

New Winfield Fire Station Nears Completion

By Luke Allen

Drivers on County Farm Road will notice the new fire station taking shape at the Churchill Road intersection. Construction began with a ground-breaking on May 6, and General Contractor E.P. Doyle & Son of Wheaton has been working diligently to keep the project on time and within budget.

The end of November marks a major milestone: the full building enclosure. With windows and doors now installed, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems are being activated, allowing contractors to shift focus to interior projects. Rough plumbing and electrical work are complete, with inspections scheduled for early-December.

Once inspections are finalized, contractors will begin finish work, including drywall, painting, plumbing, electrical fixtures, and flooring. Interior finishes are expected to be completed by January, paving the way for specialized equipment installations like the fire station alerting system, gear racks, hose drying systems, and air bottle compressors.

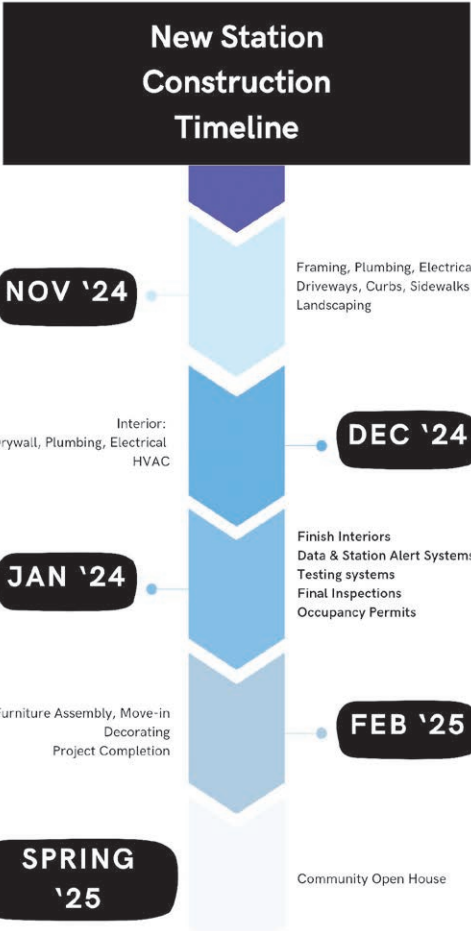
If all goes according to plan, Fire Chief Steve Evans anticipates moving into the new station in February 2025. An open house is planned for spring, offering residents a chance to explore their new fire station.

“We look forward to welcoming the community,” Chief Evans shared. “This station was designed to improve out-the-door response times and provide better access to south Winfield via the County Farm Road viaduct. It will also help us respond more quickly to residents in the far northeast corner of the



district. I’ve worked closely with our architect and contractor to keep this project on budget, and I’m proud to say we’re on track to finish within budget.”

continued on page 4



Get to Know Winfield’s First Responders

Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Burke

1. Where are you from and what brought you to Winfield?
- I am from the southwest suburbs. At the time I applied I had applications out at multiple departments. Winfield was the first to offer me a position.
2. Why did you become a Firefighter/Paramedic?
- The variety of the job appealed to me. No two days are the same!
3. What’s the best part of your job in Winfield?
- There are good opportunities to train and further develop my skills.
4. What are your professional goals, or are there any skills/certifications you’d like to learn?
- I’d like to become a drone operator and take on a leadership position within the department.
- And now some fun questions!
- What’s your favorite food? Steak
- Favorite restaurant? Bavarian Lodge
- Favorite fire service movie/TV show? Rescue Me
- Favorite hobby? Fishing
- Favorite dinosaur? Triceratops
- First car? 1989 Ford Mustang
- Dream car? Ferrari F40



Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Burke

2. Why did you become a police officer?
- My father is a police officer, so growing up it has always been something I have seen up close. I also knew I wanted to have a career where every day could be something different.
3. What’s the best part of your job in Winfield?
- The people I work with and the community I



