

West-Win Homeowners' Association

Spring 2025 Newsletter



General Meeting ~ 7pm Tuesday April 29th

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

- 6:30 Welcome & check in; meet your Board, fellow members & local officials.
- 7:00 Brief business meeting & Board election.
- 7:15 Updates from Winfield Township, Forest Preserve, Sheriff & Fire Depts; Traffic Study updates.
- 8:00 Guest speaker: Spencer Campbell.
- 8:30 Adjourn.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from DuPage County Board and Transportation Committee Member Jim Zay, our District 6 representative, and DuPage County Division of Transportation (DuDOT) officials as they share updates on Winfield Road traffic studies.

Trees are at the heart of healthy ecosystems, cities, and communities. West-Win is excited to have Spencer Campbell explore their many benefits, the challenges they face, and how The Morton Arboretum is advancing research and conservation to ensure trees thrive for generations to come.

Spencer is dedicated to inspiring people to develop a deeper connection with the natural world. His horticultural and natural areas management experience guides his work in The Morton Arboretum's Plant Clinic, a service to educate professionals and the public about how to select, care for, and protect plants. He leads classes, workshops, seminars, and public presentations about gardening techniques, ecological restoration, climate change, and wilderness conservation. His teaching philosophy is that true knowledge of the natural world is best acquired by immersing oneself in the company of the plants and animals.

→ *The Plant Clinic may be reached by calling 630-719-2424 or emailing your questions to plantclinic@mortonarb.org*

~ It's Spring! I'm so excited I wet my plants! ~

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 an association in unincorporated Winfield Township that includes about 700 independent homeowners bounded by Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton & Winfield

A message from the president...West-Win unique – how so?

Unlike most HOA's we are a voluntary association with an over 50-year history of protecting the ambiance of our area. Our work involves the exchange of mutually useful information via our website, our Facebook page, member emails and most importantly through our semi-annual newsletters and General Meetings. If we don't have your email address you are missing out on receiving valuable, time-sensitive updates!

We speak in response to concerns brought to us by our residents and often advocate with local governments on issues of common interest, especially those threatening the peace or security of our properties. Being united as a homeowners' association, and more importantly as neighbors, we have been highly effective in protecting the environment in which we reside.

Will you help us in our efforts? If yes, please show your support by sending contact updates and your \$25 annual dues to us using the self-addressed envelope included with this newsletter.

Enjoy the spring newsletter! We hope it's informative, helpful, and even brings a smile to your face. Mark your calendars to join us at the April 29, 2025 meeting. Come out, meet your current Board and vote in your new Board. You can talk with other West-Win members, local officials, and enjoy our guest speaker's presentation. I hope to see you there!

Rose Kuntze

😊😊😊 **Chuckles** 😊😊😊

- ✓ Wi-fi went down for 5 minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.
- ✓ I was addicted to the hokey pokey but thankfully, I turned myself around.
- ✓ My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.

Thank you to retiring Director Collette Klouda and Secretary Tim Van Hiel for their hard work and efforts over the last 2 years while serving on the West-Win (WW) Board of Directors. Their participation is appreciated, we are grateful for their support, and they will be missed!

WW elections occur annually at the Spring General Meeting. Due to Collette and Tim's retirement from the Board and the end of term for 2 incumbents, there are 4 Board positions to fill. The 2 incumbents, Mary Bakas and Rose Kuntze, are running for reelection. Additionally, 3 candidates are nominated for Board election. We are excited to have a strong list of candidates eager to continue WW's mission while providing area oversight and timely updates to our members. What follows provides background information about the candidates.

Current Board:

- Anthony Gosling - CEO of a local Christian Book Publisher and Distributor; 13-year resident of Winfield.
- Eileen Kelly – Retired from local Government, now an avid hunter of antiques; 32-year resident of West Chicago.
- Gib Van Dine – Retired Past President; retired Electronic Engineer; 58-year resident of Winfield Township.
- Kathy Hydo - Manager at an Audit, Advisory & Tax company; 12-year resident of Winfield.
- Ralph (Skip) Watt - Retired Civil Engineer; 25-year resident of West-Win & a 60-year resident of DuPage County.

