



THE WINFIELD GLIMPSES

Celebrating Our Community

Autumn 2026

ENJOY

Autumn in Winfield!

Turn the pages for seasonal news.

58th Annual Good Old Days Happenings–Sept. 11-13

By Patti Weber

“Celebrating 250 years of Independence” is the theme of this year’s Annual Good Old Days festival September 11th thru 13th. See the schedule of events on page 5. Keeping with the theme of celebrating our nation’s independence, we’re honoring our local veterans who will be our parade Grand Marshals on Sunday, September 13. Kids are also invited to ride in the parade on their patriotic themed decorated bikes! Prizes will be awarded to all decorated bike participants, with an additional drawing for some very special prizes from the Winfield Police Department and Prairie Path Cycles. Meet at East Street Park at Noon on Sunday September 13th with your decorated bike to participate. (Sorry, no electronic bikes, scooters, etc. can participate.)

Started in 1968, Good Old Days is a community collaboration organized by local not-for-profit Knights of Columbus Council 8002, Tony Reyes Family Foundation, Winfield Historical Society, Winfield Park District, Winfield Lions Club, as well as the Village of Winfield, Winfield Police Department, Winfield Fire Protection District, Winfield Park District, Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce, and Winfield School District 34. These groups spent months meeting and planning activities and events for our community. We come together to say goodbye to Summer and play outside while we can and enjoy the warm temperatures before the good old Midwest Winter comes along.

The weekend-long festival takes place at the intersection of Church Street and Beecher Avenue, where you’ll see big white tents, lots of tables and chairs, and a stage for bands. We have a terrific line up of FREE live entertainment scheduled all weekend long, starting Friday at 4pm with the Mickey Hatfield Band then our own Sammy & The Knights, a Chicago tribute band at 7pm.

On Saturday, we’ll kick off almost 12 hours of

live music with the young and talented musicians from the School of Rock Glen Ellyn at 11:30am. Next up is solo artist Mario Cervantes at 1:15pm on guitar and crooning your favorite tunes. Local



We invite our kids to show their patriotism and decorate their bikes to ride in the parade! All kids who line up for the parade at East Street at Noon on 9/13 with their bike decorated in a patriotic fashion will be entered to win prizes such as A Ride to School In A Winfield Police Car, or gift certificates from Prairie Path Cycle! (Sorry but no electric bikes nor scooters are allowed to participate).



music artist and member of the Lions Club, Ken Fuchs, then takes the stage at 2:30pm performing a repertoire of 60s/70s/80s rock. Next up at 4pm is Jacksson Hamilton, a Midwest singer-songwriter whose style weaves elements of acoustic folk,

Americana, and country. At 6pm is the band 50/50 with its diverse collection of classic rock songs. And wrapping up the evening at 8pm is our headliner for Saturday night, Band on the Run, the ultimate Paul McCartney and Wings tribute show!

The music continues Sunday with everyone’s favorite local performer, Rob Russo and The Loose Screws taking the stage at 1:30pm. Be sure to bring your comfy portable chair to sit and enjoy the music, grab a cold drink, and enjoy a tantalizingly delicious meal from our food booths.

We’ll have a good variety of food and drink choices. The Tony Reyes Family Foundation Beer Tent will be offering a variety of cold beverages for sale, including 2 ice cold draft beers for \$8. Proceeds from the sales go towards the Foundation’s charities, many of them local such as the Ronald McDonald House near CDH, Winfield In Action, Winfield Education Foundation, Disabled American Veterans, Winfield Foundation golf outing, DuPage Care Center and CASA, just to name a few. The Knights of Columbus 8002 will be firing up their wood burning grill to cook their famous cheeseburgers, hot dogs, sausages, and corn on the cob. Proceeds from Knights’ food sales benefit local charities such as RMH near CDH and college scholarships. On Church Street, you’ll find food vendors such as Mariano of Doggie Diner who will be selling funnel cakes, corn dogs, chicken tenders, curly chips, French fries, lemonade, fried Oreos, churros, cheese curds, elotes. A newcomer and vendor at Riverwalk music nights, the Original Kitchen, will serve up sweet & savory French crepes and authentic Polish sausage. And back this year is Kool Kat with his ice cream, custard and root beer floats while Sugar Mama donuts, iced coffee, and cotton candy will round out the sweet treat offerings.

We’ll have a Farmer’s Market style business

continued on page 2

Farewell to Brach’s Service Center!

Brach’s Service Center will have a new owner after September 30th as Jim Brach will be hanging up his tools and selling the business to a new owner. He’s looking forward to travelling and spending time with family, then finding something to do! There’s so much history with our village’s beloved auto repair shop, I sat down with Jim to get the scoop. Brach’s in its current location opened in 2004, by Jim and his late father Bill Brach. The previous location was just to the east at the SW corner of Highlake and Winfield Roads, where the building that houses Berger Bros Pub, Scone House and Caliendo’s is located. That shop opened in 1961 where father and son worked side by side. Jim started working with his dad when he was 15 years old by pumping gas because back then it was full-service auto repair and gas station. They built a business that lasted over 55 years with the motto “No Problem” when people brought their cars in for repair. They also serviced vehicles for the police and fire departments, St. John the Baptist Catho-

lic Church parish priests, the hospital, and towing services for the DuPage County Sheriff.

Not only was Brach’s the place to go to have



your car repaired, but it also served as a meeting place for 6 AM coffee with their friends. Jim recalls hearing stories from many old timers including Grandpa Karwoski who he remembers could do a head stand!

Jim recalls fond memories of growing up in Winfield such as the time he and his twin brother, the late Don Brach, walked in the 1st Good Old Days parade dressed as Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. He went to Winfield School then West Chi-

cago High School and was a defensive back on the only State Championship football team for West Chicago back in 1974. He served as a volunteer fireman back in 1975 – 1980. When they were called, he’d drop his wrench and run to the fire department. Jim likes to say “200 years ago absolutely nothing happened here”. But in the last 60 years, he’s watched the town grow from 4000 people to 10,000 people and has the nicest people! Another saying of his is “After all is said and done, more is said than done”.

When asked what is his fondest memory about owning Brach’s Service Center, Jim said “I got to fix it. I didn’t build it, buy it or break it, but I got to fix it”.



Top: Jim Brach relaxing in preparation for retirement. Above: The Brach’s Service Center ground-breaking. See more photos on page 14.

