



# THE WINFIELD GLIMPSES

Celebrating Our Community

Autumn 2021



## The Higgins Family: Five Generations of Service to Winfield

By Ellen Manyon

For five generations, the Higgins family has brought ingenuity, community service and life sustaining resources to Winfield; and it all began with Van Rennselaer Higgins (1807-1873), who purchased 40 acres of land in Winfield Township in 1844. He paid \$1.25 per acre.

Gilbert Higgins (1833-1890), son of Van Rennselaer, began working as a laborer on his father's farm in Bloomingdale, IL. In 1854 Gilbert married Cornelia Howarth and they had eight children. Gilbert also worked as a mechanic repairing threshing machines for farmers and the boiler for the local Mueller Creamery.

Gilbert served his community as the Postmaster of Winfield in 1882. Then he started his gravel hauling business that laid the groundwork for the family's future coal and materials business. This six-foot tall man is buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Wheaton.

Sanders Higgins (1866-1908), Gilbert's son, initially worked as a ticket agent for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Later he served as Justice of the Peace, School Director, and Postmaster of Winfield. In 1889 he married Barbara Klein Berkes and they had nine children.

To support his expanding family, Sanders leased a general store from William Fehman in 1894. The store was located at the northwest corner of Beecher and Church streets in Winfield. The site had previously served as the place where John Collins and Michael Dieter opened a lumberyard and grocery store in 1857.

Sanders and Barbara Higgins did so well with their business that they built a large frame house at the southwest corner of Beecher and Park streets. This Winfield showplace featured an extensive library of poetry books that Sanders loved to read to his children every Saturday night. Unfortunately, Sanders died suddenly at the age of 42 in 1908. He is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Winfield.



The Higgins General Store, ca. 1896. Photo courtesy of Winfield Historical Society



Sanders and Barbara Higgins  
Photos courtesy of Winfield Historical Society

His wife Barbara carried on with raising the children and running the general store. Her children, George, Richard and Antoinette, helped to manage the store. In 1919, Barbara Higgins purchased the

store instead of continuing to lease it. In time, she became known as Winfield's beloved "Grandma Higgins" because of her kindness in taking items of trade for store merchandise when times were tough during the 1930s Depression. George Francis Higgins (1891-1966) initially ran the coal part of the family's business from the counter inside their general store. In 1912, he

coal to keep Winfield homes warm. As George Higgins and Tom Saylor developed the coal business, George's brother Richard Matthew Higgins (1902-1980) helped to expand the family's general store business. He created a meat counter and a cooler for expanded food service. Richard served as the store's butcher until it closed

founded the Winfield Coal Company. Two years later, he married Lena Schmidt. George served as the first Village Clerk of Winfield in 1921. By 1938, he moved the coal business to an area near the southwest corner of Winfield Road and the Union Pacific West railroad line. He also served as a member of the Winfield Fire Department and the Knights of Columbus. George's son Roger and daughter Laurene helped out at the coal business before and during World War II, respectively. In 1947, the name of the business changed to Winfield Coal & Material Company. The company expanded to include a warehouse for sand, gravel, heating oil and building materials to satisfy the great postwar building boom.

In 1951, Laurene's husband, Thomas Saylor, joined the coal business. As a graduate of Northwestern Business college, Saylor contributed greatly to the expansion of the business. By 1954 he changed the name to Winfield Fuel & Material Company to reflect the rise in use of heating fuel instead of

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## Modern Day Winfield Starts in the 1970s

By Lisa Goodwin

Winfield, and the larger DuPage County, experienced significant changes in the 1970s. According to the 1980 census, the growth in the DuPage County population from the 70s decade was one of the largest county population growths in the northern US. The population growth of Winfield lagged by a decade, growing 60.5% by the 1990 census, but many features of the town got their start in the seventies.

In the 1970s around Winfield, many areas remained unincorporated, outside of Village limits. For many households at the time, there were limited benefits to incorporating into the Village limits. However, according to Winfield's: "a good old days: a history" and courtesy of Kevin Schramer's Winfielder blog, we can see that the 1970s brought some familiar places to the town. The Winfield Public school building opened late in 1972, the Chase bank building in 1973, and the Fire Station on High Lake opened in early 1974. Winfield in Action also formed in 1972, bringing many organized sports to town.

