

Snacks with Santa A Long Time Winfield Tradition

The start of the Christmas season in Winfield is marked by the annual Snacks with Santa and Village Tree Lighting, now part of the Winter Wonderful Fest, which are always held the first Saturday in December. Snacks with Santa will be held December 6th from 1pm-4pm at Hedges Station at 0N555 Winfield Road. Snacks started many years ago by the Winfield Junior Woman's Club as a community event for families with young children. Activities at the event and the location have changed a bit over the years but its main focus has always been a visit and photo opportunity with Santa for the little ones.

The event is held at Hedges Station due to its old-world charm and as a way to showcase the museum. Visiting and photo opps with Santa will take place inside the museum. Kids will receive a free custom Santa cookie from Dough Doodles from Santa's elves. Outside of the museum will be a tent where families can snack on cookies and hot cocoa and listen to the West Chicago Honors Acapella choir sing Christmas carols. New activities this year include face painting sponsored

by the Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce, and ornament making sponsored by Primrose School of Winfield. Also you can bring your pet to have its photo taken with Santa from 3-4pm! Parents of pets

Tony Reyes Family Foundation, Winfield Historical Society, and the Winfield Park District. See www.thetonyreyesfamilyfoundation.com website for a video with a special message from Santa.



will receive free goodies compliments of Pet Wants Wheaton and Pheasants Forever.

While the event is free, a donation of a new unwrapped toy for the Ronald McDonald House near CDH is appreciated. The event is sponsored by the



Oakwood Park Project Update

After a longer than expected delay, Oakwood Park is nearly complete. By Friday, November 21, 2025, Oakwood Park will be reopened to the public. The new and improved park amenities include a new playground (2-12-year-olds), three new pickleball courts, one tennis court, resurfaced paths and walkways, Futsal court, pond restoration that include beautiful boulders and land-



Happy
Holidays
from
The Winfield Glimpses

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Visit Oakwood Park and enjoy the new playground, pickleball courts, tennis court, and resurfaced paths and walkways.

scaping, two new fenced in sand volleyball courts, and shelter improvements.

The Winfield Park District would like to extend a huge thank you to all the residents for their patience and understanding throughout the project. Tom Bower, Executive Director, stated that "The park district is looking forward to seeing a park full of residents actively using all the amenities that Oakwood Park has to offer."

Winfield's Boo-tiful Trick-or-Treating Event



The Winfield community enjoyed a Halloween Trick or Treating event at the Prairie Trail Center Sponsored by the Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce. Folks had fun with wagon rides, a visit with the fire department, and plenty of CANDY.

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Winfield celebrates Christmas



Saturday, December 6th 1-4pm
Hedges Station 0N555 Winfield Road

Snacks with Santa!



Santa's List

- Photo with Santa
- Make an Ornament
- Face Painting
- Carol along with The West Chicago High School Choir
- Pet Photos 3-4pm



Baked Santa Cookies by:



Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the Ronald McDonald House

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Client-First Approach Close to Home: Inside Winfield Wealth Advisors with Caleb Svoboda and Jennie Fleming

By Eron McCormick

Winfield Wealth Advisors not only puts your money first — they focus on providing a client-first approach to investing and financial planning. The firm was founded by Caleb Svoboda, Dan Murphy, Sean Cisney, and Jennie Fleming. Winfield Wealth does not believe in a one-size-fits-all formula when advising clients. They talk about values, habits, and the real human stuff that money touches — kids and college, layoffs and life changes, aging parents and estate plans. “Money is emotional,” Fleming says. “People want to feel seen and heard, not judged. Our job is to make a plan that matches their life, not squeeze their life into a plan.” That emphasis on empathy — and independence — runs through the firm’s story, its everyday process, and the kind of clients it attracts.

Caleb’s road to planning began in the corporate investment management, where he spent years learning how advisors build portfolios and relationships. A 2016 layoff became a turning point. He joined HBW Advisory and, together with colleagues Dan Murphy and Sean Cisney, began assembling what would become a shared practice of independent advisors serving local families. By 2022, they put a name to the collaborative model: Winfield Wealth Advisors. “Going independent mattered,” Caleb explains. “It lets us recommend what fits — without the pressure to push certain products or insurance. When your compensation isn’t tied to a proprietary solution, the conversation can stay where it belongs: on the client’s goals.”