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St. John Cemetery Walk Saturday, October 10th

On Saturday, October 10th, starting at 4:00 p.m., join the Winfield Historical Society and volunteer cemetery walk interpreters who will tell the story of people who lived during the historic twentieth century years of the Village of Winfield. Lanterns and luminaries will be lighting the path through Winfield’s only, and one of the oldest cemeteries in DuPage County.

Stories that will be featured include: Robert Conley (World War II veteran of the Normandy D-Day invasion), Marguerite Roth (Winfield Store Clerk, Postal Clerk and Winfield Hospital Volunteer), Victor Karwoski (Barber and Taylor and co-worker at Johns Buffet and Bar), and William “Bill” Brach (Winfield businessman owners of Brach’s Auto Service and Grand Knight of Columbus Member) and Mathias Mueller (Operator of the Winfield Cooperative Creamery on Beecher Street).

The Winfield Park District van leaves for

cemetery tours from the Hedges Station Museum (Oakwood Park, ON557 Winfield Road, Winfield Illinois). Visit the Hedges Museum and experience Winfield History while waiting for the van.

Parking will also be available this year at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (0S501 Summit Dr).

Tours will step-off beginning at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and every 10 minutes and starting again at 6:00 p.m. with the last group stepping off by 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers are urgently needed to make this event a success!

The event is free and open



to all (17 and under must be accompanied by an adult or guardian). Donations are accepted. Participants should bring their own flashlights.

This year’s event is co-sponsored and funded by The Knights of Columbus Council 8002 in memory of past Grand Knight William “Bill” Brach. The Winfield Historical Society, the Winfield Park District and the Joliet Diocese Cemeteries are also sponsoring and providing support for the event.

For more information or volunteering see the Society website at winfieldhistory.org or call the Hedges Station/ Winfield Historical Society at (630) 510-9053.

Good Old Days

continued from page 1

expo tent down the center of Church Street all weekend long where you’ll be able to shop and talk business with a wide variety of shops & businesses including many of our own Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce members.

The kids can enjoy the Kid’s Zone sponsored this year by the Winfield Park District, all weekend long with inflatables for jumping fun including face painting on Friday and a petting zoo on Saturday. A wristband purchase gets them a day of enjoyment plus a hot dog meal from the KOC, what a deal! Wristbands cost \$20 on Friday, \$25 on Saturday, and \$20 on Sunday. Thank you to local volunteers Winfield School PTO, and Boy Scout Troop 575 for providing supervision of the Zone! Kids will also enjoy Winfield Park District’s Coin Carnival on Saturday from 12-2pm in Creekside Park, and the very popular video gaming truck will be back on Saturday from 3-9pm on Church Street. Also back this year is the Winfield School Band performance at the Gazebo at 2:30pm on Saturday. Come out and support our young musicians!

Take a break and ride around town on the narrated historic trolley tour, sponsored by McCormick

Law Firm, which runs on Saturday from 10am to 4pm and makes stops to pick up and drop off passengers on Beecher/Winfield Roads and Hedges Station Museum. The Winfield Historical Society brings the nostalgia back with its Ladies Shoe Kicking Contest and will have their passport and coloring contest awards as well as announce the Prince and Princess contest winners. (Tip: take the trolley from the SW corner of Beecher/Winfield by Winfield School to Hedges Station for the big announcements at noon on Saturday) The Prince & Princess will ride in the parade on Sunday.

New this year, the Winfield Lion’s Club is hosting a Mustache Contest and will announce the winner on Saturday at 5:30pm on stage. A can’t miss contest with lots of great prizes! A \$5 donation goes to help those in need, especially for the Lion’s Vision and Hearing programs which are designed to provide services to those who are at risk of losing their sight.

We’d like to thank all of our sponsors who, with their financial support, make this weekend possible! The Knights of Columbus Council 8002;

Tony Reyes Family Foundation; Village of Winfield; Northwestern Medicine; Winfield Park District; McCormick Law Firm LLC; Nelson Farmers Insurance Agency; Viziality, Winfield Wealth Advisors, Winfield Glimpses, and The Hamilton Collection.

Remember to grab your lawn chairs and blankets and grab a spot on Winfield Road for the parade on Sunday at 1pm and visit the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile afterwards!

For complete details about the festival be sure to visit www.winfieldgoodolddays.com.



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Winfield Is Building Momentum

By Dan Janowick

Winfield doesn't have to become a big town to think big about its future.

Community development remains one of the Village's strategic priorities, and the remainder of 2026 and 2027 are shaping up to bring significant activity across our community, from Town Center to the southern and northern most sections of Winfield.

Perhaps the most visible change will come in Town Center. Work could begin as early as this fall on Winfield Reserve, a 156-unit luxury apartment development along Jewell Road near the Metra station. According to Village President, Carl Sorgatz, "In addition to adding new housing options, Winfield Reserve will bring more residents within walking distance of downtown businesses, creating the customer base needed to support existing restaurants and shops and help attract new ones".

Work is also advancing toward a new Police Station and Municipal Center near High Lake and Jewell Roads. The new facility, breaking ground in the first half of 2027 will replace the existing Village Hall and Police Station, which dates to the 1970s and has long been identified as undersized and inadequate for modern municipal and law-enforcement operations. Relocating those services will also free valuable commercial property near the Metra station for future redevelopment, including a planned public plaza. While JLL, the commercial real estate firm marketing the ground floor of the Northwestern Medicine owned commercial property across from village hall and the ground floor of the parking garage has received multiple inquiries for the open storefronts, ranging from national franchises and regional chains, as well as individually owned small businesses, after 3 years, Sweet Reserve Cafe and Bakery and the Primrose School of Winfield remain the only tenants.

Both Winfield Reserve and the Municipal Center are closely connected to the Village's Town Center Tax Increment Financing (TIF) strategy. Revenue generated by the TIF can be reinvested in eligible redevelopment projects. In Winfield's case, the agreement that places Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital's parking deck on the tax rolls for 20 years provides a significant source of that redevelopment funding. Those dollars create temporary funding that will support public infrastructure, business incentives, the Municipal Center and other improvements intended to stimulate

additional private investment.

Other changes are coming to Town Center as well. Midwest Salt plans to make Winfield its new administrative home, occupying the second floor of the Town Center building at Winfield and High Lake Roads and filling a large office space that has been available for several years.

The Berger Bros Pub expansion, boosted by TIF incentives, will double their serving capacity and is planned to reopen for business in September. There may also be a new chapter ahead for

large secured a \$378,000 state Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant to help fund this phase of the project. These investments are helping envision a downtown that is not just a place to drive through, but a destination for residents and visitors.