By 1974, Winfield had already changed dramatically. Frank's Finer Foods and the Viking Steak House were popular businesses, Winfield Fuel and Material built a new building and the Winfield Square shopping center opened. The current Village Hall was purchased in 1976, and Winfield expanded the commuter parking lot.

In the area, Fox Valley Mall opened in 1975, and Stratford Square Mall in Bloomingdale opened in 1981. Fermilab opened in 1973, bringing world-class physicists and their families to the area. This led to the

growth of a technology corridor along I-88 (which was called I-5 back then) like AT&T Bell Labs, Abbott Labs, and Argonne, along with the nearby Carol Stream industrial park.

The Winfield Library Association had begun raising funds in 1964 with the hopes of acquiring a permanent building, and in July 1978 the Library purchased the property where the Library stands today. The building opened in June of 1982, an event I remember attending.

Joe and Claire Jedlovec were significant con-



A state of the art new ambulance in 1975.

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# Centennial Cider 5K Run— Saturday, October 16th

This will be a beautiful 3.1 Mile Run/Walk that is 98% on the new River Walk Path in Winfield. The course winds along the DuPage River for 1.5 miles, turns around and finishes at the trail head where participants can enjoy regular cider and Hard Cider for those over 21! Fun post-race celebration with great SWAG and food. A commemorative Centennial Cider Run long sleeve technical shirt will be given to all run participants. There will also be a kid friendly 1 mile run/walk after completion of the 5K.

**Race day registration and packet pick up will open at 7:30 AM**

**5K & 1 Mile Start: 9:00 AM**

**Award Ceremony: 10:15 AM (or when last person crosses the finish line!)**

**All finishers in the 1 Mile run/walk will receive a finisher ribbon!**

Registration Link: <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/47369/winfield-centennial-cider-run>.  
Contact Julie at [racetime21@hotmail.com](mailto:racetime21@hotmail.com) with any questions.



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 Patti Weber, Editor  
 P.O. Box 286, Winfield, IL 60190

# Casey's Gas Station Nears Construction

What was once to be a Bucky's Gas and Convenience station on the southwest corner of Winfield and Roosevelt Roads is now going to be a Casey's station, convenience center and car wash. Casey's parent company purchased Bucky's several months ago after significant delays caused by federal guidelines on the purchase of the chain. The village was in negotiations with Casey's about some design adjustments to the building but in the end all differences were settled and the building is essentially the same elevation and design as the

original Bucky's that had been approved. The major difference had to do with a change to the dining and kitchen spaces needed for a pizza kitchen.

At the August 19, 2021 Village Board meeting a representative for Casey's joined the meeting via a videoconference call and updated the board on the new construction timeline. Pavement and concrete are expected to be poured before Thanksgiving and once this is completed, the facility will be constructed over subsequent months.



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# Winfield Library Features Centennial Programs

The Winfield Library is excited to continue its Centennial celebration through a series of virtual programs this fall. All programs require registration at "winfield.evanced.info".

Kevin Davis presents another program on St. James Farm, this time focusing on Chauncey McCormick. "The Other McCormick of DuPage: Chauncey McCormick of St. James Farm" takes place on Thursday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This presentation on Col. McCormick's cousin reviews the life, times and accomplishments of the owner of St. James Farm. Chauncey lived in the shadows of his famous cousin. Kevin will shed light on this little-known philanthropist, art collector and Chicago businessman who was an ardent outspoken critic of the Roosevelt New Deal during the Great Depression.

Erik Spande, President of the Illinois Prairie Path, presents "When a Pebble Starts an Avalanche: the Origins of the Illinois Prairie Path and What the IPP Means to Us Today" on Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m via Zoom. The Illinois Prairie Path has been an integral part of Winfield for decades. It is a multi-use nature trail for non-motorized public use. It spans approximately 61 miles in Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties in northeastern Illinois. A former right-of-way for the old Chicago Aurora & Elgin electric railroad, it was the first U.S. rail-to-trail conversion in the nation in the 1960's. The IPP was conceived of and built by volunteers, who through

grit and determination overcame all obstacles. Erik shares the legacy of the vision of the IPP's founders and volunteers and the urban infrastructure that we all enjoy today, promoting health and wellness, a connection to the environment, and the economic vitality of our region.

