



THE WINFIELD GLIMPSES

Celebrating Our Community November-December 2020

Happy Holidays!
See inside for local news, shopping & dining

A Bit of Winfield History

By Patti Weber and Lisa Goodwin

John N. Karwoski, born in 1926, is one of the oldest living born and raised Winfield residents, so naturally when we decided to gather Winfield history, we asked him to share his stories. We interviewed him on November 7, 2020 in a home built in 1848 at the corner of Jewell and County Farm roads in Winfield. When he walked into the kitchen, he told us he used to eat dinner in that very same kitchen when the Wurtz family farmed the land (John Heitz was the homeowner) and he was a child.

His earliest memory is from 1932 when he was in 1st grade at St. John the Baptist Catholic School (SJB). The original schoolhouse stands across the street from today's church. There were two school rooms: the "little room" for 1st - 4th grade, and the "big room" for 5th - 8th grade. A few rode their ponies to school and left the ponies in the barn behind the school. The outhouse was in the back, since there were no indoor bathrooms until approximately 1937. There were seven kids in the class, six boys and only one girl who was Alice Besch. They studied reading, writing, arithmetic, religion, and music.

When kids got older, they learned how to drive by driving farm tractors. John remembers driving his father's Studebaker when he was 12 years old. For summer jobs, the boys helped at local farms, or cut thistle out of the wheat, or in the fall they cut and husked corn; all for \$0.35 per hour. Young girls helped with the household chores, like cooking, baking or sewing.

While John attended SJB, other kids went to Winfield Public School in their one room schoolhouse. At Halloween time, kids from both schools pranked each other by dumping out each other's outhouses!

For summer fun, families were entertained by free Saturday night movies set up on the Elsen property at Jewell and Winfield Roads, sponsored by the local Winfield businesses. John remembers watching many old Westerns and the original Buck Rogers with Buster Crabbe. Local kids played in "the pit" where Caliendo's is now and swam in the DuPage River by the Aurora & Elgin Railroad bridge near Geneva Road.

Another popular gathering site was a lime kiln

near Wynwood Park by today's Public Works, where they had picnics and swam in the river. A lime kiln burned limestone to produce quicklime, which was added to building mortars, plaster and cement among other uses. In the winter, they sledged on toboggans at Boise Hill off Gary's Mill Road, which the Elsen family owned and later sold to the DuPage Forest Preserve.



John N. Karwoski reminisces in the Reyes' home built in 1848.

Almost every town in the area had a local baseball team. In 1936, Winfield had the Winfield Merchants, and the Winfield Boosters. They played where Winfield in Action plays their games now, at Founder's Park on County Farm Road. Almost a hundred years later, sports in Winfield continue to be one of the things that unifies our village with our neighbors.

Local business was characteristic of the times, aside from the multiple taverns who

served a relatively small population. The original tavern owned by the Karwoski's stood near today's Village Hall, while the Elsen family ran a tavern across the street, which later housed John's Buffet. Uncle Vic's was also a local tavern, the Town Tap was on the south side of the railroad tracks, and Bob & Ruby's stood where Cooper's Corner is today.

The local blacksmith stood where Sportsman's Barbershop is, although John remembers it closing in the late 1930s. Kline Creek Farm sometimes has a blacksmithing demonstration if you'd like to witness this impressive skill. Abbott's Garage sold Hudson automobiles where Berger Brothers is now. A greenhouse was located not too far from Winfield Public Library.

When families wanted milk, it was delivered to their homes by Bill Zeier who kept dairy cows. Bill also served as the Station Agent for Northwest Railroad for 40 years and delivered packages that arrived by train.

Before World War II, High Lake Road served as roughly the northern edge of Winfield. The Chicago-Winfield Tuberculosis Sanitarium, now the site of

Central DuPage Hospital, opened in 1909 just outside the Winfield city limits. The Winfield Sanitarium operated until 1962 when tuberculosis became a curable disease, and Central DuPage Hospital purchased the property.

After WWII, residential development started happening, and Fleming Street became the northern border of town. Siefert built many homes. There weren't any major corporations in the local area so many people commuted to downtown Chicago for work, while others worked for the railroad or local governments. There was a local pickle factory in West Chicago and mushroom farm that employed residents, and later locals could work at Thermal-couple on Beecher Avenue.

Mary and John were stationed in Japan in 1949 while John was in the Army from 1948 to 1976. The Korean War started June 26, 1950 and he went off to fight in the war on July 1, 1950. He retired from the Army as Major in 1976.