There is plenty happening on the north side of Winfield, too.

Tovala, the fresh-meal delivery company, broke ground in April on a new 140,340-square-foot food-processing facility at the southeast corner of County Farm and St. Charles Roads. Completion is expected in the second quarter of 2027.

Just down North Avenue, Amazon is proposing to add Prime Air drone delivery operations to its existing Winfield-area distribution facility. Amazon's newest delivery drones have a maximum operating range of approximately 7.5 miles, and the company says eligible products can be delivered in as little as 30 minutes. The Winfield-area proposal remains subject to federal and local review, and residents can expect additional public information as that process moves forward.

Additional commercial parcels remain available south of Casey's on Winfield Road and the Village continues to evaluate opportunities for new development and potential annexation in available unincorporated properties in that corridor.

New commercial and residential investment increases Winfield's equalized assessed value (EAV), and can generate additional property and sales-tax revenue for the Village, schools, fire district, park district, library and other local taxing bodies. It also helps diversify the tax base so future revenue growth does not depend solely on existing homeowners.

Just as important, thoughtful development can add restaurants, shops, jobs, housing choices and gathering spaces that improve residents' quality of life.

Winfield will always be a small community, and that is part of what makes us special. The opportunity before us is not to change that character, but to build on it, bringing smart investment, new amenities and a stronger tax base to a community that remains a place to discover.



... thoughtful development can add restaurants, shops, jobs, housing choices and gathering spaces that improve residents' quality of life.

Scone House Café. While the business is preparing to leave its current location in late September, its owners continue discussions with Northwestern Medicine about a potential move into ground-floor commercial space in the parking garage. The Village has already approved \$400,000 in TIF assistance that could help make that relocation possible. Providing incentives to retain this popular business remains a priority.

Nearby, the former Winfield Fire Protection District station on High Lake Road is being marketed for redevelopment. The property is being promoted for possible restaurant, retail, or other commercial concepts that provides another opportunity to bring new activity into the heart of Winfield.

Development is not just about buildings. The third phase of Riverwalk Park added a large playground, challenge course, gathering areas to an already popular downtown destination. The Vil-



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Parade Car Show
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Petting Zoo
Kid's Zone

Food Booths:
Knights Of Columbus Snack Shack
Doggie Diner • SugarMama's
Original Kitchen • Kool Kat

Good Old Days 2026
Schedule of Events

THURSDAY – 9/10	TIME	LOCATION
KOC Scholarship BBQ	5-9pm	Family Tent
Book Sale	7pm - 9pm	Library



FRIDAY – 9/11	TIME	LOCATION
Book Sale	9am – 7pm	Library
Business Booths	4-7pm	Church Street
Book Sale	9am – 7pm	Library
The River Radio Station Live	4:30-6:30pm	Church Street
Kid's Zone	4pm-Dusk	S.E. Corner of Church & Beecher

Friday Night
Food Booths 4 pm-9 pm
Beer Tent 4-10:30 pm
Live Music
Mickey Hatfield Band 4-6 pm
Americana, Country and Rock
Sammy & The Knights 7-9 pm
Chicago Tribute

SATURDAY – 9/12	TIME	LOCATION
Book Sale	9am – 7pm	Library
Business Booths	10am – 6pm	Church Street
Beer Tent	10:30am-10pm	Family Tent
Food Booths	11am – 10pm	Church Street
Trolley Ride	10am To 4pm	Beecher & Winfield
Kid's Zone	10am -Dusk	S.E. Corner of Church & Beecher
Petting Zoo	12 - 4pm	S.E Corner of Church & Beecher
Winfield School Band	2:30pm	Gazebo
Winfield Lions Club – Mustache Contest Winner Announcement	5:30pm	Stage

Winfield Park District Events
Coin Carnival from 12-2pm at Creekside Park and the Windy City Mobile Game Theater from 3-9pm at Church Street

Winfield Historical Society Events
Passport & Coloring Contest Awards And Prince/Princess Winners Announcement from Noon-1pm at the Hedges Station Museum at Oakwood Park and the Ladies' Shoe Kicking Contest from 3-4pm at the Church Street - Dentist Office Driveway

Saturday
Food Booths 11 am-10 pm
Beer Tent 10:30 am-10:30 pm
Live Music
School Of Rock 11:30am-1pm
Mario Cervantes 1:15-2:15pm
Ken Fuchs 2:30-3:45pm
Jackson Hamilton 4-5:30pm
50 – 50 '70s – '80s Rock 6-7:30pm
Band On The Run Paul McCartney Tribute 8-10pm

SUNDAY – 9/13	TIME	LOCATION
Business Booths	10am – 4pm	Church Street
Car Show	9am - 12pm	Chicago Ave Commuter Lot
Duck Races	10am	Lion's Park
Kid's Zone	10am - 4pm Closed 12:45-1:45pm	S.E. Corner of Church & Beecher
Kid's Bike Decorating Awards	Noon	Parade Lineup East St
Parade	1 - 1:45pm	
Oscar Meyer Weinermobile	1 - 3pm	Parade/Kids Zone
Winfield School Tour	2pm	School Playground

Sunday
Food Booths 11 am-5 pm
Beer Tent 11 am-6 pm
Live Music
The Loose Screws 1:45-4:45 pm

Business Spotlight – Sugar Mama’s Mini-Donuts

Winfield Glimpses sat down recently with Robin Vega, owner of Sugar Mama’s Mini Donuts, who shared some sweet thoughts about her business and Winfield

How long has Sugar Mama’s Mini Donuts been serving the Winfield community, and what first brought you to Winfield?

We chose to open our business in a community that’s growing, downtown, and close to home – a place where families, commuters, and neighbors truly support one another.

What do you believe has been the key to your success over the years?

I believe the key to our success has been consistency, genuine connection with our community, and an unwavering commitment to quality. We show up early, work hard, and treat every customer like a neighbor. People can feel when a business is built with heart, and that’s what keeps them coming back.

What is your most popular menu item, and what makes it such a customer favorite?

Our most popular menu item is our freshmade mighty mini donuts, especially the classic cinnamon sugar. Customers love them because they’re hot, light, and made right in front of them. There’s something special about watching donuts come off the machine and getting them warm – it creates a fun experience.

Are there any hidden gems or menu items that first-time customers should be sure to try?

Our newest hidden gem is our handmade tamales. They’ve quickly become a customer favorite – fresh, never frozen, and steamed to perfection.