Our Winfield Centennial Concert takes place on Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. via YouTube. Matt and Cynthia Gruel present "Flappers and Fedoras! Songs of the Roaring 20s." They make the Flapper Age come alive musically through tunes like "It Had to Be You," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Puttin' on the Ritz" and many more! Hear fascinating stories about Prohibition, Al Capone, Fats Waller, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Zelda Fitzgerald and Chicago in the 20's. Grab a mug and cut a rug, I mean the joint is jumpin'.

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Local historian Dr. Robert Greer is the expert on Gary's Mill Road. He presents his signature program "A History of Gary's Mill Road" on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Let's celebrate our heritage and learn about our connection to the Gilded Age of the late 19th century. Dr. Greer will also promote his new Winfield history book "A Place to Discover."

All programs are featured in the Library newsletter and on our Facebook page. Visit [www.winfield.lib.il.us](http://www.winfield.lib.il.us) or contact us at [wfdstaff@winfield.lib.il.us](mailto:wfdstaff@winfield.lib.il.us) for more information.



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- we are holding a frame design contest with prizes!
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# Winfield Criterium and Summerfest Exceeds Expectations

By Phil Hardy

Winfield's inaugural Criterium and Summerfest attracted hundreds, maybe a few thousand, visitors who enjoyed the festivities and internationally recognized Intelligentsia Cup races throughout the day. Eight food trucks, offering everything from lobster wraps to funnel cakes, set up in the main food area of the festival – the parking lot of Winfield School, with the staging and start/finish lines for the races along nearby Winfield Road. Competitors from around the United States and other

parts of the world participated in races, many as members of professional cycling teams. Large sponsor banners dotted much of Winfield Road for what organizers hope will be a new summer tradition in the village.

Visitors took in not only the professional races, but also had the chance to participate in a community ride of the course, which ran from Winfield Road to Beecher, up Summit, and back around along Gary's Mill Road. Young riders were offered bike decorating kits, and a steady stream of kids took advantage of the complimentary professional face

painting and balloon artist. A free trolley service ran from the main festival location to and from the vintage car show near Walgreen's and the historical reenactment of the village's 1921 founding near the Hedge's Station Historical Museum.

As music jammed, cyclists flew by spectators at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour, with a convertible Ford Mustang carrying VIP passengers and serving as the event's pace car. FM Radio's 95.9 The River was on hand to promote the festival, which was made possible by generous financial support from multiple sponsors, including Winfield businesses and Northwestern Medicine. The

Winfield Foundation organized the event, led by the efforts of Village President Carl Sorgatz, event support from village staff and the Winfield Police Department, and dozens of resident volunteers. The Winfield Lion's Club hosted a beer and beverage tent that served many thirsty spectators.



WINFIELD CRITERIUM AND SUMMERFEST 2021

## WINFIELD CENTENNIAL FASHION SHOW

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CLOTHING

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Saturday, December 11, 2021

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Klein Creek Golf Club

Fashion is a mirror of the times and trends come and go. Enjoy a live band while getting an exclusive look into the past 100 years. See how fashion was influenced by history. Each decade will showcase couture designs from Choate Studio, a Winfield based mother daughter team that create custom garments. Engage in a silent auction during the hors d'oeuvre hour before the show begins. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime celebration of Winfield's Centennial.

Front Row \$50  
General Admission \$40



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PV2 Madelyn Goodale successfully completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC before entering AIT (Advanced Individual Training) at Fort Sill, OK. During AIT she achieved several leadership positions, including platoon guide and student leader, and was selected for her battery's PT (Physical Training) competition team which won the Battalion PT Competition. Madelyn graduated AIT on July 29 and will serve in the Army National Guard as a 13F, Fire Support Specialist (Forward Observer). She is a second-generation FO and third generation service member: her father, Mike Goodale, served as an FO in the U.S. Army 3rd Ranger Battalion, and her grandfather, Eugene Goodale served in the US Air Force. Madelyn will serve in the National Guard while attending Bowling Green State University in Ohio.



Gordon Behr completed Officer Candidate School at Quantico, VA in August and is now a 2nd Lieutenant for the Marines.



Photos, top to bottom: Madelyn Goodale with her parents at Fort Jackson, SC; Gordon Behr in training and posing proudly at Quantico, VA.