In 1953, John took over John's Buffet from his parents. They opened the liquor store in 1956. There was a pool hall and ice cream parlor in the basement, along with Len Parr's barbershop when John's parents owned the tavern, but in the late 1950s, the barbershop moved upstairs and they remodeled the basement into the "Circus Room" with swing and dance music. This only lasted for about six years because the basement was needed for storage.

Winfield's first fire department took calls at the Karwoski home and John's Buffet. When someone called the fire department, they dialed number 100. There always had to be someone at home in case the phone rang, and the caller was a resident needing to reach the fire department. John would make the music stop playing when the phone rang, so they could dispatch the volunteer firemen if needed. John was Fire Chief from 1974 to 1988. In the early days, they were paid \$1 per call, but he remembers that going up to \$10 per call.

In the 1970's, John hired musicians to play Dixieland Jazz on Friday and Saturday nights at the tavern because he and wife Mary enjoyed the music. It was different and unique and became quite popular. The trombone player was a nuclear physicist at Fermilab; the clarinet player was an English teacher, the banjo player was a taxicab driver, and the drummer was a tradesman. John's son, also named

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KOC 8002 Heroes Raise Over \$100,000 During Pandemic

By Patti Weber

Our local Knights of Columbus Council 8002 showed ingenuity, grit, and big hearts to not only continue fundraising throughout this pandemic but to exceed their goals and raise over \$100,000 for local charities. They were also awarded Star Council, which recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance, and overall operations.

Their 7th Annual Golf Outing, which is normally held in June near Father's Day, was pushed out to September 25th at Klein Creek Golf Course, and was chaired by Knight Norb Herbert. It was a beautiful day and the golfers enjoyed playing the course, then dined on Chef Tony's delectable slow roasted wood-smoked prime rib dinner. Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Then, the Scholarship Fundraising BBQ dinner, normally held the Thursday evening before Winfield's Good Old Days, was held at The Barn at County Farm and Jewell roads September 19th. Guests listened to rock n' roll performed by Sammy & The Knights and were served hot off the grill ribs, chicken, beef brisket and garden-fresh homemade

The KOC's next fundraiser is a To-Go Fish Fry Dinner which will take place during Advent, the first (3) Fridays in December from 5-7pm.

side dishes such as Ma Brach's cucumber salad. Proceeds benefit local college students.

You probably saw them at the intersection of Highlake and Winfield Roads in October when the KOC donned their safety vests to collect money for the Intellectually Disabled with their Tootsie Roll Drive chaired by Knight Jack Gilhooly. They raised three times what they normally take in with not only the collection but also many local businesses mailed in checks to support this very worthy cause.

Did you know that a beautiful redwood pavilion is going to be built along Winfield's Riverwalk? The KOC are looking forward to bringing this amenity to Winfield residents. The pavilion will be named in memory of one of our most beloved community vol-

unteers, Bill Brach. To raise funds for the pavilion, "Brachtoberfest" was held in early October. Guests feasted on German fare prepared by Chefs Tony and Don (who really stretched their culinary skills) to serve tender and juicy schnitzel, grilled bratwursts, dumplings and gravy, and side dishes donated by friends such as pierogi, German potato salad, fabulous pumpkin bars, double chocolate brownies, and a wide variety of German beers. STK provided entertainment that got the guests up off their chairs and dancing.

A rousing success this year, albeit virtual for many, was the Reverse Raffle chaired by Knight Jeff Lyngaas. Chefs Tony and Don grilled filet mignon wrapped in bacon topped with deep fried onion caps, sauteed green bean almondine, Greek style potato wedges, and a picked fresh from the garden zucchini and squash medley.

The KOC's next fundraiser is a To-Go Fish Fry Dinner which will take place during Advent, the first (3) Fridays in December from 5-7pm. Walk up orders accepted but best to contact Sean ahead of time with your order at 630-835-8225. Let him know if you want the fish fry; fried shrimp; Chef Tony's famous spaghetti and meatballs; fish tacos; or pizza. Your dinner will be packaged and ready to go when you pull up to Sebahar Hall.

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2021 Winfield Centennial Torch Relay

By Rich Bysina

To kick off the year-long celebration of the 2021 Winfield Centennial, there will be a community involved event that will take place approximately two hours before the year 2021 actually begins...a Torch Relay. According to Torch Relay coordinator, Rich Bysina: "Sometime after 10 p.m., Thursday, December 31st (New Year's Eve), several Winfield residents will take turns, carrying and passing along to one another a solar flame torch, walking a section of Winfield. It will start at Village Hall, escorted by a Winfield Police Department vehicle, move north to Geneva Road, turn back south along County Farm Road, through neighborhood streets, crossing the tracks, moving as far south as Manchester Road, then back north along Winfield Road until it ends where it began, at Village Hall. The Relay Torch itself will then be mounted, exactly at the stroke of midnight, Friday, January 1st, 2021, on one of the columns on the Village grounds. As soon as the Relay Torch is mounted, the Winfield Centennial logo banner will be officially unveiled at the archway."