How has the Winfield community supported your business throughout the years?

Winfield has played a major role in our success. The community consistently shows up for us, whether it’s commuters grabbing their daily coffee, families visiting the shop, or neighbors recommending us to friends. Their support has been steady, genuine, and deeply appreciated, and it’s allowed us to thrive as a small, local business.

In what ways does Sugar Mama give back to the community through schools, charities, youth sports, or local organizations?

Sugar Mama’s gives back by staying deeply

involved in the community. We support the local schools with donations for events and teacher appreciation days, partner with youth sports teams for fundraisers, and contribute to charity events throughout the year. Whether it’s providing treats, sponsoring activities, or showing up for local organizations, we make it a priority to give back to the people who support us.

Can you share a memorable story or experience that has stayed with you during your time serving Winfield?



The crew at Sugar Mama’s Mini Donuts smiles sweetly; an array of tasty Sugar Mama’s treats.

One of the most memorable experiences during my time serving Winfield has been joining the Winfield Chamber of Commerce. It opened the door to meeting other business owners who care deeply about this community. Getting to know them, shar-

ing ideas, and supporting each other has been one of the rewarding parts of running Sugar Mama’s. Those relationships have made a lasting impact on me.

What do you enjoy most about owning and operating a business in Winfield?

What I enjoy most about owning a business in Winfield is the everyday connection to the rhythm of the town. From the early morning commuters to the families who stop by later in the day, share quick conversations, and become part of people’s routines. Winfield has a way of making small businesses feel seen, appreciated, and woven into the daily life of the community, and that’s something truly special.

How has the restaurant evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of your customers?

I believe we’ve carved out a unique niche in Winfield – offering a mini version of a classic, nostalgic treat that no other community has. Over the years, Sugar Mama’s has evolved by listening closely to what our customers want. We expanded from simple mini donuts to creative seasonal flavors, added espresso drinks for commuters, introduced our Mighty Minis for those wanting a bigger bite, and even launched our newest hidden gem: hand-made tamales. Every change has been driven by customer feedback and the desire to bring something fun, fresh, and unexpected to Winfield.

What values do you strive to instill in your employees and your customer service philosophy?

I strive to instill values of reliability, kindness, and pride in the work we do. I want my employees to understand that every interaction matters – whether it’s greeting a commuter at 5:30 AM or helping a family choose their donuts. Our customer service philosophy is simple: be genuine, be attentive, and make every person feel welcome. When employees care about the experience as much as the product, customers feel the difference.

What do you think makes Winfield such a special place to live, work, and own a business?

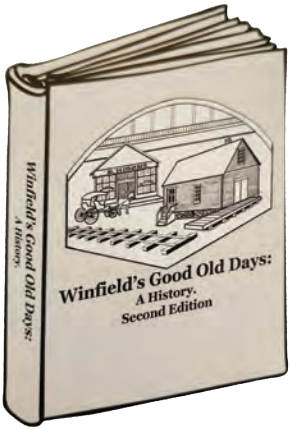
Winfield stands out because of its strong sense of collaboration. The Chamber, local organizations, and small businesses all work together to make the community better. There’s real pride in keeping

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NEW Edition of Winfield History Book Available in October

The History of Winfield Committee (HOW) announces the publication of the second edition of *Winfield Good Old Days: History* will be available for purchase (\$25.00) at the Winfield Public Library or at Hedges Station Museum at Oakwood Park beginning in the fall.

The book contains the entire text and photographs from the first edition with many new photographs as well as a special color insert documenting Winfield today. New chapters have been written to document the history of the Winfield Park District, the Winfield Historical Society, the Winfield Chamber of Commerce, updates to Winfield History (1978 to 2026). Previous chapters have been updated from the first edition including Churches, Schools, Health Care, Police, Fire Protection, and the library.



The first edition of the book was originally published in 1978 and written by the late Louise Spanke and published by the Winfield Public Library Board. The new second edition of the book is a part of the Historical Society’s 250th Semiquincentennial of America’s Founding project.

The HOW Committee is a collaborative effort of both the Winfield Historical Society and the Winfield Public Library staff and Library Board. The project was underwritten by financial support from individuals, families, and business members of the Winfield

community. The HOW Committee have been researching and writing over the past two and half years. James R. McGuire, a Winfield Historian, was hired by the Committee to Coordinate the project.

Further information on the book is available by leaving a message for Kevin Davis via a phone call to the Hedges Station Museum (0N555 Winfield Rd, Winfield, IL 60190) at (630) 510-9053. Website: Winfieldhistory.org. E-mail at: hedgesmuseum@winfieldparkdistrict.com

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Winfield First Responder Interview – Jake Armstrong

By Luke Allen

1. Where are you from and what brought you to Winfield?

I grew up in Riverdale before my family moved to Naperville, where I finished high school at Naperville Central. As a high school student I attended the Technology Center of DuPage, where I earned my Emergency Medical Technician credential. I started my career working for Superior Ambulance, and during that time I enrolled in the Central DuPage Paramedic training program.

While attending a training one day I was asked by a Battalion Chief if I would be applying for the Winfield Firefighter/paramedic position. I didn't even know Winfield was hiring, but because I didn't want to disappoint that officer, I said, "Yes of course!" So I applied in Winfield and was hired in July 2018.

2. Why did you become a Firefighter/Paramedic?

I have participated in team sports from the age of 5, and I have always enjoyed working as a team. I knew I needed a career that let me work as a team and gave me a variety of things to do each day. While I was enrolled in an EMT course in high school, I found that I had a very good aptitude for practicing emergency medicine, and I really love the job.

3. What are your specialty skills or tasks that you participate in when you aren't on calls?

I am usually the lead medic on the ambulance, which is my favorite work task. When we aren't on calls, I am in charge of maintaining the weight room and equipment and the crew kitchen. I planned and assisted in the design and move of the crew kitchen when we built the new station. When we are on

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

My favorite thing about working here is the fun "family" environment of working and living together with my colleagues. We work hard and step up to meet challenges together as a team, and when we have a moment to rest, there's always laughter- just like when you're hanging out with friends or family. We support each other, and that culture is not something that you find in every fire agency.

As a medic, I also appreciate that we are so close to the hospital. Almost every day we get back-to-back ambulance calls, and because we can get patients delivered to the hospital so quickly, we can get to the next patient right away. Nothing makes you feel more helpless as a medic than when you know you have a twenty-plus minute drive to get back to their town from your last call before you can begin to deliver care.