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# Higgins Family

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in 1956, which is the same year that Winfield celebrated "Barbara Higgins Day" on June 27th. 86-year-old Barbara Higgins was highly honored for her many years of service to the community with an extensive town picnic.

Barbara's son, Richard went on to serve as the Winfield Town Assessor and he worked for the DuPage County Highway department. Richard and his wife Leona had four children, all of whom have cute nicknames: David (Skip), Michael (Buzz), Sandra (Honey), and Bruce (Bunk).

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with David "Skip" Higgins and reminisce about his life in Winfield. This trim and sharp 90-year-old told me he first went to work for his Uncle George as a young boy at the coal company. Then at the tender age of 20, David Higgins went off to serve in the Korean War. He became an E-5 staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

When David returned from the war in 1955, he began working for the Winfield Fuel & Material company. He also joined the Winfield fire department and he eventually became the Fire Chief. In 1956, he married Alice Pattermann and they had three children: Rebecca, Denise and Michele.

During the spring and summers of his boyhood, David described how he enjoyed picking fresh watercress that grew near an old spring fed lime kiln on the DuPage River. With a twinkle in his eyes, David spoke fondly of playing competitive softball with the Winfield team.

In the wintertime, David would ice skate with the "Gay Blades"

on the DuPage River. Then with a low, mischievous look, he confessed that he used the springs off of a screen door to create home-made snow skis and a toboggan. At Christmas time, the Higgins family sold fresh cut pine trees stacked against the exterior wall of their general store. David warmed his hands by the open fire pit as he quickly sold out of the Christmas trees.

David's favorite memory of life in Winfield was the fire department's fund-raising festival held behind the old firehouse in the good old summertime. There were carnival rides, raffles for great prizes including a new Chevrolet, yummy baked goods from the Ladies Auxiliary and lots of children's games.

The Big Stakes games took place when the afternoon heat would reach its peak. The firemen would begin to hoist up empty beer barrels with cables. With the beer barrels dangling overhead, the firemen squared off in opposing lines. Then with their fire hoses hooked up to a large water tank, the fun would begin. The firemen would raise their water gushing hoses up to the barrels and try to push the barrels over to their opponents' side in order to win. Well needless to say, everyone got soaked! Then the dripping wet crowd would head over to the libations station and slowly ease into a mirthful soft twilight.



Left: The Higgins home, ca. 1903. Photo courtesy of Winfield Historical Society. Right: Dave "Skip" Higgins on his homemade toboggan. Courtesy of the Higgins family.



The Tony Reyes Family Foundation is partnering with Sammy and the Knights to stage a Rock 'n Roll concert on **Saturday, October 9th at 4:00pm**, at the After Life Music Hall at the Brauer House in Lombard with proceeds benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.



Single Tickets Purchased in advance  
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# Winfield in Action's Comeback Kids

By Paul Johnson

The Winfield Majors (7th/8th grade) softball team, the Racers, celebrated a 13-0 undefeated season this summer, and capped it off with an extraordinary win at the championship game on June 27th at Atten Park in Wheaton.

In that final game, the Racers were down 7-11 in the bottom of the final inning. Consecutive hits loaded up the bases for Mara Fenney, who hit a game-tying Grand Slam. Two hits later, Tori Crowley hit an RBI single to win the game.

It was a remarkable growth story for the girls. After all, just the year before, the same girls could only muster a 1-7 record in the same league. A core contingent of seven girls were together in 2017 in the AA league (3rd/4th grade), where they also won a championship under coaches Amanda Woods and Phil Shields. However, after that season they lost a lot of talent to travel softball teams. They spent the next 4 years rebuilding.

Last year, coaches Paul Johnson and Dutch Van Rossum exhausted all of the resources Winfield

had to offer. They had a significant focus on weekly batting cage work at Wynwood Park during the season, and preseason indoor training with batting cages at the Charles R. Beggs Activity Center.

Prior to this season, none of these Racers had ever hit a home run. In their first game this year, they hit three home runs! All that batting practice finally paid off, and their season successes grew with each game.

As a bonus this year, players were able to enjoy the newly renovated East St. Park, featuring FieldTurf artificial playing surface. In fact, the Racers found sliding on this field so fun, they started a tradition after each victory of lining up at 3rd base and sprinting and sliding into home plate. And their fans were able to enjoy the games without dealing with the usual dust storms.