Jennie came from the world of corporate financial planning and found the freedom she wanted on the independent side. “I loved the client work, but I wanted to be measured by the quality of the plan, not a quota,” she says. A post-pandemic coffee with Caleb crystallized the move. “He was doing the opposite of what I was leaving — more personal, more flexible, more local. It just clicked.”

Although each advisor maintains an individual book of clients, the Winfield team meets regularly to compare notes, discuss investment ideas, and trade practical tactics for serving households better. “We’re helpers by nature,” Caleb says. “We like

solving puzzles. Sharing what’s working makes us all better.”

Winfield Wealth’s services will sound familiar — investment management, financial planning, and insurance (life, disability, long-term care). But the process is designed to feel less like paperwork and

three to six months in an emergency fund, automatic transfers to savings, and a plan for high-interest debt. “It’s never too late to start,” Caleb says. “Pennies add up. Momentum matters,” adds Jennie.

Jennie and Caleb’s core planning focuses on the following when clients are thinking about how to get started and where to go next:

Emergency fund first. Life happens — job disruptions, medical leave, surprise home repairs. “Being a saver makes a hard moment emotionally tough but not financially devastating,” Jennie says.

Live below your means. It’s not flashy advice, but it’s the consistent trait they see in clients who reach financial independence on time (or early).

Values-based decisions. Not everything can be priority #1. “If experiences matter most to you, name that,” Jennie says. “Then we’ll build a plan that funds those experiences and long-term security.”

Be thoughtful about debt. “Debt narrows your options,”

Caleb says. “Avoid it when you can.”

College tradeoffs are personal. Winfield sees everything from parents who want to cover four years to families who want kids to share the load. “There’s value in some ‘skin in the game,’ but the right answer depends on your situation — and it shouldn’t come at the expense of your retirement,” Caleb notes.

On crypto and the ‘new and shiny.’ Curiosity is fine; concentration risk isn’t. For clients who insist on exploring, the advice is to keep it modest, keep it outside retirement accounts, and understand

continued on page 12



“Money is emotional. People want to feel seen and heard, not judged. Our job is to make a plan that matches their life, not squeeze their life into a plan.”

more like a guided conversation.

“We start with your why,” Jennie says. “Retirement isn’t a number; it’s how you want your days to look. College funding isn’t just a dollar target; it’s a statement about opportunity and values. Once we understand that, we can build the numbers around it.”

The team doesn’t hesitate to recommend simple, behavior-first moves before any investment talk —



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Jennie Fleming & Caleb Svoboda
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- ☐ Create your 2026 budget
- ☐ Set your 2026 savings goals
- ☐ Check your debt progress
- ☐ Consider a Roth Conversion
- ☐ Review your beneficiaries
- ☐ Harvest investment tax losses
- ☐ Check your Flexible Spending Account balance
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Investment advisory services offered through HBW Advisory Series LLC., dba Winfield Wealth Advisors, LLC.
These are separate entities which do not offer legal or tax advice.

A message from
David Nelson
GWCC President



My time as 2025 GWCC President has been both rewarding and to be honest, at times exhausting! The support and generosity of Winfield’s business community is a testament

to the strong connections and collaborative spirit within the Community. The board of directors (All Community Volunteers) plays a crucial role in navigating the challenges and celebrating the successes of the Chamber and our Community. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Board of Directors, for “making it happen” in 2025! We look forward to what 2026 brings, for not only the Chamber of Commerce, but the Village of Winfield!



Clockwise from top left:
The Gaming Spot ribbon cutting
Cory Lusk, Calvisions, Video in Social Media presentation
Good Old Days business expo vendors Primrose School and Craig Chapman
50/50 Raffle winner
Past and Present Re-sale ribbon cutting



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Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church (630) 518-1517
Winfield Historical Society (630) 653-1489
The Winfield Foundation (630) 534-0856

Education

The Written Word (214) 683-8591
Primrose School of Winfield (630) 926-3488
Winfield School District 34 (630) 909-4900
Winfield Education Foundation (773) 344-6559

Government

Winfield Public Library (630) 653-7599
Village of Winfield (630) 933-7100
Winfield Park District (630) 653-3811
Winfield Fire Protection District (630) 653-5050

Law Firm

McCormick Law Firm (630) 517-8570

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Cantigny Park (Robert R. McCormick Foundation) (630) 668-5161

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Winfield Glimpses, The (630) 205-1405

Jewelry

Sierra Gems (630) 876-7900

Entertainment

Klein Creek Golf Club (630) 690-0101
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Polaris Travel (630) 853-6375