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

I really enjoy leading the medical team on my ambulance. I've completed every certification for a response that WFPD can deliver. Since I would like to advance to the rank of Lieutenant someday, I continue working to build my leadership skills. I am also intrigued by the work of a Critical Care Paramedic, but that is usually an assignment only for medivac (air-lift) patient transport.

And now some fun questions!

What's your favorite food? Short ribs
Favorite restaurant? Fire & Wine in Glen Ellyn
Favorite fire service movie/TV show? Ladder 49
Favorite hobby? Cooking and weightlifting
Favorite dinosaur? Tyrannosaurus Rex
First car? 1965 Chevy Chevelle
Dream car? 1970 Chevy Chevelle

Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce President Julie Michelin and Jim Kohlman of TransPet Services staff the table at the Winfield Farmer's Market in July.

See the GWCC story on page 9.



Jake Armstrong



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Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce News



What a busy Summer it has been! It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming home our college students, having graduation parties, celebrating Father's Day and the 250th Birthday of our Country and now school has started back and we look forward to Fall.

I hope that everyone was safe and didn't suffer any severe damages with the crazy weather we experienced. The Car Show every Monday evening has been well attended besides a couple of rain outs. I wish to thank Dairy Queen and Burrito Grill for their coupons each Monday for our shows, and for the Chamber Members who sponsor the raffles each week. A special shout out to Kathy Agresti for all of your organizational skills in getting each week started in a timely fashion, and for your helpers.

Our June Networking meeting was held at the newly finished Oakwood Park hosted by the Winfield Park District. It was a beautiful day to enjoy being outside and our surroundings. Our July Networking Meeting was at the Barn hosted by the Winfield Glimpses & the Tony Reyes Family Foundation, thanks for hosting us! Hot fresh donuts & coffee were supplied by Sugar Mama's Mini Donuts.

We sampled some items from Neer Beer in Wheaton where we had our evening social on July 14th with pizza, dessert, and some non-alcoholic beverages. Thank you HealthCare Associates Credit Union for sponsoring and Neer Beer in Wheaton for all the information you shared with us about the manufacturing of this product.

Our August Networking Meeting was held outside on a beautiful morning at The Barber Shoppe. Thank you Kathy Agresti for hosting, and Jim Kohlman of Transpet Services for supplying our delicious treats from Sugar Mama's Mini Donuts.

Our next Networking meeting will be October 6th hosted by Dr. Josh Younce Winfield Chiropractic

at 7:30am. New Business Members needed and wanted to join our Chamber. For information see our newly released and work in progress website www.greaterwinfieldchamber.org. A special shoutout to Jim King of Wheaton Website Services for all of your hard work.

Can't wait to see you all at Good Old Days September 11th through September 13th. The Good Old Days committee has a lot in store for you. It's going to be a great time!!! Also mark your

calendars for the popular Prairie Haunted Trail on Saturday, October 31st!!

– Julie Michelin
President of the
Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce



Clockwise from top left:
The Monday evening Car Show has been well attended;
sampling Neer Beer in Wheaton;
the July Networking Meeting at the Barn.



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

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Primrose School of Winfield (630) 926-3488
Winfield School District 34 (630) 909-4900

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

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McCormick Law Firm (630) 517-8570

Newspaper

Winfield Glimpses, The (630) 205-1405

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Polaris Travel (630) 853-6375

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Winfield Wealth Advisors (630) 709-6825
Trust Bank of Wheaton (630) 407-0900

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Nelson Agency – Health Insurance Solutions (630) 474-6060
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Trusted Insurance Options/Medicare (331) 998-7878

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Roger Fox – Re/Max Suburban (630) 877-7777
Daniel And Associates Real Estate (DAARE) (630) 918-6129
Admiral Builders (630) 690-1200

Food & Drink

Winfield Farmers Market (630) 408-3712
Berger Bros Pub (630) 606-0521
Sugar Mama's (708) 945-9069
Caliendo's (630) 690-1555

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Livanos Chiropractic Health Care (331) 806-3072
Northwestern Medicine (CDH) (630) 933-1600
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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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Wheaton Website Services (630) 665-1969

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Lion's Panzek Martial Arts (630) 797-6698
Prairie Path Cycles (630) 690-9749

— A LEGAL MOMENT WITH ERON —

Why Adding a Child’s Name to a Deed is not Simple

By Eron McCormick

Before we dive in, I want to thank you for welcoming me into your home. Through A Legal Moment with Eron, my goal is to provide practical, easy-to-understand information to help you and your family make informed decisions about the legal issues that matter most.

One of the most common questions I hear is, “Should I just add my son or daughter’s name to my house?” Many people believe this is a simple way to avoid probate and make things easier for their family. Sometimes it may be appropriate. But in many cases, adding a child to the deed can create legal, financial, and tax problems that families never expected. Not long ago, I met with a homeowner who wanted to add his adult daughter to the deed to his home. He loved his daughter, trusted her completely, and thought it would make things easier when he passed away. After we talked about the possible risks, he realized that adding her name to the deed could create problems while he was still alive.

When you add someone to the deed to your home, you are not simply naming them to receive the house after you die. Depending on how the deed is written, you may be giving that person an ownership interest in the property right now. That means the house may no longer be yours alone. What happens, for example, if your child gets divorced? Depending on the facts, your child’s ownership interest in the property could become an issue during the divorce.

What if your child is sued or has serious financial problems? A creditor may try to place a lien against your child’s interest in the property. What if your child files for bankruptcy? Their ownership interest in your home could become part of the bankruptcy process. None of these problems mean your child did anything wrong. Life simply happens. People lose jobs. Businesses fail. Marriages end. Accidents happen. Lawsuits are filed. Even a responsible adult child can face a financial problem that may affect property titled in his or her name.

There is another issue many parents do not think about: control. Once another person has an ownership interest in your home, you may need that person’s cooperation to make certain decisions about the property. If you want to sell the house or refinance it, your child’s signature may be needed. Most parents tell me, “My child would never give me

a problem.” That may be completely true today. But an estate plan should be designed to protect you not only when everything goes according to plan, but also when something unexpected happens. Adding a child to your deed can also create tax consequences. The way property is transferred during your lifetime may be treated differently for tax purposes than property inherited after your death.



Depending on the situation, your child could miss out on valuable tax benefits. Tax laws can be complicated, so it is important to speak with an attorney and, when appropriate, a tax professional before making a change to your deed.