Winfield History

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John, took over in 1988, remodeled the liquor store in 1995 and opened the restaurant (or the "new side" as some called it) until it closed in 2017.

Another business founded by John along with Jack High and Jim Knippen, was the Bank of Winfield in 1967. They offered shares for \$10 a share to all Winfield residents. Some people were apprehensive and turned down the opportunity, perhaps because John was also the owner of a local bar. John was a Director of the bank from 1967-1992. In 1993, it was purchased by Bank of Detroit and changed names. It was then was purchased by First Chicago, then Bank One, then Chase Bank which it is now.

Winfield residents, young and old, are needed and encouraged to participate in this unique, fun, and historic late-night event.

These are the only two segments filled: 1) Jim Brach will begin the Torch Relay, in memory of his father, Bill Brach, walking the distance between Village Hall and his Brach's Service Center on High Lake Road; and 2) John Karwoski, Jr., will end the Torch Relay, walking the distance where John's Buffet / John's Restaurant & Tavern was located for more than 90 years at the corner of Winfield and Jewell roads.

The Torch Relay route is still undergoing some neighborhood street revisions as of this writing. Essentially the route is as follows: North on Winfield Road to Providence Lane ... to Concord Lane ... to Geneva Road, where it will pass through the Prairie Trail Center shopping plaza to County Farm Road ... south to Winfield Scott Drive ... winding southward through several residential streets until it meets Jewell Road ... west back to Winfield Road ... cross the tracks to Beecher Avenue, east to Church Street ... south on Church to Sunnyside Avenue ... east to Madison Street ... south to Manchester Road ... west to Forest Street ... back north to Sunnyside ... east back once again to Winfield Road ... and north to return to Village Hall. What happens at this point is dependent on both the weather conditions of the moment, and the pandemic health guidelines of the season. As Bysina says, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event for Winfield and its residents, and there has to be, however brief or long, some sort of

memorable toast and celebration."

For further information or participation inquiries, Bysina can be reached at sezwhorich@gmail.com or 630-408-3712.



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Back in the day, you would sit on the sun deck to cure what ailed you. Today their methods are a bit more modern.

- Winfield Centennial Kick-off Torch Relay – December 31, 2020 from 10:30pm-12:00am
- KOC Basketball Free Throw Contest – January 10 (tentative)
- Lions Club Super Bowl Raffle – January 24
- SJB Catholic School Open House – January 26 (virtual)
- Daddy/Daughter dance at WPD – February 19
- KOC To-Go Pancake Breakfast First Sunday of each Month – February 7 and March 7
- CCW Spring Bazaar – February 27 - 28
- WPD Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt – March 26
- WPD Bunny Deliveries – March 27



< CENTENNIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE > (preliminary)

- SJB Easter Egg Hunt – April 3
- Village of Winfield Incorporation – April 18
- Weekly Farmer's Market (Wednesdays from June through October)
- Riverwalk Phase 1 Dedication July (actual date TBA)
- Intelligentsia Cup – July 18
- Tour de Winfield Bike Ride – August 1
- Winfield Foundation Golf Outing – August 13
- Winfield Good Old Days – September 10-12
- Winfield Centennial Cider 5K Run – October 16
- Halloween Haunted Cemetery Tour – October 31
- Fashion Show – December 11

Please visit www.winfield100th.com regularly for Centennial Celebration events and sponsorship opportunities and updates. Like our Facebook page for news: www.facebook.com/winfield100th. Questions? Contact: Deb Moran (630) 471-4962 or winfield100th@gmail.com

Village Centennial Planning Continues

By Phil Hardy
(Winfield Foundation Board Member)

With less than two months until Winfield enters its Centennial, resident volunteers and elected officials continue to plan for a variety of events to commemorate the founding of the Village. Winfield's official Incorporation is April 18. The Marketing and Communications Commission (MCC) is working with the Centennial Task Force and many other organizations on designs for the year. Members of these groups are reaching out to Winfield businesses to develop special promotions and happenings for the year. They continue to seek volunteers and local artisans to help.