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Healthcare Associates Credit Union (630) 945-1168
Winfield Wealth Advisors (630) 709-6825
Trust Bank of Wheaton (630) 407-0900

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Nelson Agency, Farmers Insurance Agency (630) 474-6060
Trusted Insurance Options 630-936-7267

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Roger Fox – Re/Max Suburban (630) 877-7777
Daniel And Associates Real Estate (DAARE) (630) 918-6129
Winfield Station Apartments (833) 617-3113
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Manbot Coffee Roaster (630) 363-0236
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Cooper's Corner (630) 690-2668
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Northwestern Medicine (CDH) (630) 933-1600
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Pilates & Energy Healing by Asha (224) 659-0440
Winfield Chiropractic & Wellness (630) 251-8268

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Wheaton Barbershop of Winfield (630) 462-7900

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Pet Wants (630) 513-9977
Transpet Services (630) 370-4270

Technology

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Prairie Path Cycles (630) 690-9749
Winfield In Action (630) 653-3811



Get to Know Winfield First Responders



Lt. Dave Formento

Where are you from and what brought you to Winfield?

I grew up in Glen Ellyn, and was very involved my community. I knew several of the volunteer firefighters there, and became a volunteer firefighter when I was old enough to serve. When an opening for part time firefighter was posted in Winfield I applied with the encouragement of some friends I knew who worked here. I started at WFPD in 1994 as a part-time firefighter.

Why did you become a Firefighter/Paramedic?

I was raised in a family of public servants. Originally, I started as a volunteer firefighter with Glen Ellyn. I liked helping people and serving my community, so the idea of making a career of this work just felt like a natural fit.

What's the best part of your job in Winfield?

My favorite part of being a firefighter is that we get the help people when they really need it. It's an honest and noble way to serve and give back to the community. I have really enjoyed working here in Winfield because of all the great people I've met.

What are you most proud of in your career?

Most recently: in October I completed my Bachelors in Fire Administration with a minor in Fire Investigation. I took one class at a time, and I'm really proud of that accomplishment.

Over my career: I'm incredibly proud of how far Winfield Fire District has grown from where it was when I joined in the early 1990s to where we are now; Since I started here we've trained over 200 firefighters who are now working all over the region. I've been fortunate to work with some incredibly talented team members. Serving on the committee to design the new fire station was something that not many people get the chance to be a part of. I really enjoyed that work and I'm proud of what we have built for the next generation of firefighters and residents.

And now some fun questions!

What's your favorite food? BBQ Ribs

Favorite fire service movie/TV show? Emergency

Hidden talents? I enjoy tinkering and building things.

Favorite hobby? Being outdoors.

Favorite dinosaur? T-Rex

First car? 1976 Chevy Impala

Dream car? Shelby Cobra



Police Officer J. Barry

Where are you from and what brought you to Winfield?

I am from St. Charles, Illinois. I was brought to Winfield by the size of the police department and wanted to create my own name somewhere else from where my dad has worked as a police officer.

Why did you become a police officer?

I became a police officer because my dad is a police officer and it inspired me seeing him helping people. He worked for 27 years at the Rolling Meadows Police Department and now he is an Illinois Gaming Agent. Being a police officer along with my military career allows me to serve my community.

What's the best part of your job in Winfield?

The best part about working for Winfield is how close everyone in the community is and how friendly everyone is. This community does not feel like a community, but more like a big family.

What are your professional goals, or are there any skills/certifications you'd like to learn?

I just started and would like to learn as much as I can to become the best police officer I can be. My other job is with the Army National Guard and I would like to eventually become a First Sergeant

and to attend as many schools or training as I can.

And now some fun questions!

What's your favorite food? Sushi

Favorite restaurant? Sushi Café

Favorite law enforcement movie/TV show? COPS

Hidden talents? I can walk in handstand

Favorite hobby? Working Out

Favorite dinosaur? T-Rex

First car? Dodge Stratus

Dream car? Porsche GT2 RS



*Wander Winfield~
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Happy Holidays from the
Winfield Historical Society



Snacks with Santa
December 6th, 2025
1pm-4pm Open House
Hedges Station Museum

Email: hedgesmuseum@winfield park district.com



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Essential Winter Tips

Do not leave your garden hose attached to the spigot because the vacuum created will not drain, causing the spigot to freeze. You might end up with water in your basement.

If you go on a winter vacation, shut off the water supply to your house. Why? In the event your furnace breaks or loses power, the water lines will freeze! It's the perfect storm but can happen in the winter.