The good news is that there may be better ways to accomplish your goal. For some families, a revocable living trust may allow a home to pass to loved ones without probate while allowing

the homeowner to keep control during his or her lifetime. Other estate planning tools may also be available depending on your family, your property, and what you are trying to accomplish.

The important point is that estate planning is not one-size-fits-all. What worked for your neighbor, cousin, friend, or someone on the internet may not be the right choice for you. Before you add your child’s name to your home, take the time to ask a simple question: What could happen if something goes wrong? A short conversation with a trusted estate planning attorney before signing a deed may prevent years of legal problems later. Your home is often one of the largest assets you will ever own. More importantly, it may be the place where your family celebrated birthdays, holidays, graduations, and countless other memories. It deserves a plan that protects both the property and the people you love and care about.

About Eron

Eron McCormick is a licensed attorney in Illinois and Wisconsin whose practice focuses on serving clients in estate planning, probate, real estate, and business 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 with his wife Jen and his fur child Jasper.

This article is not intended to serve as legal advice, does not create an attorney-client relationship, and does not replace advice from a qualified attorney regarding your specific situation.

Autumn arrives September 22nd—a wonderful season to Wander Winfield!



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In Memoriam



MARTHA CLARKSON INGRAM

Martha Clarkson Ingram passed away peacefully in Cedar Park, Texas, on Saturday, August 22, from complications due to Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia. Martha was a community leader, passionate volunteer, and beloved mother, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt, and friend.

Martha was born in Refugio, Texas, in 1940. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Texas, she wanted to see the world, so she took a train to Chicago with one trunk and a job offer from Social Security. She didn't know anyone or have a place to live, but she met a couple of great women at the YWCA, and they got an apartment together. Soon after, she met Roland Ingram. Their first date was to a country bar that Roland thought would make her feel "at home." That night she stayed up later than any night in her young life. The roommates developed into cherished, lifelong friends. Roland and Martha married, and Winfield, Illinois became home.

A tireless and passionate community leader, Martha was a co-founder of the Winfield Historical Society, led the Winfield Run fundraiser for 25

years, worked to save Hedges Station, and helped establish it as a museum. Martha was elected as a Winfield Park District Commissioner in 1991, served as a parent volunteer in the Winfield Elementary and Middle schools from 1973 to 1992, and lived her faith as an active member and volunteer at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. She also worked at Ingram Research, the family business, first helping transform a historic home in downtown Winfield into offices, and later managing bookkeeping and payroll.

Her home was never without sweet treats, and her banana bread, cookies, and coffee cakes are the stuff of legends. Even beyond hosting events with friends and family, as a young woman she would share homemade brownies and lemonade with repairmen who came to the house. In the last months of her life, she kept treats in her room, so she would have something to offer nurses, caregivers, and visitors. Everyone who entered her orbit felt the kindness of her unwavering hospitality.

While she quickly found her people in Illinois, she always cherished and nourished her Texas roots. She owned and managed part of her family ranch and treasured the time she spent there. She remained close to family and childhood friends, despite the miles. After Roland's passing in 2003 she moved back to Texas in 2016. There she reconnected with a college boyfriend, James Henke, remarried at age 78, and the two enjoyed numerous road trips, family gatherings, and hearty breakfasts until his passing in 2022.

She is survived by her children Mary (Jonathan Schatz) Ingram-Schatz, Catherine (Richard Brandwein) Ingram, Edward (Janine Ingram - van de Loo) Ingram, and Thomas (Kristi Freitag) Ingram and her sister Kathleen Campbell as well as five grandchildren Paul Schatz, Madeline Schatz, Caleb Brandwein, Mae Ingram, and Nora Ingram. She is preceded in death by her husband Roland G. Ingram (2003) and her husband James Henke (2022), as well as her siblings Edward Clarkson, Edith Clarkson, and Carolyn Hughes. She will also be missed by extraordinary, lifelong friends, nieces and nephews whom she adored.

Funeral services will be held at Williams Kampp Funeral Home, 430 East Roosevelt Road,

Wheaton, Illinois. Visitation will be held from 9 to 11am on Saturday, September 5 followed immediately by a funeral service at 11am. NEEDS TO BE CONFIRMED. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation and enjoy a sweet treat in her memory.



MARY J. KARWOSKI

Mary J. Karwoski, 96, of Winfield, passed away June 20, 2026. Beloved wife of John N. Karwoski; loving mother of John C. Karwoski, James (Beth) Karwoski, and Karla (Carl) Holtz; proud grandmother of Jason (Johanna) Francis, Ryan Francis, Chad (Kelly) Karwoski, Neil (Carolyn) Karwoski, Paige (Matthew) Karalis, Caroline Karwoski, and John Luc Karwoski; fond great-grandmother of Ford, Smith,

continued on page 14

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Thin-sliced steak piled high with melted provolone, grilled onions, and green peppers on toasted French bread. \$15.00

Reuben
Hand-sliced corned beef layered on rye, topped with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and 1000 island dressing. Served with fries. \$12.99

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Reuben Sandwich

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Cheeseburger
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Bacon Burger
Spicy Burger
Bacon Cheeseburger

See menu for burger and sandwich descriptions.
*Excludes Strip Steak Sandwich

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Soup of the Day - \$6
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WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY - SUNDAY
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'A Sweet Little School:' Getting to Know SD34 Principal Melissa Doucet

By Luke Allen

If you've ever entered a school building in the final summer days before students arrive, there is a certain kind of "magic" feeling that can only be described as palpable. Everyone is smiling, and people are busily making last-minute preparations for their students' arrival. This year, that excitement belongs to Melissa Doucet, who is gearing up for her 14th year in Winfield School District 34 and her second year as Principal.

Doucet says teaching was never really a choice – it was just who she was always going to be. "I always wanted to be a teacher," she explains, tracing it back to a family that valued showing up for others. Her father is a retired fire chief, and growing up in a "family of service" left its mark. For her, it always came back to giving and being present.

Her career started in the classroom, teaching grades 3 through 5, and later moving into instructional coaching roles in Villa Park. It was there she crossed paths with Dawn Reinke, who was her assistant principal at the time. Melissa lived in Winfield, and her children attended D34, and she knew it was a great school, so she encouraged Reinke to apply for the Principal position in Winfield. Several years later, Mrs. Reinke recruited Doucet to join her in Winfield – and Doucet has been part of the District 34 family ever since, starting out as an instructional technology coach before working her way into administration.