For 9 of these girls, this marks the end to WIA sports. What a phenomenal and memorable way to finish! Be sure to cheer them on during the Good Old Days Parade when they march with the trophy in hand!



Back Row (L to R) Kylee Gosling, Tori Crowley, Vivian Johnson, Grace Ekstrand, Mara Fenney, Isabelle Mackintosh; Front Row (L to R) Isabella Lam, Delaney Hamilton, Ellie Van Rossum, Morgan Uhler, Katie Smyth.

# Wacky Winfield Addresses

Have you ever wondered where the strange Winfield addresses come from? How many times have you been asked to confirm that your address is really correct? Sometimes you just have to promise the sender that your post office really does know where you live.

Those addresses are not unique to Winfield. Unincorporated DuPage County still uses them, as they were created by Harold Dunton, assistant Milton Township supervisor in either 1952 or 1953. Many areas of the county that were later incorporated kept their addresses.

The base line for east west addresses was State Street in downtown Chicago, and north south was Madison Street. Heading west from State Street, the addresses progress in miles – 26W, 27W, 28W, etc. If you live on an east-west street, you can tell how many miles you live from State Street.

Similarly, Madison is the north south boundary. If you live on a north-south street and are under one mile north of Madison if it were extended out to Winfield, your address begins with an eternally confusing 0N, which is a zero and not the letter O. You will be forever explaining that you have not put the word 'on' in front of your address. Addresses south of the Madison line start with 0S.

Once you understand the numbering, it's a fairly useful system!



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# Word on the Winfield Streets

Carol at the Farmer's Market said she loves the community feel, Farmer's Market, Good Old Days, Criterium, and seeing people she knows around town.



Dave at the Farmer's Market said he loves that it's a great small hometown, Farmer's Market, Good Old Days including the parade, bands, and car show. His kids loved Winfield school.



In honor of Winfield's Centennial, we asked some folks, "What do you love about Winfield?"

Kyung from Tower Cleaners said she likes this area, the people are nice. People who come into her shop are happy. She also likes the parks and bike routes. "I love this town, everyone's my friend!" around town.



Lynn at the Winfield Criterium said she loves the community feeling, not a lot of traffic, and running into people she grew up while taking a walk.



Dan at the Winfield Criterium said he loves the sense of community, small town living, friendly neighbors who help each other out, and everybody waves to each other.



# Gratitude from The Winfield Education Foundation

By Eileen Tibble and Debbie Krygowski

The Winfield Education Foundation (WEF) and District 34 Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) are grateful to all those helping us serve our community over the past year. Thanks to the generosity of business sponsors, donors and volunteers, we found new ways to connect with our community and to support students and families, staff, local businesses and organizations. We created an essential needs fund to help families in crisis and provided pandemic learning supports. We recognized and celebrated our staff and students, first responders, and assisted living facility staff and residents. We held free Cook's Night Outs to promote restaurants, shared news from local businesses, promoted unique partnerships between school and businesses, and created a Winfield To-Go Facebook group (now re-launching as Winfield Local). We also began hosting community blood drives with Versiti Blood Center.

This fall, we will continue to support our community through initiatives including:

**Blood Drives** – help us be "stronger together" by filling this urgent need for live-saving blood in Winfield. Sign Up on our website for 9/30, 3:30-7pm in Central School Gym. Ages 16+

**Essential Needs Fund** – student academic achievement requires first having basic needs met. Thanks to all those donating to our school supply drive, we are ensuring that all students in Winfield are set up for success. Initiatives for our vulnerable families will continue throughout the year.

**Student Directory and Playbill ads** – ad space in our directory and drama production playbill lets us raise awareness of businesses while benefiting local students! As last year, we extend this offer FREE during the pandemic, asking for a small donation only if a business is able to do so. Suggested donation: \$25 for directory; \$15 for playbill; \$35 for both. Email us to reserve your directory ad by 9/25 and playbill ad by 2/3!

**Family Trivia Game** – On Sunday 9/12 at 4pm at Good Old Days, bring the family for an Epic Trivia Challenge to decide who holds the most useless knowledge in Winfield! Hosted by our very own Silver Foxes 'n Rich of "Trivia Night" fame! Look for details at the Good Old Days website/Facebook or the WEF website.

See our website for details on these initiatives, which are possible because of your generous support. We are proud to recognize our community partners through our websites, social media, and district communications.