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Getting Started with Estate Planning: Facing Mortality and Leaving a Legacy

Before we dive in, I want to take a moment to thank you for welcoming me into your home. Through A Legal Moment with Eron, I hope to provide practical information to help you and your family make informed decisions about legal issues that matter most. Whether it's planning for the future, buying/selling property, or understanding your rights, my goal is to offer guidance you can trust.

This below article is not intended to serve as legal advice, does not constitute an attorney-client relationship, and does not replace advice from a qualified attorney

By Eron McCormick

Starting an estate plan can be one of the hardest steps for many people — not because of the paperwork, but because of what it represents. It means facing our own mortality and imagining a world where we are no longer here to care for and provide for the people we love. It's uncomfortable, and something we must all face. Yet, it's one of the most important acts of love and responsibility you can take for your family and friends.

Recently, I met with a client who had me draft her estate plan at the beginning of 2025. She had taken all the right steps — she met with an attorney, discussed her wishes, and made thoughtful decisions about her home, her finances, and her children's guardianship. But she couldn't bring herself to sign the documents. "It just feels too final," she told me.

We talked about what estate planning really means — not preparing for death, but preparing for the future and ensuring your family is prepared when the unfortunate moment happens. A well drafted estate plan is about giving your family direction and security at a time when they'll need it most. 11 months later she came to the office and executed her estate plan.. Her voice was lighter. "I'm so relieved," she said. "Now I know my children will be taken care of when I'm no longer here."

That relief, and peace of mind — is what estate

planning is truly about. It's not just for the wealthy or for people with complicated assets. It's for anyone who loves their family and wants to protect them from unnecessary stress, confusion, or conflict, all while grieving.



What Estate Planning Really Is

As a recap from our last article estate planning is the process of creating a clear set of legal instructions about what should happen to your property, finances, and dependents if you become incapacitated or when you pass away. A basic plan typically includes a last will and testament, powers of attorney for financial and health care decisions, and a living will that outlines your preferences for medical treatment at the end of life.

For many families, a trust can also be an important tool. A trust allows your estate to be distributed privately and efficiently, without the delays and costs of probate court. It can also ensure that your children's inheritance is managed responsibly until they reach an age or milestone you choose — such as graduating from college or starting a family of their own.

Why Facing Mortality Matters

Avoiding the topic doesn't make the reality go away. Without a plan, the courts will decide who gets your property and who cares for your children. Those decisions may not reflect your wishes, and

they often create conflict among family members who are already having to accept the loss of their loved one. The financial toll can be enormous — and the additional stress and cost is entirely preventable.

When you face your mortality through estate planning, you take control of what happens next. You reduce the burden on your loved ones and replace uncertainty with clarity. More importantly, you turn fear into purpose — transforming an uncomfortable task into an act of care, foresight, and love.

How to Get Started

1. Begin the Conversation. Talk with your spouse, children, or loved ones about your wishes. It may feel awkward, but it helps everyone understand your intentions.
 2. Meet with an Attorney. A trusted attorney can help you draft the right documents, explain complex terms, and tailor a plan to your personal situation.
 3. Choose the Right People. Select responsible and trustworthy individuals to serve as guardians, trustees, and agents. Remember, the person who raises your children doesn't have to be the same person who manages their inheritance.
 4. Review Regularly. Life changes and so should your plan. Estate planning is not a one and done. Review your estate plan every few years or after major life events to keep it current.
- Estate planning isn't just about legal documents. It's about love, legacy, and peace of mind. It's about giving your family the gift of clarity when they'll need it most. Don't wait for "the right time." The best time to plan is now — while you still have capacity and have the chance to shape your legacy and make sure your family's future is secure.

About Eron: Eron is a licensed attorney in Illinois and Wisconsin whose practice focuses on serving clients in business matters, real estate, and estate planning matters. When not in the office, Eron enjoys fishing, vacationing in Land O' Lakes with family and friends, dining at various supper clubs (old fashioned sweet – please), and discovering all that the Northwoods has to offer.



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Cute Holiday Pet Contest

Does your pooch pull off a set of antlers better than one of Santa’s own? How about your kitty? If so, send us their photo! And don’t stop there; submit cute pics of your furry friends in Santa hats, sweaters, jingle bell necklaces and more. Whichever pet photo displays the most holiday spirit and cuteness will be the winner!

..... Prize Info:

One lucky dog and one lucky cat will receive a gift basket. The baskets are donated by local business owner Jim Kohlman of TransPet Services.