Many "signature" events are under consideration for throughout the year. These include a New Year's Eve Torch Relay, the Intelligentsia Bike Race, a 100 years of fashion trends Fashion Show, the Cider Run fall 5k, a Lions Club Super Bowl Raffle, a Knights of Columbus Free Throw Tournament and the Tour de Winfield trail bike ride. The Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce, which is partnering with the village for the centennial, intends to sponsor trolley rides for the day of the Intelligentsia races. Community organizations such as the Lion's Club, the Knights and the Chamber are actively contributing. The newly established Winfield Foundation is sponsoring the Intelligentsia Cup and will be working to offer regular community events for the Centennial. The Winfield Park District will be offering themed events. Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital is providing financial support, and the Village has also set aside funds to help with costs and planning.

A website, www.Winfield100th.com, is being developed and will launch before the beginning of 2021. Residents are encouraged to check this website, as well as the official village website, for information about events, planning and volunteer opportunities.

To sign up to volunteer for centennial planning or to sponsor an event, email winfield100th@gmail.com, reach out on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/winfield100th or call Deb Moran at (630) 471-4962.



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Village of Winfield Winds of Change

By Kathe Doremus

As most who live in our little Village know, the past few months have brought many changes to our Village Board and the winds of change continue to blow through our town bringing the potential for many positives our way. The long-awaited agreement with Northwestern Medicine/CDH and the Village was finalized in October with the promise of development in Town Center and tremendous fi-

nancial support – in excess of \$95,000,000 – for the Village for years going forward. As we drive through our Town Center and to Roosevelt Road, we can already see changes happening with the construction of Winfield Station apartments where Winfield Fuel and Materials sat for so many years, and the Bucky's Gas Station that will be built on the Southwest corner of Winfield and Roosevelt. The Village has also approved construction of a 10-unit apartment building on Winfield Road just south of Creekside Park and a building where John's Buffet stood for so long – with space for both retail and offices.

The Winfield Riverwalk has been a great source of enjoyment for so many through this past year and many positive comments have been heard from both residents and non-residents, walking, running or biking on the path from Geneva to Highlake Rd. Phase 1 construction is on-going and the projected completion date is July of 2021. As noted in the KOC article by Patti on page 1, there will be a gorgeous redwood pavilion built along the Riverwalk

and named after Bill Brach. Phase 2 will bring a bandshell that will offer opportunities for various events in the heart of our downtown with the financial support of \$1,000,000 from NM/CDH and this portion of the Riverwalk is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2022.

I spoke with two members of the current Village Board – Dennis Hogan and Carl Sorgatz (others contacted had not responded in time for writing of this article), and both are looking forward to some very positive things happening in Winfield going forward in conjunction with the hospital and other community support, despite the changes in the Board anticipated with the upcoming election in April. While both expressed concern for businesses due to Covid-19, and stated the importance of supporting our local businesses, especially our restaurants and other small entities during this difficult time – they also see the tremendous potential we have in Winfield as a result of the partnership with the hospital, which may help minimize the long term effects of the current times and also offers tremendous potential for the future economic growth of the Village.

With the resignation of two Trustees and the declaration of Eric Spande to not run again, there are seats open for this April's election and to date, intent to run has been expressed by a few people that have the potential to bring diversity, positivity, and a new array of talent and skill sets to our Village government. While the commitment of time and dedication by the current Village President and prior trustees is appreciated by the Village residents, change can be good and a Board that works well together with shared vision and goals can mean great things for the future of the Village. Let us all hope that whoever is elected brings the willingness to work respectfully together, using adversity and differing opinions in a positive way – to achieve results that benefit the community as a whole.

For those of us who reside in Winfield, these are exciting times and despite the hardship being wrought by Covid-19, there are good things that are continuing to happen for this little Village. Our Town Center is growing and will finally become a location

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Holidays 2020 – A Year Like No Other

By Kathe Doremus

The time has changed and dark falls upon us earlier each day. Despite a week of 70 plus weather, winter is upon us – November is speeding by and the holiday season is now beginning as the COVID-19 numbers rapidly accelerate – many of us are wondering and worrying about how this most magical time of the year will look when family and friends are unable to gather, shopping for gifts may be difficult due to social distancing and financial insecurity – leaving seasonal cheer a bigger struggle than any of us have ever before faced. Yet, with all these clouds, we have an opportunity to find/create a bright side. Now, as never before, we must count our blessings and strive to put the sparkle in the season because never before, have we needed it so much! So here, I will don my most festive “Holiday Hat” and present some random thoughts to help inspire, encourage, and brighten the days that lie ahead for the next month and a half!

❄️ **Christmas cards**, a dwindling custom through the years – with busy schedules, rising postage rates and access to social media so convenient. Perhaps, just perhaps – this is the year to reach out and embrace this medium once again with a card (bought or homemade), a handwritten note, perhaps a letter letting those who care for you know you are thinking of them and are surviving. Something personal and directly to the people you want to stay close to – who doesn’t feel better when they receive “real mail” – what a wonderful way to spread a little cheer and touch those near and far.

