article about hauntings in DuPage in this issue, check the Newsletter Index. The articles date from 2012 to current and are listed by title. Worth a look!

✓ **Looking for more information about our area**, check out the resources of Winfield Township with their newsletters and email updates also. We think that you will be able to find lots of helpful news and articles about the Winfield Township area. See this newsletter for the access information and check it out.

West-Win is a voluntary, information-sharing association in unincorporated Winfield Township that includes about 650 independent homeowners bounded by Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton & Winfield.

~ Fall, the beautiful time of year between heatstroke and frostbite ~

>> Board of Directors <<<

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Message from the President...

Hello Members,

Happy Fall! We hope that everyone has had a great and enjoyable summer. Now that we are all working raking up our leaves and preparing our yards and gardens for the upcoming change of weather, we should all take a little time out to rest and recover. Why not take your rest and join your neighbors for our fall get together at the Winfield Township Highway Department on October 27th at 7 PM? Our featured speaker at this meeting will be Shawn Hacker, the newly elected Township Assessor. Shawn will be explaining the role of his office in preparing our property tax bills along with sharing how the bills are calculated and what we can do if we have any concerns or issues. I'm sure that this topic is near and dear to all of us.

Although many of you have heard this before, West-Win has been working tirelessly for more than 50 years to preserve the ambiance and peace of our neighborhoods. Many of your neighbors have donated their time and knowledge over the years to keep West-Win relevant and viable to achieve a record like this. Looking toward the future, I would like to encourage everyone interested in furthering this work to consider joining us and become an active part of West-Win by accepting nomination as a candidate for the Board. Our Board meets four times per year in addition to the two (spring and fall) General Membership meetings and actively performs various tasks between meetings to identify neighborhood concerns and work toward resolutions which affect us all. West-Win needs energetic people of all backgrounds to effectively continue our mission. If this sounds like something you might be interested in doing for your community, please contact any of the current Board members either at the fall meeting or by phone, or let us know by an email to our info@west-win.org address. I'm certain that there are many capable and knowledgeable people in our area that can be of great service to the West-Win community. We want and need your help.

Actively participating on the Board may not be possible for everyone. If you are not already a paid member, we encourage you to join and help support our mission. We serve an area of more than 650 homes and have historically opened our meetings and provided our bi-annual newsletter to every home. Please note that our minimal member dues of \$25 per year are used exclusively to publish and mail these newsletters and to maintain the Association website. No dues are ever paid to any Director, Officer, or person working for the Association. For those that are fully paid-up members, thank you for your past and continued support. We hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful and maybe even a little entertaining.

Ralph (Skip) Watt

"If money grew on trees, fall would be everyone's favorite season"

Because You Asked ????????

In our last newsletter, we created this article to respond to comments and concerns received in our email inbox, on response pages attached to dues payments, or communicated to the Board in person. Since spring, only a few comments have been received. If you have any specific concerns that you would like us to address, please let us know. Here are some of the primary issues that we are working on today.

- ***Traffic, speeding, and congestion on Garys Mill, Purnell, and Winfield Roads.*** We continue regular contact and communication with County officials to address both short and long-term solutions to the traffic and congestion issues in our area (see traffic article next page). This is an ongoing effort that unfortunately will take a lot of time to resolve. Recently, we have seen a few changes to reduce the problems, but we are not done yet.
- ***Dogs off leash in the neighborhood.*** As noted in the last issue, West-Win has been working to bring DuPage County Animal Services to speak at our regular semi-annual meeting to address this concern. For the fall meeting we felt that property taxes were a bigger issue to our members so we again postponed Animal Services. In the meantime, if there are concerns in your neighborhood, we suggest that you call DuPage County Animal Services directly at (630) 407-2800.

- **Recommend resources for candidate info in local, township, and county elections.** As we approach the mid-term elections, we think it important to reiterate that West-Win is not affiliated with any political organization. While we do regularly have visits from elected officials at our General Meetings, including the upcoming meeting in October, we do not make recommendations on how members should vote. Never-the-less, we do encourage all members to vote as these same elected officials impact our daily lives.

Traffic Safety Updates -

West-Win continues to follow activity of the local authorities concerning traffic issues in our area. At times, it may seem like a daunting task with the overlapping jurisdictions of State, County, Township, and various municipalities but we have not backed down or given up. Since our spring update, little can be seen on the roads but the wheels of progress are turning. We are now told that the all-way stop signs at the intersection of Garys Mill and Purnell Roads that we announced this spring will be installed in September before our fall meeting. Apparently, Garys Mill Road south of Roosevelt, being a road under State jurisdiction, means that the State is the lead agency for the work and it has taken several months to get the work implemented.