### WEF is extremely grateful for last year's premier business partners:

- Generations Tool and Manufacturing
- FGM Architects
- Lions Panzek Martial Arts
- Race Time, Inc
- Manbot Coffee Roasters
- Brooks, Tarulis, & Tibble, LLC
- H&R Block, Michael Michelin
- The Barber Shoppe of Winfield
- The Silver Foxes 'n Rich (Trivia MCs)
- Blue Frost Heating & Cooling
- Carol Stream Animal Hospital

We invite you to get involved and welcome your ideas of ways to support the Winfield community. Find us at: Web: [wef.winfield34.org](http://wef.winfield34.org); Email: [wef@winfield34.org](mailto:wef@winfield34.org); Facebook: [www.facebook.com/winfield34.org](http://www.facebook.com/winfield34.org); [www.facebook.com/W34EdFoundation/](http://www.facebook.com/W34EdFoundation/) & [facebook.com/groups/winfieldiltogo/](http://facebook.com/groups/winfieldiltogo/).



is a non-profit 501(c)(3) established in 2020 as an independent Winfield organization to facilitate and provide support for initiatives that may include a variety of educational and entertainment events as directed by the Board to benefit Winfield residents.

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# Modern Day Winfield

continued from page 1

tributors to Winfield in these years. Claire Jedlovec was the Village Clerk from 1960-1977, issuing permits, licenses, collecting police fines, sending water bills, and handling lost animals. Claire also answered questions on property taxes, voter registration, handled vehicle and gun registrations, assisted with income tax forms. It seems like one extremely competent woman ran the entire village administration in the 1970s.

Joe Jedlovec, Sr. was the Water and Sewer Dept Superintendent, then Superintendent of Public Works, a member of the first volunteer Winfield Fire Department and the founder and first president of the Winfield Boys Baseball Association. In his office at Village Hall, Joe also had a collection of Indian artifacts, part of a skull and jawbone, a mastodon tooth and an assortment of bottles and mason jars. He was awarded Man of the Year in 1970.

In 1978, the Village was interested in expanding Village Hall and wanted to demolish the original 1849 railroad depot, which at the time served as the residence of the Besch family. The Winfield Historical Society was formed to save Hedges Station, named in honor of John Hedges, the first stationmaster. The move took place in August 1981 in cooperation with the Winfield Park District. The current museum, which now stands at 0n557 Winfield Rd, was restored with old architectural plans and salvaged lumber. Spending an afternoon there is highly recommended!

The changes weren't easy however, as Winfield has always been embroiled in zoning arguments. The 1970s decade saw several proposals for housing developments and a proposal for an underpass for bicycle and foot traffic, but the Village Board refused to change the zoning at the time. Several applications for townhouses and small apartment buildings were also routinely denied. The Village even withdrew from the DuKane Valley Council, an organization for planned, orderly development of the area. The Village President at the time, John Conrad, did not attend a single meeting.

The familiar arguments against development in modern Winfield were the same as they were fifty years ago. Homeowners complained about too much traffic disturbing their peace, about trees being cut down, and how they wanted Winfield to remain "rustic." On the other hand, citizens running for Village Board or applying to the Zoning Commis-

sion were warning that Winfield needed commercial development in order to support a healthy tax base, something that Winfield is still lacking today.

In fact, the planning priorities in 1972 were to confine business zoning to the downtown area, but reduce the existing zoning to free up more land for residential use. Another priority was to discourage the efforts of small businesses to open in the Village Center, in order to save the space for a CDH office complex.

A dispute arose in 1970 regarding a Wheaton annexation which also resulted in an "unexpected" give away of the lands located south of Jewell Rd and east of County Farm Rd, proceeding west and



The former home of Kevin Schramer, which has been razed for flood plain management.

the south to Mack Road, the households of which contribute to School District 200 today.

In December 1972, Winfield discussed eligibility for federal flood plain insurance and decided they could not apply. Village engineers at the time, according to Village Trustee Robert Lee, said most of the village would be in a flood plain area. Because a substantial portion of Winfield did actually exist in a flood plain, houses like this suffered from substantial flooding for the next 40 years.