Nominated candidates:

Giulia Naccarato – Giulia (pronounced Julia) has lived in the Wheaton/Winfield area for 22 years and has called the Woods of Cantigny home since 2017. Originally from Wisconsin, she holds a B.S. in Business with a major in Finance and a minor in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. She has worked at BMO Bank for 26 years, specializing

in commercial banking, accounting, and regulatory reporting. With strong communication and financial skills, Giulia is eager to support the Board in maintaining and improving the beauty and safety of the WW community. She believes in thoughtful progress that enhances, rather than diminishes, the neighborhood's unique charm.

Lisa Gaspero – A resident of Oak Lane since 2006, Lisa is an attorney and co-owner of a law firm specializing in real estate, business law, and litigation. She and her husband have six children and are passionate about preserving nature and wildlife. An avid marathon runner, Lisa enjoys training on local trails. With extensive experience in business and governance, she is eager to serve on the Board to help protect WW's natural beauty while fostering a thriving community. She believes in balancing development with conservation to ensure future generations can enjoy the area's unique environment.

Mary Bakas – Incumbent WW Director since Spring 2017. Mary has called the Woods of Cantigny home for 9 ½ years, living there with her husband Bob and their two dogs, Charlie and Henry. A full-time REALTOR® and Business Coach with Forward Coaching, Mary is deeply committed to the community, with a strong focus on protecting home values and preserving the charm of the area. She believes it's crucial to maintain the desirability of homeownership and the unique qualities that make this area so loved. In her free time, Mary enjoys exploring the outdoors, biking, and walking along the local trails.

Rose Kuntze – Incumbent WW President since 2023; Board member and Secretary 2020-2023; 35-year resident of Winfield. After retiring in 1990 as an insurance software developer she was actively involved as a hospice volunteer and assumed fundraising oversight as part of her 5-year association with that organization. Rose is deeply committed to the goals and values of WW and dedicates much of her time to monitoring and distributing valuable information to the WW community. Last summer at St James Farm, she achieved her 2024 goal of walking 500 miles. She strongly advocates for the preservation of our rural environment and believes growth should never occur at the expense of residents.

William (Bill) Kovacs – A resident of the Woods of Cantigny since 1989, Bill has been deeply involved in preserving the character of the community, including opposing the Willow Creek and Pulte Homes projects. He served for 10 years on the Winfield P&Z Commission and remains committed to thoughtful, responsible development. Now retired, he has the time and dedication to advocate for smart growth that maintains the area's beauty and livability. Passionate about protecting WW from overcrowding, he aims to ensure that future changes enhance, rather than diminish, the community's quality of life.



Winfield Road: A Dangerous Roadway Under Investigation

Local residents have long voiced concerns about safety on Winfield Road, and recent events have only reinforced the urgency of addressing them. In our October 2024 newsletter, we highlighted the dangers posed by reckless driving along Mack, Purnell, and Winfield Roads, citing multiple fatalities and collisions in recent years.

Despite these alarming statistics, the West-Win (WW) Board was surprised to learn that a multi-use path along Winfield Road had been under consideration, and funding had already been allocated. Ultimately, after receiving public comments at their September 17th, 2024 meeting, the DuPage County Transportation Committee decided to halt the project, recognizing the risks to potential users. Instead, they proposed redirecting funds toward much-needed traffic and safety studies focused mainly on Winfield, Purnell, and Mack Roads and possibly expanding to other feeder routes.

Residents Speak Up - Seeking community input, WW reached out, via an email survey to its members, on December 20, 2024, with three key safety-related questions:

1. Do you feel safe driving on Winfield Rd between Roosevelt and Mack?
2. Do you feel safe turning onto or off Winfield Rd between Roosevelt and Mack?
3. If you answered "No" to either question, what are your main concerns?

The response was overwhelming - Over 50 members shared thoughtful feedback, personal stories, and safety concerns, making it clear that this was a pressing issue. The topic dominated discussions at the Fall 2024 WW General Meeting, highlighting widespread unease about the road's conditions.

Action Steps: West-Win Forms a Traffic Safety Committee - In response to questions and concerns, WW formed an ad-hoc committee consisting of WW members Sean Chou and Laura Ludwig, as well as WW Board members Anthony Gosling, Rose Kuntze, and Skip Watt, to work with the DuPage County Division of Transportation (DuDOT) on potential improvements to safety.