Next, we continue to follow activity of the County Transportation Department (DuDOT) concerning speeding and congestion issues on Winfield and Purnell Roads. We were informed that the speed monitoring study for these areas planned for late spring 2026 had been postponed but was eventually carried out in August. The study was conducted for the stretch of Winfield Road between Mack Road and Roosevelt Road. DuDOT noted a slight decline of higher speeders and a decline in the violation rate from over 69% to less than

50%. Additionally, 77% of all users were found to be operating within a speed range from 40 to 49 mph. The goal of West-Win interactions with the County for these roads is to reduce the number and severity of accidents and improve safety by any means possible, including possibly reducing the speed limit if necessary. County officials state that these results indicate that the existing 45 mph limit is appropriate and no change is recommended.

Some of our residents have noted that the Sheriff is utilizing the authorized driveways along Winfield and Purnell Roads to monitor passing traffic. At our spring meeting, the Sheriff's liaison noted that these authorizations help with traffic control and several stops have been carried out. Hopefully, the increased enforcement will continue as we believe it has positively impacted traffic and reduced speeders as noted by the DuDOT officials. Thank you to every homeowner that has provided this authorization and if you live with a driveway that faces onto Winfield or Purnell Roads and would like to add your address to the list available to the Sheriff, please let us know. West-Win continues to pursue long-term solutions to make the roads safer for all of us.

If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please pass them along to us by email at info@west-win.org.

Stay safe !

chuckles 😊

- **I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I'm okay.**
- **You don't need a parachute to go skydiving, You only need a parachute to go skydiving twice.**
- **I'd tell an autumn joke, but you probably wouldn't fall for it.**
- **Why can't you trust an atom? Because they make up literally everything.**



WANT TO STAY IN THE LOOP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

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Ghosts on the Prairie:

What Our Local Legends Say About Life in the Western Suburbs by Giulia Naccarato

The western suburbs have a reputation for being ordinary places. We have good parks, busy soccer fields, familiar downtowns, and neighborhoods where people still wave to each other on evening walks. But spend enough time here and you'll discover that nearly every town has at least one ghost story.

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, these stories have a way of sticking around. They get passed from neighbor to neighbor, from parents to kids, and from one generation to the next. And the older the community, the more stories seem to gather around it.

Some of the area's most unusual stories aren't tied to haunted places at all. In Lombard, residents once spoke of **E.V. Wilson**, a 19th-century Spiritualist who claimed he could communicate with the dead through what he called a "nervomagnetic law of spiritual control." Wilson traveled throughout the Midwest giving lectures and demonstrations and even authored a 400-page book defending Spiritualism as a science rather than a parlor trick. Whether regarded as a gifted medium or simply a charismatic showman, Wilson remains one of DuPage County's most intriguing historical figures.

Take the **Mayslake Peabody Estate** in Oak Brook. The grand mansion has inspired stories of strange sounds, cold spots, and unexplained sightings for years. Visitors come for the architecture and history, but many leave talking about something they can't quite explain. The estate's reputation has become such a part of local folklore that special tours have explored both its history and its ghost stories.

Mayslake is also connected to one of DuPage County's most enduring local legends: "**Peabody's Tomb**." Francis Stuyvesant Peabody, who built the estate and died during a fox hunt on the grounds in 1922, became the subject of rumors claiming his body had been preserved in formaldehyde and displayed inside a glass coffin at the estate's Portiuncula Chapel. Curious teenagers spent generations sneaking onto the property hoping to catch a glimpse of the supposed tomb. The story was eventually proven false, but the legend became so widespread that it remains part of local folklore today. Additional rumors warned that if trespassers were caught by the Franciscan monks who later occupied the property, they would be forced to spend the night praying for forgiveness. Whether fact or fiction, the stories have become inseparable from the estate's history.

In nearby Glen Ellyn, the former **Maryknoll Seminary** developed a reputation of its own. Over the years, stories circulated about a mysterious priestly figure seen on the property. Like most ghost stories, the details vary depending on who is telling it, but the tale has become part of the area's identity.

Naperville has its own contribution to local lore through the historic estate once known as **Willoway Manor**, now better known as Mesón Sabika. Long before it became a popular restaurant, it was part of Oakhurst Farm. Employees and visitors have shared stories about footsteps in empty rooms, strange noises, and the feeling that someone else is there after everyone has gone home. Maybe it's just an old building settling. Maybe it's something else. Either way, the stories have become part of the mansion's history. It has been rumored to be part of the Underground Railroad helping slaves get to freedom, but the hauntings are from another tale.

In **Winfield**, many of the stories center on **Hedges Station**. Hedges Station is the oldest surviving railroad depot in Illinois. The building has been a train station, tavern, post office, and home during its long life. People occasionally talk about hearing footsteps or sensing a presence inside the old structure when no one else is around. Whether those experiences are real or imagined, they add another layer to a building that has witnessed nearly two centuries of local history.