— Official Rules: —

- 1. To enter, contestants must submit one photograph of their pet thru our website www.thewinfieldglimpses.com or email to patti@thewinfieldglimpses.com or mail to P.O. Box 286 Winfield, IL 60190. Include your name, phone number, email address, pet’s name.
- 2. Entries must be received between December 1-15, 2025.
- 3. All eligible entries received will be posted at <https://www.facebook.com/winfieldglimpses> on December 16. Our Facebook fans will decide who is the cutest dog and cat via the number of “Likes” they receive. Voting will take place until it closes on December 20 at Noon.
- 4. The winner will be announced on our Facebook page on or around December 23 and also pictured in the Spring issue of the Glimpses.
- 5. By entering, you consent to the Winfield Glimpses publishing your photo as well as information identifying you and your pet.

Winfield Scouts collect 3,645 pounds of food in annual drive

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Winfield Troop 575 and Pack 575 collected 3,645 pounds of food from Winfield residents on November 2 as part of their annual food drive. This represents a more than 50% increase in food donations from last years. The donations helped stock the St. Vicent de Paul food pantry in Winfield which helped over 200 families last year. More than 30 local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and adults participated in the food drive volunteering a total of 125 hours. Winfield Scouts have been conducting the food drive since 1997. Sponsoring organizations for the drive included The Knights of Columbus, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Tony Reyes Foundation.

If you need food assistance, or if you would like

to donate non-perishable food items to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, call 630-668-0918. Ext 692.



Winfield Library fêtes ‘America@250’

The Winfield Library celebrates our nation’s 250th birthday beginning in January with a special Winter Reading Program and Historical Society programs. Participate in the Library’s virtual “Read, White and Blue” Winter Reading Program from January 2 – February 28. Register for the program via our website or Read Squared app to get started and log six books to complete the program. Participants can also write reviews of their books. Everyone who completes the program is automatically entered into a drawing to win one of two \$25 Target Gift Cards. Our Historical Society program series focuses on “America @ 250.” Terry Lynch portrays Alexander Hamilton in “Financing a New Nation” on Tuesday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. Alexander Hamilton believed that a financially stable government was crucial for defending against foreign threats. He made concessions to ensure a balanced budget and fulfill the commitments made to the army veterans. Kevin Wood portrays Abraham Lincoln in “A New Birth of Freedom” on Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. Lincoln relates the history of the United States during his time, from his childhood on the frontier to the turbulent years from 1854 to 1865 which nearly destroyed our young nation but instead eventually resulted in a “new birth of freedom”. Registration is required for both of these programs at www.winfield.lib.il.us.



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13 Years of Cooperation: ‘We’re Just Getting Started’

By Luke Allen

Winfield and its surrounding unincorporated areas have always maintained a close relationship with neighboring communities—Wheaton, Carol Stream, and West Chicago. Few residents realize, though, just how closely the first responders who answer our 911 calls are connected.

Over the past 30 years, the average number of 911 calls for fire and medical assistance nationwide has increased fivefold. As call volumes rise each year, so do the costs of providing these essential

services. Fire trucks, ambulances, fuel, salaries, and insurance have all grown more expensive, often outpacing the state’s tax cap (the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, or PTELL), which limits how quickly tax revenues can increase.

In 2012, faced with rising demand and limited financial relief, Winfield’s Trustees joined forces with neighboring departments in Wheaton, Carol Stream, and West Chicago to form a groundbreaking partnership: the West Suburban Fire & Rescue Alliance. This innovative model allowed depart-

ments to train together, adopt shared operating protocols, share staffing and equipment, make joint purchases, and reduce response times—all while maintaining their individual autonomy.

This cooperative agreement extends far beyond the traditional “mutual aid” arrangements that most fire and rescue agencies rely on. Alliance participation brings a higher level of integration and benefit, including:

Standardized Training and Operations: Agencies hold monthly training and strategic planning sessions to review, adjust, and enhance operational guidelines.

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Firefighters from Wheaton (inside), Winfield (on the ladder), Carol Stream and West Chicago (on the ground) work together to extinguish a fire in an unincorporated Winfield home. Photo used with permission from JLT Photography.

In Memoriam

DONALD ‘DON’ LONGACRE

Donald “Don” James Longacre, 79, a longtime resident of Winfield, IL, formerly of Wheaton, IL, passed away with his family by his side on September 25, 2025, at his home. Don was born on August 29, 1946, in Princeton, IL, to James Willard Longacre and Jeanne (née Smith).