Meetings with County Officials & Progress So Far - On January 9, 2025, the WW committee met with DuPage County Board and Transportation Committee Member Jim Zay, our District 6 representative, to present residents' feedback. Zay acknowledged the concerns and assured the group that DuDOT was in the early stages of reviewing safety issues. The urgency of the matter was underscored when, just a day before the meeting, a two-car collision occurred at the intersection of Purnell and Winfield Roads.

At a follow-up meeting on February 19, 2025, Zay was joined by Stephen Travia (Director of DuDOT), William Eidson (DuDOT Engineer), and Stephen Zulkowski (DuDOT Traffic Engineer). The discussion covered, but was not limited to:

- Increasing traffic volumes on Winfield, Purnell, Mack, and Garys Mill Roads
- Lack of law enforcement presence in these areas
- Jurisdictional challenges between various government agencies
- Speed limits and traffic calming solutions
- Congestion and high-risk intersections at Purnell, Mack, and Winfield Roads
- Ongoing crash studies and speed records

What's Next? - DuDOT is now in the early stages of hiring a consultant to conduct a formal study. Funding for this initiative is expected to be part of the DuPage County Budget proposal in April 2025. The consultant will assess all concerns and provide recommendations for improving safety on these roads.

While immediate fixes may be limited to short-term "band-aid" solutions, a comprehensive, long-term strategy will take time to develop. To keep the community informed, Member Zay and/or DuDOT representatives plan to attend the WW General Meeting on April 29, 2025, to discuss progress and answer residents' questions.

How You Can Help - WW will continue working closely with officials and will keep members updated. Your input and support are critical in ensuring these safety issues remain a priority. We appreciate the proactive stance taken by county officials and their willingness to collaborate with WW on meaningful improvements. If you aren't receiving WW emails, please send your contact information to us at info@west-win.org. The addition of your email address to our database will ensure that you receive future updates and communications.



Let's work together to make Winfield and adjoining roads safer for everyone!

 – Buckle up. Every trip, every time. Ensure children are buckled in the correct seat. Never drive drowsy.

 – Obey speed limits. Share the road responsibly. Pay attention to emergency vehicle & bus flashing lights.

 – Don't drive distracted or while impaired. Pay attention to the road conditions & traffic warning signs.



Because we live close to Chicago,

there are many attractions that we can visit.

However, there is a closer popular attraction worth visiting that draws

400,000 visitors a year and it's basically in our backyard! That attraction is Cantigny Park.

The 500-acre property, which was called Red Oaks, was purchased as a country estate in the late 1800s by Joseph Medill, who built a 35-room mansion on the site. Mr. Medill was a former Mayor of Chicago and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. Upon his death in 1899, his grandson, Robert R. McCormick inherited the estate.

Robert, who was born in 1880, graduated from Yale University in 1903 and in 1907, he earned a law degree from Northwestern University. He became editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, along with his cousin, in 1914. The following year, early in World War I, he reported from the Eastern Front in Europe as the *Tribune's* war correspondent.

Because he was a strong believer in military service, he joined the Illinois National Guard's First Illinois Cavalry Regiment in 1916. Due to his family background, education, and expert horsemanship, he was commissioned as a Major. When President Woodrow Wilson federalized the Illinois National Guard in 1916, he was called to serve with his regiment along the Texas-Mexico border. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. entered World War I and his regiment became part of the U.S. Army. He was sent to France as an intelligence officer on the staff of General Pershing. Because he wanted a more active assignment, he was sent to artillery school. By June 1918, he had become a Lieutenant Colonel and by September 1918, he was promoted to a full Colonel in field artillery. He was given a combat assignment as commander of the Fifth Field Artillery of the First Division. His unit provided critical artillery support for the First Division troops in their capture of the German-held village of Cantigny. The Battle of Cantigny became America's first victory of World War I and Colonel McCormick received the Distinguished Service Medal for his efforts. Upon returning home from the war, the Colonel changed the

name of his estate from Red Oaks to Cantigny after the battle for this French village.


Following the war, the Colonel continued his work with the *Chicago Tribune* and by 1925 was the sole editor and publisher of the newspaper, a position he held until his passing. McCormick was married twice but had no children. He lived on the Cantigny estate until his death in 1955 and is buried there next to his first wife Amy.