❄️ **Holiday Decorating!!!** When I was a child, it was a family tradition to all get in the car and drive around looking at the decorated houses in various neighborhoods. This year, more than ever, we need to establish traditions and bring brightness and joy into our lives. Gather with just your immediate family or make it an extended family event – make a train of cars driving through destinations known to be festive, gaudy, breathtaking, awe-inspiring – and remember, once more, the joy of being a child and seeing the lights of the season. The City of West Chicago is having a contest for decorating homes – and there are places in the Chicago-metro area that go all out at this time of year – enjoy and make it a special family memory.

❄️ **Virtual adventures!** While most parades and municipal tree lighting events are being cancelled, the last few years have brought many different holiday “events” – Morton Arboretum, Klein Creek Farm, Cosley Park, Cantigny, local park districts, both Brookfield and Lincoln Park Zoos, the Chicago Botanic Garden – a multitude of places are planning virtual or drive-through events this year for families to be able to go out and enjoy the season with safety and social distancing a priority.

❄️ **Holiday shopping** – think small, think local, think outdoors! There are holiday open air markets and festivals all over the area you can visit to get your holiday fix if you are willing to bundle up in a coat, hat, and mask. Support the small businesses in local communities – there are so many small, unique places to be found in downtown areas, including Winfield, where you will not be dealing with crowds or lines – and you just might find something perfect for those people most difficult to buy for on your list. A multitude of events are posted to Facebook and the *Daily Herald* and local municipalities also promote these events – with a little digging, you can book your late November/December solid!

❄️ **Create your own events** by bringing back old traditions – wander your neighborhood Christmas caroling (or playing loud Christmas music if you can’t sing, as is the case with me) and beg for a cup of hot chocolate or a little bit of hot cider to keep you warm. Build a bonfire and gather with small

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Happy Holidays

From the Winfield Historical Society!
Stay safe and see you in 2021!

❄️❄️❄️ Merry Christmas...from Winfield Glimpses ❄️❄️❄️



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Merry Christmas from The Barber Shoppe



Holidays 2020

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groups of friends, family or neighbors. Just because the summer has waned, we do not have to be alone and the outdoors still offers us the opportunity to enjoy the company of people we love – share stories, laughter, silliness, hope.

❁ **Learn to find joy within** – on your own. Go to a park and walk around and learn to appreciate the beauty of winter – while I am personally a fan of a white winter wonderlands, the starkness of the trees on a clear and starry winter night can be awe-inspiring too. We in Winfield, are fortunate to be in close proximity to wooded paths – these can present opportunities to walk, snowshoe, cross country ski – day or night, in solitude or small family groups.

❁ **Find ways to gather with family** in small groups – should we have snow, build a snowman, go sledding, have a snowball fight – run outdoors and teach your children that there are ways to play OUTSIDE, even in the dead of winter. Watch Christmas movies together – there are so very many – sit, as a family, with popcorn and warm drinks and truly enjoy! Share memories of Christmas/holiday celebrations – gather on Facetime, Zoom, or however you can gather. Let this time bring you closer as you build new memories for the future and relive those shared times of joy that live in your heart.

Winfield Changes

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that we can be proud of with thriving businesses and opportunities for community to gather and enjoy our own little locale. We have achieved a long sought-after partnership with NM/CDH, who also happens to be the largest employer in our community and that partnership will be providing immediate financial relief and development and opportunities to build on their reputation and visibility in the community for long term benefit of our town. While governing of any sort is always a challenge, each election cycle brings the freshness and opportunity for new ideas and collaboration. This is a time for Winfield to rally in support of the residents and the local businesses and promote a positive image of who we are and where we are going – a time to celebrate our little Village that we call home, Winfield Strong.



Earn \$10 refer a friend credit!



Online registration begins on
December 1, 2020

Live virtual Q&A session
Feb. 2nd, 7 - 9 pm
www.winfieldinaction.org/zoom

In person registration dates for
tball*, baseball* and softball*

★	Jan 12th, 2021	6 - 8 pm	★
★	Feb. 6th, 2021	9 - 11 am	★

at the Winfield Park District

*All programs in compliance with IDPH guidelines just like 2020 season

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Sat 9:30-4:30

Sun 1:00-4:30

*only seniors and immune-suppressed
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- * Chips & Pretzels Also in Gluten-free
- * Salsas & Dips
- * Energy Drinks
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- * Chocolate!!!
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- * Dried Fruit
- * Beef Sticks and Jerky



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