Then there's **Wheaton**, where students have been keeping ghost stories alive for decades. One of the most famous is the tale of "Aunt Mary," a former librarian said to still roam the stacks of Wallace Memorial Library. Students have blamed her for misplaced books, flickering lights, and all sorts of mysterious happenings. Another campus legend involves a ghost known as Eve, whose story changes a little every time it's told. That's the thing about local folklore: details change, but somehow the stories survive.

Over in **Warrenville**, the stories tend to gather around the historic **Albright Studio**, now the Warrenville Historical Museum & Art Gallery. The building was once used by artist **Ivan Albright**, whose dark, haunting paintings earned him the nickname "Master of the Macabre." A longtime Warrenville resident, Albright spent many of his most productive years working in the former Warrenville Methodist Church, which served as a studio and gallery for himself, his father Adam Emory Albright, and his twin brother, Malvin "Zsissy" Albright. Although Albright is celebrated for his entire body of work, he became nationally famous for creating the grotesque, decaying portrait featured in the 1945 film adaptation of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. His fascination with aging, mortality, and decay made him the perfect artist to bring Oscar Wilde's infamous cursed portrait to life. Many of his works, including *Picture of Dorian Gray*, were later donated to the Art Institute of Chicago and remain among the museum's most recognizable American paintings. Visitors have occasionally described strange feelings or odd experiences inside the building. Maybe it's the history. Maybe it's the artwork. Whatever the reason, the building seems perfectly suited for a ghost story.

Not every ghost story is tied to a building. Some belong to the roads we drive every day.

In Glendale Heights, the legend of the **Bloomington Road Bride** has been shared for years. According to the story, a young woman appears near a bridge before disappearing into the darkness. Stories like this exist all over America, but each community puts its own spin on them, and somehow they become part of local history.

And then there's **Munger Road**, probably the best-known ghost story in the western suburbs. Near Bartlett, a quiet railroad crossing has become the focus of one of Chicagoland's most enduring legends. The story claims a school bus was struck by a train and that the spirits of the children still linger there. Visitors have reported strange lights, odd sounds, and mysterious handprints appearing on their cars. Historians have never been able to confirm the story as it's usually told, but that hasn't stopped generations of teenagers from making late-night trips to the crossing to see for themselves.

Another, lesser-known version of the Munger Road legend tells of an isolated house occupied by an elderly man and his supposedly possessed dog. According to local folklore, a train derailment destroyed the home, and the spirits of the man and dog have haunted the area ever since. Like many urban legends, the details vary depending on who is telling the story, but the tale has become part of the road's enduring mystique and helps explain why Munger Road remains one of the most talked-about haunted locations in the western suburbs.

What's interesting about all these stories is that they're not really about ghosts. They're about places.

They're about the old mansion you've driven past a hundred times. The railroad depot that somehow survived while everything around it changed. The campus building where students have been sharing the same tales for decades. The road you've traveled without ever knowing there was a legend attached to it.

For all the growth we've seen in the western suburbs, these stories remind us that our towns didn't start with us. People lived here long before today's subdivisions, shopping centers, and office parks. They built homes, opened businesses, rode trains, attended schools, and left behind memories. Sometimes those memories become history books. Sometimes they become ghost stories.

Either way, they help connect us to the people who came before us.

So the next time you're walking through downtown Wheaton, driving through Winfield, passing Mayslake in Oak Brook, or heading down a lonely stretch of road after dark, take a moment to think about the generations who stood in that same spot. You don't have to believe in ghosts to appreciate the stories.

Sometimes the real haunting is simply realizing how much history is hiding in places we think we know so well.

WEST-WIN ON POINT !!!

Winfield Road Safety – 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, Garys Mill and Mack Roads.

Mack Road Bridge – West Branch DuPage River Bike Path – Things are becoming very active again in the courts regarding the proposed bike path with hearings and a trial scheduled to begin October 15th. We oppose the taking of private property particularly when an obvious and better option is readily available on the south side of Mack Rd on Forest Preserve property! We may have more information at the meeting. FYI: The meeting is October 27th.

Blackwell Forest Preserve Fleet Maintenance Campus – Construction of the new facility is anticipated to take approximately 18 months followed by removal and/or renovation of the existing facilities in 2027.

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Working together, we want to help you spend less time worrying and more time making memories.



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✓ Please ensure your spam folder filter is set to recognize our email address!



CHECK YOUR ROOF IF:

- ✓ Your roof is over 17 years old.
- ✓ You notice missing or damaged shingles.
- ✓ Your neighbors are replacing their roofs.
- ✓ You've had recent hail or wind storms.
- ✓ You haven't had your roof inspected in years.

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