Upon his death, his estate was estimated to be worth \$55 million. His will established a nonprofit charitable trust which provided for the maintenance of his estate. The property was designated as a public space for education and recreation and was opened to the public in 1958 as Cantigny Park. The park includes the interactive First Division Museum, dedicated to the history of the "Big Red One," the famed First Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. Outside of the Museum there is a Tank Park that displays First Infantry Division tanks and armored vehicles from the World War I era to more modern tanks. The park also has the only surviving T26E4 Pershing experimental tank, of which only 25 were ever produced.




There are many other things to see at Cantigny Park including the beautiful gardens, which were created in 1967 by famed landscape architect Franz Lipp. The greenhouse there grows nearly all of the annual plants in the gardens. The Visitors Center has a scale model of the estate, a 100-seat theater and several restaurants. There is also an Education Center that opened in 2010 that holds special programs, meetings, and classes. In addition, the park has almost 3 miles of walking trails and a Picnic Area with a playground.

The Cantigny Golf Course was opened in 1989 and it features a 300-acre complex with 3, 9-hole scenic golf courses as well as dining and banquet facilities. There is also a 9-hole Youth Links Course.

There are many other activities and events that happen throughout the year at the park. In winter, there is an ice rink and family-friendly movies and in summer, the park hosts outdoor concerts. Next time you are looking for something to do, keep Cantigny Park in mind.

 [More park information is available at cantigny.org](http://cantigny.org)



Good to know - Honeybees are more likely to swarm during the spring. They swarm as a way to start new colonies from successful ones. Surprisingly, swarming honeybees are very docile and the most friendly they will ever be all year!   

WEST-WIN ON POINT !!!

✓ **Winfield Road Safety** – This has been the busiest topic in our West-Win (WW) community since the last newsletter and General Meeting. As of this newsletter, WW has created an ad-hoc committee of WW members which has met twice already with County officials and is monitoring progress of the studies. Interest in these studies is high both by the County officials and WW members. While the ultimate resolution may not be ready for some time, County Transportation officials are already looking for short-term actions to improve conditions. See also article in this newsletter entitled “Winfield Road: A Dangerous Thoroughfare Under Investigation”.

✓ **Blackwell Forest Preserve Fleet Maintenance Campus** – The following information was received from Kevin Horsfall, DuPage County Forest Preserve’s Director of Planning & Development.

The Board of Commissioners approved the final design phase for the project last summer. The project is currently in for permitting and will be released for bids in about two weeks with the intention of starting construction this summer. The site plans that were shared in August 2024 are still generally the same. No building locations or site features have changed. The project website was updated a few weeks back when we started the clearing for the trail modifications, and we will update it again once we award a construction contract.

The Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) compressor is still on track to be decommissioned in the next few years. We have only a handful of vehicles remaining that use CNG, so hopefully the compressor is not running as frequently as it used to. Once the remaining CNG vehicles are decommissioned the District will then decommission the CNG compressor as well.

As far as the site lighting is concerned, the District has been addressing that. Some of the light fixtures were removed altogether at the Grounds complex to reduce the glare/glow of that yard, and at the Fleet Building, some interior security lights are on at night, but the lights on the building exterior have been set on a timer to be off between evening and 4 a.m. The pole lights remain on at night, but those have shields on them to reduce glare towards the homes.

Finally, with the proposed Grounds campus that will be starting construction this year, the duration of construction of the new campus will be approximately 18 months. Once the new campus has been completed, the District will move equipment out of the existing facilities and then start demolition on them in 2027. The renovations of the wash bay will be ongoing throughout 2027. This is all dependent on bid results.

→ You can find out the latest status with this project on the Forest Preserve’s website at dupageforest.org

✓ **Mack Road Bridge – West Branch DuPage River Bike Path** – In our last issue, we made the membership aware of City of Warrenville’s planning underway to take significant private properties via eminent domain for construction of a bike path along the north side of Mack Road between Route 59, crossing the DuPage River, and linking to a Forest Preserve trail at McKee Marsh. The on-going question is why the path must be on the north side of Mack Road, impacting several family homes when it appears that adequate space is available to construct the path on the south side of the road on existing public lands controlled by the DuPage County Forest Preserve. It is our hope that with new officials taking office on both sides (City of Warrenville and Forest Preserve), that this issue can be resolved soon and the homeowner properties preserved. A petition ([search Mack Road Bike Trail on Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/mack-road-bike-trail)) has been established by the owners of the private dwellings, and you can get further details, keep up to date with developments, and sign their petition by using the QR code below.