Don grew up in Wheaton and attended Wheaton Community High School, class of 1964.

Don began his career in the newspaper business at the Wheaton Daily Journal. As his career advanced he worked for the Suburban Tribune and Lerner Newspapers. He moved over to the Daily Herald Newspaper in 1989, where he was Classified and New Business Director for 14 years. Don founded the website DriveChicago.com during his time at the Daily Herald and left the newspaper to work for DriveChicago full time in 2003. Don briefly returned to the Newspaper industry in 2006 as Vice President of New Media and Technology with North-West News Group, before retiring in 2007.

When he retired he wanted to help his community and to do so he ran for and was elected as a Village of Winfield Trustee. He served as a Trustee until his retirement from public service in 2025.

Don felt that it was his duty to improve the towns that he lived in and to that end he participated in

many civic and social organizations. Most recently, he was President of the Winfield Foundation. He served two terms as the Wheaton Chamber President, worked as the Chairman for Autumn Fest for six years, and held the position of Chamber Ambassador for Wheaton, Naperville, Lisle, and Carol Stream for many years.

Education was important to Don, he was a member of the Student Excellence Foundation for District 200 for many years as well as the President and Membership Director for the Wheaton High School Alumni Club.

In his free time Don enjoyed traveling, specifically on cruise ships. He went on over 40 cruises where he particularly enjoyed playing Blackjack at the ship’s casino.

Don leaves behind his loving wife of 58 years Carol Ann (née Martin) who he married on January 28th at St. Irene Catholic Church in Warrenville. His adored children Tammy Marie (Tom Schmitt) Longacre and Kenneth David (Teri) Longacre. His devoted grandchildren Kelsey Schmitt, AJ McCoy, Dan Schmitt, Jenna McCoy, David Longacre, and Anna Longacre. Don also leaves behind his siblings Bob (Lisa) Longacre, Sue (Joe Crowe) Longacre and Steve (Chrissy Baxter) Longacre.

Don was preceded in passing by his parents James W. Longacre and Jeanne Longacre (née Smith).

In lieu of flowers donations in Don’s memory can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org/> or 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Services were held.

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Winfield Wealth

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the difference between technological trends and a durable financial plan.

For many families, the most emotionally charged part of planning isn't investing — it's estate planning. Winfield aims to make it less intimidating.

In addition to referring clients to local attorneys, the firm offers an in-office, software-assisted pathway to establish foundational documents for straightforward situations. "People freeze up around wills and trusts," Jennie says. "We sit with them, answer questions, help them take that step. For more complex needs — or for anyone who simply prefers it — we encourage working directly with an attorney. The point is to get it done and make sure the plan reflects what you want for the people you love." Jennie adds an estate plan, she notes, "is a gift to your family. A little clarity now can prevent conflict later."

Winfield's typical ongoing clients are in their 40s, 50s, and 60s — established earners with retirement balances, home equity, or concentrated employer benefits that need attention. But they don't gate-keep. "We never turn down a conversation," Caleb and Jennie say. "Sometimes an hour of guidance is what a younger family needs to get moving. If that's the right fit, we're happy to do it." Jennie adds that the most successful long-term relationships tend to share one trait: engagement. "Our ideal client wants to be part of the process — curious, collaborative, willing to make small changes that add up."

The firm's storefront isn't an ornament — it's a signal. Winfield Wealth's advisors live where they work, show up at Chamber of Commerce events, and weave their calendars around local traditions. They host client open houses during the Criterium, promote annual blood drives to give back to the community, volunteer at Good Old Days, and organize educational events on topics like Medicare and everyday technology. "We like to gather people," Jennie says with a smile. "It's how you build relationships." Caleb dreams out loud about launching a Winfield Kids' Fishing Club — maybe in 2026 — to pass on an outdoors tradition he loves. "My kids are into it; our friends' kids are into it, and this author is into fishing. It's a fun way to be together that isn't screens," he says. "If we get that off the ground, I'll be leaning on local pros for help." This isn't window dressing. For many households, it's easier to talk about 529 plans and beneficiary designations with someone they see around town — at the farmer's market or the local donut shop.

Both advisors bring personal context to the work. Caleb grew up in the Southwest suburbs in a home "full of love but not full of money," which sent him toward a business degree and, eventually, a seat across the table from families like the one he came from. The layoff in 2016 gave him empathy for clients living through disruptions of their own.