Long term Winfield residents remember using aquifer water as a water supply, something that Warrenville still does. Due to the high mineral and iron content in our water supply, our sinks, toilets, washing machines and even our clothes turned orange. Even today, our parents might still have bottles of Iron-Out in the basement, next to the washing machine.


The DuPage Water Commission brought water from Lake Michigan via a 7 foot diameter pipe to distribute water throughout the County in 1992, signing water purchase agreements with 23 DuPage County municipalities. Winfield was not one of them, and because of that, residents pay a higher rate for water than the original 23 towns.

The town of Winfield does have more than its share of fun events, not the least of which is Good Old Days. The Winfield Criterium has been a popular event since 1999, with many residents hosting parties along the course. There are many fundraising walks and runs over summers in Winfield. Cantigny Park in Wheaton is quite close, and hosts many festivals, concerts and movie nights. The gardens and museums are spectacular, as is their golf course. If you want to golf in Winfield, the Klein Creek Golf Club is a fun and challenging course.

A controversial feature in Winfield has been the creation of the Winfield Riverwalk, designed to connect the two

continued on page 9

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# Winfield Church Awards Student Scholarships

Winfield Community United Methodist Church honored two of its college students with a financial scholarship at the July 18th worship service. An anonymous gift was given to the church to allow for the financial assistance to college students. Pastor Bruce Anderson awarded scholarships to Abinaya Wiggins of Winfield, a senior at Loyola University of Chicago, with a double major in political science and economics and to Payton Miller of Wheaton, a

second-year student at College of DuPage, studying physical therapy who plans to continue her studies at the University of Alabama. Fran Miller of Winfield represented Payton Miller who was not able to attend the service.

The church has in person worship services on Sundays starting at 10:30 am and is located at 0S347 Jefferson (at the corner of Jefferson and Sunnyside) in Winfield.



From left to right: John Taylor (Treasurer), Fran Miller (accepting for Payton), Abinaya Wiggins and Bruce Anderson (Pastor)

# Modern Day Winfield

continued from page 8

local branches of the Illinois Prairie Path. Controversy arose over the funding for the Riverwalk, after more efforts to bring development to Winfield had been blocked by the Village Board. However, after a \$1 million dollar donation by CDH, cooperation with the Winfield Park District and the DuPage Forest Preserve, and a lot of work by the Riverwalk Committee, a \$700,000 grant was secured, and Phase 1 of the development began. Now almost finished, Phase 1 includes a canoe/kayak launch, workout stations, some wetlands restoration, and educational signage, picnic areas, benches and a scenic overlook over the DuPage River. You can easily access the Riverwalk right by Gnarly Knots on High Lake Rd.

Today, Winfield encompasses a total of only three square miles and has an estimated population of approximately 9,700. Progress has moved slowly here. The town did not install its first traffic light until 1990. Winfield is up to 18 police officers, compared to six officers the town employed 50 years ago. The historical sources of "Winfield's: a good old days: a history" and the Winfielder posts of old Glimpses newspaper articles only document the news through the 1980s. The Winfield Examiner took over local reporting, whose articles are on microfilm at the Winfield Public Library. Unfortunately, those were hard to access during the pandemic of the last year.

There have been many changes to downtown Winfield in recent years. Another parking structure is being built just north of the Chase Bank, with some commercial and retail on the first floor. Some retail, restaurant, and mixed use is planned for the lot where John's Restaurant and Tavern was. Several houses along Jewell Road have been demolished, with future plans to relocate Village Hall to that location.

A commuter parking deck is planned for the Metra lot on the north side of the tracks, and the new luxury apartment complex Winfield Station on the former Winfield Fuel and Material site is now leasing apartments. As for Roosevelt Road, the planned construction of a Bucky's gas station has been mired in drama. Casey's, which purchased Bucky's, is back in talks with the village to discuss an updated concept for that area. With a bit of luck, the 2020s will be the decade that shapes Winfield for the next 50 years.

**Happy Centennial Winfield!**  
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# Field Dedication at East Street Park

By Mark Pawloski

Thanks to everyone that came out to Field Dedication at East Street Park on June 22nd.

We were lucky enough to have Chuck Zidek and Mark Roskuszka cut the ribbon. Both guys played in the first game ever played at East St Park in June-1975 and as parents coached their children for Winfield-In-Action and the Winfield Wolverines at East Street Park.