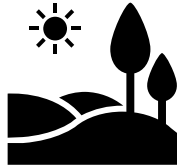


Riddle me this – *What did the dirt say to the rain?*

If this keeps up, my name will be mud!

The Hidden History of Winfield Mounds

by Jordan Countryman



With the passage of time, nature disguises the land's cultural legacy, covering the marks of human impact and often protecting the past with brush and vegetation, but this can also leave a legacy susceptible to human neglect.

Though hidden from sight for nearly a millennium burrowed within an evolving community, Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve in Winfield has been a significant subject of interest in the past century and serves as an example of culture becoming a permanent feature of the land.

The Story Behind Winfield Mounds - Long before the land became a forest preserve, indigenous peoples inhabited and traversed the areas along the West Branch DuPage River. About 1,000 years ago during the Late Woodland period, three conical effigy mounds were fashioned near the West Branch (effigy mounds built in parts of the upper Midwest were designed piles of earth resembling animals and other symbols). They're the only documented account of burial mounds in DuPage County.

Following a surge in population and artistic expression, these mound builders existed in a time of consequential transformation and dispersed up smaller streams, bringing with them distinctive pottery and the newly adopted bow-and-arrow hunting style, which replaced the antiquated atlatl dart.

The Rediscovery - As Americans moved west, cultivating the land and constructing large urban centers, the vast majority of the mounds were plowed over and destroyed, often incidentally. The Winfield Mounds were known by local settlers and escaped defacement until 1926 and 1927, when vandals dug into two mounds before they were driven away by an adjacent farm owner. The thieves reportedly escaped with artifacts, including skeletal remains.

These incidents inspired Wheaton residents to action — local residents appealed for help from the University of Chicago Department of Anthropology. In 1931, Dr. Georg Neumann and a team from the university completed the first professional archaeological dig at Winfield Mounds. When this excavation exhumed a

bundle burial, the skeletal remains inside were so fragile that they disintegrated upon exposure. Most of the artifacts placed in mounds by their builders are perishable, often succumbing to the consequences of time.

As before, the mounds were left alone and perhaps forgotten until Dr. James Jennings of Wheaton College chanced upon evidence of an indigenous settlement on a walk along the river.

After obtaining a research permit from the Forest Preserve District, he and his team of archaeology students from Wheaton College conducted several digs near the river and of the mounds and reclaimed over 2,000 settlement artifacts, including pottery sherds, stone tools, and arrowheads (some of which are still being studied by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee).

Restoration and Commemoration - In 1998, the Forest Preserve District teamed up with Doug Kullen, the Illinois Prairie Path, and volunteers to reconstruct three low round mounds of earth to permanently mark the historically significant site. They cleared the site and a trail, installed interpretive signs, and restored the mounds using only hand tools.

Although the mounds are not always cleared of vegetation in order to deter further vandalism, Winfield Mounds are still celebrated today with many patrons making the mounds part of their preserve experience.

What to do if you discover archaeological artifacts - The story of Winfield Mounds reminds us that historical discoveries are still being made today and serves as a lesson on what to do if we stumble upon artifacts. If you spot an artifact in our preserves, please photograph the item without moving it and share the location with District staff by emailing forest@dupageforest.org. These artifacts deserve care and are protected by law. Only state-certified archaeologists conduct digs and all discoveries are public property and do not belong in a private collection.

A Story of Learning - The destruction that followed modern development left few mounds for us to celebrate. Other effigy mounds can be observed at the Briscoe Mounds in Channahon or Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville, IL, but Winfield Mounds represent the only effigy mounds and documented prehistoric burial site that survived in DuPage County and the surrounding area. As we continue to learn how to preserve and

appreciate Winfield Mounds, you can connect to the land's hidden history by visiting and remembering their significance.