Jennie grew up in Tonica, Illinois, where her parents practiced the classic envelope system: one car, biweekly grocery trips, and cash tucked into labeled sleeves. You're as likely to catch Jennie tending to a garden bed or strolling in a forest preserve as you are to catch her testing a new planning workflow. She's also a familiar face at Chamber events — "my second job," she jokes.

As the new year approaches, Jennie and Caleb offer a few reminders for anyone looking to strengthen their financial footing:

Start now, with whatever you can. Time in the market and consistent saving beat perfect timing.

Automate the good. Pay yourself first with scheduled transfers; remove willpower from the equation.

Define your values. Put names to what matters — travel, time flexibility, education, generosity — and align your dollars accordingly.

Protect the downside. Build the emergency fund; review insurance; draft or update estate documents.

Beware of lifestyle creep. Raises don't have to be expenditures.

Be skeptical of "hot" deals or ideas. If you must dabble (crypto, private deals), cap it to an amount you can truly afford to lose and keep your core plan steady and disciplined.

None of these is revelatory — and that's the point. The most powerful financial plans are usually a string of unglamorous choices, done consistently.

Winfield Wealth Advisors is located in downtown Winfield and serves families across the western suburbs. To connect, visit winfield-wealth.com or stop by the office to schedule a conversation. They'll meet you where you are, start with your why, and build a plan from there.

Editor's note: The information in this article is for general educational purposes and should not be construed as personalized investment, legal, or tax advice. Consider consulting qualified professionals about your specific circumstances.

Winfield Wealth helped sponsor this past summer's Tiger Run.



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Northwestern Medicine Living Well Cancer Resources celebrates 20 years of empowering and supporting people with cancer & their families

Northwestern Medicine Living Well Cancer Resources, a center dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by cancer, proudly marks its 20th anniversary in September.

Since its founding in 2005, Living Well has been a beacon of hope, resilience, and community for tens of thousands of survivors, caregivers, and families. Over the past two decades, Living Well has grown from a small grassroots initiative to a nationally recognized endeavor, with two locations in Geneva and Warrenville, and a satellite location in Orland Park, opening this fall.

Living Well offers a wide range of services including counseling and social work services; support groups; fitness, yoga, art, and nutrition classes; medical presentations and a wig boutique. All programs are offered at no cost to those diagnosed and their families.

"This milestone is a testament to the strength of our community and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, staff, and supporters," said Candy Domke-Hochberg, operations administrator, Northwestern Medicine Living Well Cancer Resources.

Living Well continues to offer dozens of programs helping patients and caregivers navigate a cancer diagnosis

"We are honored to have walked alongside so many individuals on their cancer journeys and remain dedicated to providing hope and healing for years to come."

"Support from Living Well has been enormously helpful to my patients," said Christopher George, MD, medical director of oncology. "In the cancer clinic, there often isn't time to address all the holistic needs of cancer patients. Living Well more than fills that gap, providing patients and families with practical tools that improve well-being."

Inspiring those with cancer to live well

When Living Well first opened on September 1, 2005, its mission was to instill people living with

cancer with knowledge, optimism, and the inspiration to live well.

continued on page 14



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NW Medicine

continued from page 11

That mission statement came directly from the experiences of the Living Well founders, Fred Dornbach, Joanne Hansen, Susan Lyons and Terry Murphy.

Joanne Hansen was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1984, at the age of 44. Drawing from her own experience, she recognized the need to pull support services for cancer patients and their families under one roof.

“You can’t go through a cancer journey alone. Often your spouse and loved ones don’t understand and, truthfully, your spouse and your family need support as well, which is why creating Living Well was so important to me,” Hansen said.

Terry Murphy, another co-founder, believed in the project after witnessing his wife, Rosemary “Posey” Murphy, live with breast cancer for 12 years before passing away in 2003.

He watched Posey work to find resources to help manage the side effects of chemotherapy through diet and nutrition, exercise classes to help improve stamina, counseling services for Terry and their children, and rehabilitation therapy services to help her move when her body began to fail.

“Our aspirations were to be able to make these services available in the Fox Valley area. That’s what our original charter said,” Murphy said. “The fact that we’re able to look at all of Northern Illinois and say that our footprint encompasses all of that, that exceeds my wildest dreams.”

“After 20 years, the enthusiasm for Living Well is still so great. So many people believe in the mission. I often say it is more than I dreamed of and all that I hoped for,” Hansen said.