So what makes D34 different? Doucet quickly said, "Our learning is personal. We are a family – both personally and professionally," she says. It's a small organization, and she sees that as a strength, not a limitation. "It's a sweet little school," she says with a smile – one where the Board has committed to keeping two classes per grade level, with the largest class size around 21 students. That commitment, she says, means students can receive individualized instruction that meets their learning needs. "We know our students, and we know their families."

Looking ahead to the new school year, Doucet has three focus areas guiding her work: fostering an inclusive community, valuing connections, and student growth. "It's about who I am and where I want to grow – as a school and professionally," she says. Part of that growth means finding new ways to engage with our community, whether that's

through our showcase night, a multicultural night, or simply celebrating the changing diversity reflected in the district. As she puts it, "Celebrate the

say, letting cell phones or iPads dictate the culture of a classroom – she says her teachers and students have easily navigated the balance between digital and traditional learning because she helped build that culture when she joined the district 14 years ago. "Our staff don't have to fight students to get them to put their phones down, because we created a culture of balance many years ago. We have always had balance with technology because we have always valued connections- and we intentionally reinforce that with our students," she says, calling it a core theme of the district's work.

But when asked what she most wants people to know about her, Doucet circles back to something much closer to home: she chose to send her own kids to Winfield schools. "It's a special place," she says, from the teachers and paraprofessionals to the front office to the custodial staff who keep it running. She remembers feeling that sense of connection back when her own children were just three years old – and she hasn't looked back since. "I can't imagine doing anything else. To get to be around such great kids, families, and coworkers makes this my dream job."

It's clear that for Melissa Doucet, Winfield isn't just where she works. It's where she raised her family, built her career, and hopes to see it through to the very end.

Outside of the office, Doucet is happy to talk about the lighter stuff, too – so I asked her a few quick questions!

- Favorite sports team:* DA BEARS!
- First car:* Ford LTD Grand Marquis
- Favorite food:* Italian
- Favorite restaurant:* Vernon Park Tap (Tufano's)
- Favorite dog breed:* Wheaten Terriers.



great things we already have and keep the momentum going."

Preparing kids for future opportunities is never far from her mind, either. As a former Instructional Technology coach, Doucet is thoughtful about the pendulum swing toward all things electronic, noting that iPads enhance learning but are not a substitute good teaching. Instead of chasing every trend – or,

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- Donations need to be out **by noon on Sunday, November 8.**
- Scouts will be by to pick up items throughout the afternoon.
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Emergency Operations: Busy Days For First Responders

By Luke Allen

On July 27 and August 11 the Winfield area experienced two very serious storms. As a relatively new Trustee of the Winfield Fire District, I only recently learned about how the fire district handles the very high volume of calls during these storm events. So, I wanted to share with you a little “behind the scenes glimpse” (sorry for the pun) into how things work at your fire department on these busy days.

Storms like we recently experienced generate so many calls to 911 to report tree branches, power lines, and property damage (in addition to the regular volume of medical assistance calls) that the emergency telephone system (Du-COMM) has difficulty managing all of the calls. This led the 911 system to develop “Emergency Operations” mode, where operators take note of non-life threatening and lower-priority calls, and then digitally “send” the queue to the local agency to self-dispatch. In Winfield, our Fire Chief sits in his car, using a computer terminal to monitor the calls from 911 (Du-COMM). As the calls come in, he prioritizes and directs the fire engine and ambulance crews to respond based

on his assessment of the danger to life and property. He and the Deputy Chief respond to calls whenever a one-person response could be helpful. Often that includes blocking traffic from downed power lines or flagging off fallen trees.

July 27 had over 40 calls in the matter of a few hours; August 11 saw over 20. For comparison, the average number of calls per day that WFPD crews respond to is around 8.

If you’re ever driving around during a very severe storm and notice Chief Evans sitting in his car in the parking lot of the fire station, give him a wave – or bring him a coffee!



During emergency operations, Fire Chief Steve Evans monitors incoming calls on a computer terminal in his car. The Chief prioritizes calls and directs the response of crews and Deputy Chief to make the best use of crew time and resources during major storm events.

Sugar Mama’s

continued from page 5

Winfield vibrant and growing, and that shared commitment creates an environment where businesses like mine can thrive.

What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about starting a small business in our community?

My advice is to start small, stay consistent, and truly get to know the people in this community. Winfield values authenticity, so if you show up, work hard, and offer something meaningful, people will support you. Build relationships with other business owners, join the Chamber, and don’t be afraid to ask questions – this community wants to see new

businesses succeed.

What exciting plans or new offerings can customers look forward to from Sugar Mama in the future?

We’re excited to bring back our Apple Cider Mini Donuts, a fall favorite that customers ask for yearround. In addition, we’re exploring new seasonal flavors, expanded drink options, and a few specialty items that will make each visit feel new. Our goal is to keep introducing offerings that surprise and delight our customers.

Is there anything else you would like the residents of Winfield to know about Sugar Mama or your commitment to the community?

I want the residents of Winfield to know that Sugar Mama’s is here because of this commu-

nity’s spirit, energy, and everyday support. We’re committed to showing up with great service, fresh treats, and a welcoming atmosphere that feels like part of your daily routine. When you come in and support us, you’re helping keep a small, local spot thriving – one that’s proud to call Winfield home.



**Free Showing!**

The Addams Family

Friday, September 25 | 6:15 pm
Village of Winfield Riverwalk Park Bandshell
Costume Contest at 6:30 pm
Movie Starts Approximately at 6:45 pm

Activities include a costume contest, picture backdrop, and concessions available for purchase, including hot dogs, brats, chips, popcorn, soft drinks, and more!

In case of inclement weather, this event will be relocated at Winfield Park District Gym.

Touch A Truck

Saturday, September 19th
11am-1pm
Founders Park
FREE EVENT



KONA ICE
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

2026-2027 YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES

OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS • 1ST-8TH GRADE

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:
1ST-2ND GRADE: OCTOBER 25
3RD-8TH GRADE: NOVEMBER 22

VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR ALL LEAGUES!

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.WINFIELDPARKDISTRICT.COM



HALLOWEEN BOO BASH

WEAR YOUR COSTUMES AND JOIN THE FUN!