→ 3/17/21 article reprinted in part with permission from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



A Homeowner's Guide to Well and Septic Systems

The Septic System - Whenever you turn on a faucet or flush a toilet, you are putting water and other material down a drain. In cities and towns these drains are connected to public sewerage systems that transport the waste to a centralized wastewater treatment facility. In rural and many suburban areas, public sewers are not available, and homes built in those areas typically are served by septic systems. A typical septic system consists of a large concrete tank followed by a series of gravel trenches. Inside these trenches perforated pipe is used to distribute household wastewater into the ground. There are a number of variations of the septic system design, but all work basically the same way.

Septic Tanks - The septic tank is typically a large (500 - 1500 gallon) concrete underground tank located between the house and the septic field. The purpose of the tank is to separate the waste into its solid and liquid components. The bacteria living inside the tank eat the solids and reduce their volumes. Solids are prevented from exiting the tank by devices called baffles, which are located near both the inlet and outlet of the septic tank.

Septic Fields - Wastewater from the septic tank flows into a buried system of trenches called the septic field. Septic trenches are typically two to three feet deep and contain a foot of gravel with a perforated pipe running through the middle. Wastewater from the septic tank is distributed to the septic trench through these pipes. Once in the septic trenches, the wastewater is absorbed by the surrounding soil.

Septic System Maintenance - Septic systems require maintenance. This maintenance is very important and if neglected could cost thousands of dollars in repairs. These are some of the things you should do:

- 1) **Have your septic tank pumped.** We recommend pumping the tank every two or three years. If the solids in your septic tank build up, they will eventually find their way into your septic field, clogging it with sludge.
- 2) **Be careful about what you put down your drains.** Harsh chemicals can kill the bacteria you need inside your septic tank. Don't use these chemicals in excess. Non-biodegradable materials (i.e., sanitary napkins, facial tissues, disposable diapers, cigarette butts, etc.) will not break down in the septic tank. Do not put them down the drain.
- 3) **Be careful about how much water you put down your drains.** Your septic system is designed for a certain number of gallons per day based on the absorptive capacity of the soil in your septic field and the number of bedrooms in the house. If your water use exceeds what your septic system is designed for, the septic system will fail. The best way to prevent this is to limit your water use. Below are some tips to help you do this:
 - a. Check every faucet and toilet for leaks and repair if found. Install low flush toilets and water conservation aerators for faucets and showers.
 - b. Do not leave water running when not necessary. Shorten the time for taking showers.
 - c. Use dish and clothes washing machines with full loads only. If you need to do several loads of laundry per week, do one or two loads per day, not ten loads on any given day.
 - d. Reduce the use of the garbage disposal. In general, garbage disposals are a bad idea when you have a septic system as they can cause you to quickly fill your septic tank. Scrape your dinner plates off into the garbage.
 - e. Remove clear water sources from draining into your septic system. Water softeners, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners all have discharge lines that are often connected to the septic system. The water coming from these sources is classified as clear water and can be discharged to the surface of the ground or to a road ditch along with your footing sump water.
- 4) **Diversion valves.** If present, these valves allow the use of a single sump to handle both footing water and laundry wastewater. Because laundry water is household wastewater, the proper use of these valves is necessary to assure it goes into the septic system. The best solution is to hire a licensed plumber to permanently connect the laundry

water to the pipes that go into the septic, while still allowing the footing water to drain to the outdoors

- 5) **Leave your septic system alone.** Septic fields work best when they are in well-drained, open, grassy areas that are relatively undisturbed. Disturbing the septic field area can lead to problems. Here is some good advice:
- Do not drive over your septic field.
 - Do not put additional dirt on your septic field area.
 - Do not plant trees in or near your septic field.
 - Do not build over your septic field. This includes decks, patios, swimming pools and buried sprinkler systems.
 - Do not allow run-off water to drain over your septic field area.

Water Wells - If you live outside a municipality or in an area not served by public water, your water supply is almost certainly provided by a private well. Water wells tap underground sources of drinkable water called aquifers. In DuPage County these are typically water-bearing limestone formations 100 to 200 feet below the surface.