Living Well expands its reach

The mission continued when Living Well programs became part of Northwestern Medicine in 2012. With a goal of ensuring no one faces cancer alone, Living Well Cancer Resources has touched countless lives with compassion and care. Through virtual and in-person offerings, Living Well has supported people living in 287 counties across the United States and in countries around the world.



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Thank You, Winfield

The Winfield Farmers Market enjoyed another successful summer in the Prairie Trail Center shopping plaza, featuring a record total of 67 different vendors, thanks mainly to the continued support of its residents. The market, which started in 1993 with no more than four or five Illinois and Michigan farmers, has been in the same location on the same weekday (Wednesday) for 33 straight years.

Market manager Rich Bysina has been there for 30 of them, going back to 1996, when the market operated under the auspices of the former Winfield Chamber of Commerce.

“What would really be historic”, he continues, “is if Warner Bros. would send us a positive response to our continued use of their world-famous cartoon character, Bugs Bunny.

“We’ve been using Bugs for the past three years to make our market more kid friendly by distributing black-and-white sheets of Bugs holding that ever-present carrot for kids to color, then bring them back to get special vendor bucks to spend.

“I sent 56 of these colored sheets – separately,

each envelope having an 80th Birthday Bugs Bunny Forever stamp – to Warner Bros. We’ll keep doing it until we get an answer, one way or another.

“This past year we even had Bugs make a surprise appearance here the week of his 85th birthday (July 27, 1940), and had a group of kids sing him Happy Birthday, videotaped by resident Tim Morris, proudly shown on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/winfieldfarmmarket.

“Biggest surprise of all was my daughter Betty and family driving down from Wilmette with a birthday cake to share with our vendors, then finding out my son Jay flew up from Florida for the day to wear the Bugs costume ... biggest surprise of my life actually brought me to tears!”

Winfield Farmers Market will open its 34th year on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026, always welcoming small businesses in Winfield to participate.

2026 being America’s Semiquincentennial Year, look for some special 250th Birthday surprises and games to play. It all starts here in the Spring issue of The Winfield Glimpses.

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Fire Alliance

continued from page 11

Shared Resources: The Alliance benefits from a collective pool of instructors, training facilities, and management software, ensuring top-quality training and efficient administration—such as streamlined certification tracking.

Intergovernmental Equipment Sharing: Agreements allow for the sharing of equipment and personnel when apparatus is out of service or replacement times are extended, ensuring uninterrupted fire and EMS coverage.

The Alliance’s approach was groundbreaking in the Midwest, and its success quickly drew attention. By 2024, four additional departments had joined the Alliance, and fire chiefs from across the region began visiting to study the model.

For firefighters, the benefits were immediate and practical. Crews that trained together regularly became familiar with one another’s skills, equipment, and habits—translating into smoother teamwork and improved efficiency during large-scale emergencies. When vehicles break down, neighboring agencies can lend spare apparatus. Firefighters even staff stations in other communities when major incidents draw down local resources.

Through our neighbors’ contributions to the Alliance, Winfield residents have access to a tower-ladder truck, hazardous materials (haz-mat) response team, technical (specialized) rescue team, battalion chiefs, brush fire trucks, and training facilities- none of which would be affordable to Winfield Fire Protection District residents without a very significant tax increase.

In exchange, Winfield operates and maintains two specialized vehicles and two very well-trained teams for water rescue and rural water operations. Almost every firefighter in Winfield is trained in water rescue, and they respond to at least two dozen of these specialized calls per year. They have traveled up to 30 miles away to assist in water rescue operations. Thanks to the underwater drone that was purchased last year, divers are able to find and help victims much faster than in the past. Winfield owns one of the very few in the entire region, and it has already been credited with saving at least two

lives in the last few months. Similarly, our firefighters are trained (and very skilled) in quickly providing water resources in areas without hydrants. Considering that 2/3 of the total area served by the WFPD does not have a fire hydrant, the ability to get water to a fire can mean the difference between saving lives and property or losing them. Fire engines can pump over 1,200 gallons of water per minute- so when they have to rely on trucks to haul water to the scene, an efficient and skilled team is critical. Thankfully, WFPD firefighters

are exceptionally good at this task! Because Winfield maintains one of the last remaining water tender trucks, their 2500-gallon capacity truck gets called by neighboring agencies a few times per month to assist in water hauling operations. It has traveled up to 40 miles to assist in rural water operations. Due to the thoughtful planning and visionary leadership of our fire agencies, countless lives and properties have been saved as a result of these improved operational efficiencies—and after 13 years, the Alliance partners say they’re just getting started.



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