ENJOY TRICK-OR-TREATING, GAMES, A COSTUME CONTEST, A PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST, AND MUCH MORE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
11:00AM-2:00PM
CHARLES R. BEGGS ACTIVITY CENTER

RESIDENT CHILDREN - \$15
NON-RESIDENT CHILDREN - \$20
(ADULTS FREE ENTRY)

Park District Camp Counselor Recognition Day Celebrated

The Winfield Park District offers many programs for our community in response to the suggestions received from our residents. We offer them locally and collaborate with neighboring Park Districts as well as The Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA) for program development. This allows us to offer more diverse programs for Winfield and the surrounding communities.

One of the most popular programs the Winfield Park District offers is our Summer Camp Programs. We have refined our camps to appeal to all segmented age groups and offer 4 different age-appropriate camp programs. What makes Winfield Park District's camps so popular is our highly trained and experienced staff of 42 counselors, made up of 8 new counselors and 36 returning counselors in 2026, specializing in providing projects and safe socialization to care for our 175 campers in 4 WPD locations.

Every year, The American Camp Association recognizes staff and camp professionals by having a Camp Counselors Appreciation Day, which the Winfield Park District participated in again this year. On Friday July 10th we recognized our 42 counselors. WPD provided snacks, awards and recognition

for their professionalism in caring, developing and providing socialization opportunities for our participating campers.

In closing, The Winfield Park District is returning to mailing out our programs to the Winfield residents with our Fall/Winter brochure coming soon. We encourage you to use these brochures

to review our vast program offering as well as a reminder to register for programs of your choice on our newly redesigned user-friendly online registration. The Winfield Park District is here to serve you. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us at (630) 653-3381, or visit us at the Park District Community center.



In Memoriam

continued from page 11

Price, Henry, Mae, Phillip, James, J.P., Theodore, Anna, Elizabeth, Charlotte, and Louisa.

Mary was a fixture for many years at John's Buffet. Her personality was one of vivacious energy & quick-witted humor. She always enjoyed a lively conversation with anyone she'd come across. Mary never met a Chardonnay or a glass of Canadian Club she didn't enjoy. Her winters spent in Hawaii for many decades filled her with memories; with Kona starring in the best of them. She was a past member of the Winfield Fire Department Womens Auxillary.



ROBERT 'BOBBY' SULLIVAN

Robert "Bobby" Francis Sullivan, 70 years old of Wheaton, IL passed away peacefully on August 22, 2026, in the company of family in hospice care while residing in Covington, KY.

Bobby was born on November 11, 1955, in Springfield, MA. The family moved to Wheaton, IL where he grew up on Hawthorne Boulevard with his parents and four siblings. He spent an idyllic childhood playing with his beloved older brother, enjoying Boy Scouts, and football, his passion from childhood through college. He was a running back at Wheaton North High School coached by Jim Rexilius who had a tremendous impact on him. He went on to the University of Southwestern Louisiana then Wheaton College on football scholarships where he met some of his life-long friends. After graduation he joined his dad at Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Company as a Pension Consultant then later changed course and became a teacher and coach. Bobby was quick witted and awakened a room with his personality.

He is survived by his children Michelle and John, grandson Jax, and siblings Joanne Phillips, Katie Earls, and Patti Weber. He was preceded in death by parents Larry and Mary Pat Sullivan, and his brother Bernie Sullivan.

A funeral mass will be held. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to St. Elizabeth Foundation at 1 Medical Village Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017.



Jim Brach (above) will be hanging up his tools and selling Brach's Service Center to a new owner. There's so much history with our village's beloved auto repair shop! Brach's in its current location was opened in 2004 by Jim and his late father Bill Brach. The previous location (right) was just to the east at the SW corner of Highlake and Winfield Roads, where the building that houses Berger Bros Pub, Scone House and Caliendo's is located. That shop opened in 1961 where father and son worked side by side. See the full story on page 1.





Fall 2026 Book Sale During Good Old Days

Thursday, September 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Friday, September 11, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Cash and Check Payments Only.
Accepting donations through Thursday, September 10th.



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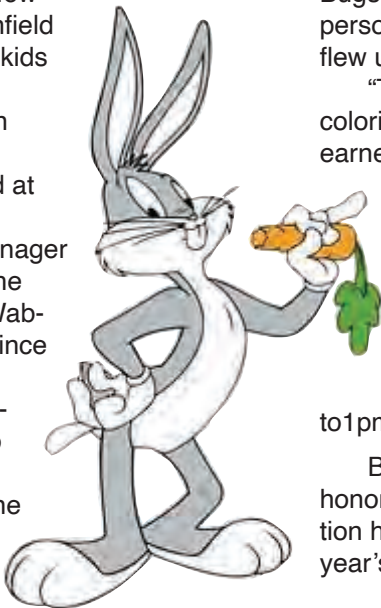
Bugs Celebrates 86th Birthday at Winfield Farmers Market

By Rich Bysina

Who would've thought America's favorite cartoon character would leave his favorite rabbit hole – wherever that is in this country – and travel all the way to Winfield to celebrate his 86th birthday at the Winfield Farmers Market!

But that's exactly what he did on Wednesday, July 22nd, when he spent a few hours hanging out at the Winfield Park District booth, greeting kids and handing out his birthday sheets for them to color, then return them to receive five special Bugs Bucks to spend at any vendor.

According to market manager Rich Bysina, who's exactly the same age as the Wascally Wabbit: "We've been doing this since 2022. Bugs certainly was a welcome, back-to-normal addition to our market after two years of Covid-19-dictated regulations that kept everyone on a cautious health safety alert. And each year we've



notified Warner Bros. of our 'test market' promotional activities ... hoping to not only get its approval, but also to see how we can possibly expand his participation with farmers markets across America.

"The highlight of Bugs participation here was last year, when we celebrated his 85th birthday with a group of kids singing Happy Birthday, Dear Bugs! The surprise of my life was learning that the person inside the costume was my son, Jay, who flew up from Florida for the occasion.

"This year we had a record number of Bugs coloring sheets turned in. The one shown here earned the 7-year-old two extra Bugs Bucks because she added a word balloon: 'I LOVE CARROTS. FOR MY BIRTHDAY I WANT CARROT CAKE.'"

The Winfield Farmers Market is located at the SW corner of Geneva and County Farm Roads in the Prairie Trail Center shopping plaza, open every Wednesday 7am to 1pm from June through October.

By the way...To add some extra star power in honor of America's Semiquincentennial, an invitation has been sent to His Hareness to attend this year's Good Old Days.



See YOU at Good Old Days 2026!

Archive photo of concert attendees at Good Old Days



Good Old Days 2026

We'd like to thank our sponsors who helped make this great weekend happen!

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