Water Well Problems - The safety of any water supply is largely dependent on the construction and maintenance of the water system. Below is a list of common well system problems that can spell trouble if their symptoms are ignored:

- 1) **Well pump turns on and off continuously when used.** A waterlogged pressure tank causes this condition. Draining and re-pressurizing the pressure tank may correct the problem. If you do not know how to do this, you may need to contact a well contractor.
- 2) **Poor water pressure.** There are a number of potential causes for this problem. One of the most common is improper pump setting on the pressure switch. Most pressure switches are set to turn the well pump on at 30 psi. (pounds per square inch) and off at 50 psi. Contact a well contractor to adjust the pressure switch accordingly.
- 3) **The well pump turns on when water is in use.** This problem almost always means that there is a leak somewhere in the water system. Check the inside plumbing for leaks. If none are found, check outside for wet spots in the yard between the well and the house. Consult with a well contractor if you cannot determine the source of the leak.
- 4) **Physical defects.** Homeowners should periodically inspect their water systems for defects that could affect the safety of their water. If the well casing extends above the ground, make sure the cap fits tightly onto the casing and is in good condition. If the cap is loose, tighten it. If it is damaged, replace it. Check the electrical wiring to the well. Ideally, the wires should be enclosed in metal conduit between the well and ground, and between the basement wall and the pressure switch. If the electrical system appears to be damaged, call a well contractor to repair it immediately.
- 5) **Poor water quality.** Water from private systems may contain bacteria, minerals or other impurities that affect its quality. Any private water well may be tested, in a laboratory, for a fee. Samples are routinely tested for coliform bacteria and nitrate levels. Contact the Health Department for information about having your water tested. Installing a water-conditioning unit can reduce water hardness and iron content. Other water quality problems may sometimes be solved through disinfection of the well water distribution system.

Procedure for Disinfection of Well Water Distribution Systems - Disinfection may be accomplished by the use of ordinary household bleach containing chlorine. For the average home well, one to two gallons of bleach will be adequate. Be sure to use regular bleach, not "lemon scented" or other modified bleach products. It is important to remember that even after the well has been disinfected, the water supply is not considered safe until a satisfactory laboratory report has been received.

Disinfection procedure:

- 1) Check the well seal, to be certain of a tight-fitting construction. Replace any worn or damaged parts. A well must be in good condition to prevent contamination.
- 2) Mix the gallon or two of bleach in a bucket with three or four gallons of water. Water drawn from the contaminated well is satisfactory. Pour the solution directly into the well. Run a garden hose into the well and recirculate the water until you smell the bleach in the water coming out of the hose. Check again to see that the well seal is in good order before closing the well.

- 3) Turn on each water faucet successively throughout the entire distribution system and let it run until you smell bleach at each tap.
- 4) Turn off the taps and allow the solution to remain in the water lines for at least two hours. Then run each tap for ten seconds and close again and allow to stand overnight. The water should not be used except for flushing toilets.
- 5) On the following morning:
 - a. Connect a garden hose to an outside water faucet and run the water into a road ditch until the disinfectant odor disappears. Then run each tap inside the house to rid the system of any lingering disinfectant.
 - b. Run each tap until the disinfectant odor disappears.
- 6) After two days and if the odor of bleach is not detected, re-test your water. It is also recommended that you have the water tested again about two weeks after chlorinating the system to assure that the contamination problem is eliminated. Boil all drinking water for 5 minutes or use bottled water until a satisfactory lab report has been received. Water may also be made safe for drinking by putting 5 drops of unscented bleach into each gallon of water. Let the water stand for 30 minutes before drinking. This method should be used only with water that is clean in appearance and free of odor.

Disinfecting your well in the manner described above should be performed anytime your well is serviced.

Where to Get Help → The Environmental Health Services at the DuPage County Health Department employs Environmental Health Specialists that are trained to assist the public with questions and problems about water wells and private sewage disposal systems. **Contact your area EH Specialist at 630-682-7979 for further information.**



Spring Babies – *don't cha love 'em!*

- ❖ Wolves and dogs belong to the same species, yet a dog has pups and a wolf has cubs.
- ❖ Baby kangaroos are joeys, but so are baby koala bears, which you'd think would give birth to cubs.
- ❖ Baby cows, whales, dolphins and camels are called calves.
- ❖ Both baby birds and baby alligators are called hatchlings.
- ❖ A baby mouse is a pinkie and a baby rat is a pup. Baby spiders are spiderlings.
- ❖ A baby fish is a fry. A baby oyster is a spat. A baby turkey is a poult.
- ❖ Baby doves are called squabs. A baby mosquito is a tumbler.