The weather was perfect for the Dedication and an action filled game between two 16/U teams with the Winfield Wolverines earning a 16-4 victory. Executive Director, Mark Pawloski stated "Thanks to the Park Board and the residents of the Winfield

Park District for committing the needed \$250,000 to complete this project. The field will give a priority use to the GIRLS of Winfield community, of ALL ages that play softball at the competitive travel level and at the in-house level too. As a secondary use, younger boys will also be able to use the field for some baseball games. The field is now ready for play for several decades into the future and I am pleased to share this day with all of you, Thank You!"



The newly renovated Girls Fastpitch Softball ball fields at East Street Park is a result of the Park District's Community Survey that was conducted in 2019 and the subsequent 5-Year Capital Plan for improvements throughout the Park District (until 2024).

In the year 2000, the Winfield Park District secured ownership of this park site from DuPage County and it was initially re-developed in 2003 with the help of State IDNR-OSLAD Grant.

The current renovation(2020-21) includes a new soccer field area to the east of the softball field. The softball field includes a new permanent outfield fence with warning track, concreted areas for spectators and the player dugouts, improved and extended backstop and sideline fencing, and a field turf infield with an under drainage system.

# Winfield Church Honors Village Centennial



Winfield Community United Methodist Church celebrated the Village of Winfield's Centennial with a community old fashion hymn sing. This one-hour event which was held at the church's gazebo on July 8 included over 50 community and church members. The immediate response from the attendees was that it was special and fun and many asked the church to consider an annual event for a community old fashion hymn sing. Pastor Bruce Anderson was the host for the evening and Olive Aliga played the keyboard with Marty and Melinda Keske as the song leaders. The community members included Village of Winfield trustees Emily Jacobs and Deb Piscola.

Top photo:

(L to R) Winfield Park District Board President-Steve Massie; Park Board Commissioner, Tom Novak; Executive Director, Mark Pawloski and Park Board Commissioner Jamie Reid.

Bottom photo:

(L to R) the visiting team-Downers Grove Rebels, Mark Roskuszka (red shirt) and Chuck Zydek (navy shirt), the home team Winfield Wolverines, Wolverines head coach Bruce Alexander with Park District Board members in the back row.

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# GOOD OLD DAYS 2021 schedule

Happy 100th anniversary Winfield-1921-2021

## Thursday, September 9th

4:00 - 11:00 pm - Beverage Tent  
5:30 - 9:00 pm - KOC Scholarship Dinner Family Tent



## Friday, September 10th

4:00 - 11:00 pm - Beverage Tent  
4:00 - 11:00 pm - Carnival Rides  
4:30 - 6:30 pm - 95.9 FM "The River" Live Broadcast  
5:00 - Dusk - Kids Zone

### Entertainment

5:30 - 8:00 pm - Sammy & The Knights  
8:30 - 10:30 pm - Kashmir - The Led Zeppelin Show

## Saturday, September 11th

8:00 am - 6:00 pm - Business Expo  
9:00 am - 11:00 pm - Beverage Tent  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Historic Trolley Rides  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Bags Tournament (Family Tent)  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Petting Zoo  
11:00 am - Dusk - Kid's Zone  
11:00 am - 11:00 pm - Carnival Rides  
Noon - Coloring Contest Awards  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Coin Carnival  
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Meatball Eating Contest  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Ladies Shoe Kicking Contest  
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Kid's Video Game Truck  
7:30 pm - 10:00 pm - Teen Dance w/ Dollar Booth

### Entertainment

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Street Legal  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm - SWAK (Sealed With A Kiss)  
9:00 pm - 11:00 pm - ARRA



## Sunday, September 12th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Car Show  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Beverage Tent  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Historic Trolley Tours  
10:00 am - Duck Race  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm - Carnival Rides  
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - **PARADE**  
1:30 pm - Pet Party @ Kiki's Korner - Leashed Pets Welcome!  
(27W460 Beecher Ave., #A & #B, Winfield)  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Kid's Zone  
4:00 pm - Live Winfield Trivia

### Entertainment

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Vital Signs  
6:00 pm - **CLOSED**



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## From All the Members of the Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Thank you, Winfield! It has been a difficult almost two years, including this Centennial Year, and we (the businesses) would not still be here if it were not for your support. In many cases we have had to adjust how we do business, and as a community, you have been understanding, and adapted with us to make things work.



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