Police Officer Cihak

- serve. Working for a small village has provided the opportunity to get to know the residents, business owners, etc.
4. What are your professional goals, or are there any skills/certifications you’d like to learn?
- My next goal in my career would be to get into investigations. Going into law enforcement I was always intrigued by the idea of one day becoming a detective.
- And now some fun questions!
- What’s your favorite food? Steak or Pizza
- Favorite restaurant? Texas De Brazil
- Favorite law enforcement movie/TV show? Favorite show was Live PD, Favorite movie is End Of Watch
- Hidden talents? Anything with sports, I still play slow pitch softball competitively
- Favorite hobby? Collecting sports cards and memorabilia
- Favorite dinosaur? Velociraptor
- First Car? Chevy Cruze
- Dream Car? Ford Raptor pickup.

Police Officer Cihak

1. Where are you from and what brought you to Winfield?
- At the time I was applying to multiple agencies and Winfield was the first to offer me an opportunity.



3 New Sweet Businesses



- Winfield is going to get a whole lot sweeter with 3 new businesses that have permits and will be opening soon:
- Sweet Reserve Café and Bakery in the new NM building at Winfield and Jewell Roads
- Winfield Creamery in Winfield Market Square next to Winfield Liquors
- Sugar Mamas Mini Donuts in Winfield Market Square next to Rejoice Resale

Scouts collect over 2,000 pounds of food for Winfield pantry

On Sunday, November 3, Scouts from Winfield Troop 575 collected more than 2,000 pounds of nonperishable food from Winfield residents to stock the pantry at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. As part of the drive, scouts visited all of the more than 4,200 residences in Winfield. The food drive was co-sponsored with the Knights of Columbus, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Scouts from Troop 575 deliver food donations to St John The Baptist Church Food Pantry.

Snacks with Santa and Village Tree Lighting

The start of the Christmas season in Winfield is marked by the annual Snacks with Santa and Village Tree Lighting which is always held the first Saturday in December, with this year on Saturday, December 7th from 1pm-4pm at Hedges Station at 0N555 Winfield Road. Snacks with Santa started many years ago by the Winfield Junior Woman's Club as a community event for families with young children. Activities at the event and the location have changed a bit over the years but its main focus has always been a visit and photo opportunity with Santa for the little ones. The event is free of charge and includes free cookies and hot cocoa along with Christmas carols sung by the West Chicago Honors Acapella choir which is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit. The location changed last year to Hedges Station due to its old-world charm and as a way to showcase the museum. Outside of the museum will be a tent where families can have a snack of cookies and hot cocoa and listen to the carolers sing then go inside to see Santa. While the event is free, a donation of a new unwrapped toy for the Ronald McDonald House near CDH is appreciated. The event is sponsored by the Tony Reyes Family Foundation, Winfield Historical Society, and the Winfield Park District. At 4:00pm, after Santa visits with the children, he'll be heading to the Winfield

Wonderful Fest at 27W448 Jewell Road by the 3-story NWM building to light the Christmas tree, sponsored by the Village of Winfield. The Winfield Fire Protection District will pick him up in their fire truck to deliver him to the Fest. The Fest starts at 3:00pm with lots of fun and new activities! More details can be found on page 3.



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Winter Wonderful Fest

DECEMBER 7TH

SNACKS WITH SANTA 1-4 PM

Hedges Station Museum- ON555 Winfield Rd.

Santa photos, complimentary cookies, hot cocoa, entertainment
Bring a toy to donate to the Ronald McDonald House near CDH

VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING 3-6 PM

27W448 Jewell Rd. (by 3-story NWM building)

2 hr live ice sculpting demo, live DJ, visit from Elsa & Olaf, festive photo ops
complimentary coffee/hot cocoa from Manbot Coffee Roasters & cookies
from Blue Stand Cookie Co.
Santa visit & magical 30 ft Christmas tree lighting at 4:50 PM

HOLIDAY MINI-MARKET 3-6 PM

27W448 Jewell Rd. (by 3-story NWM building)

Featuring Arlo Hendrix Kids, Burly Breads, Created by Aleks, Stitcharoo
Gifts, Illuminate Space Mobile Candle Bar, Paint Can Projects and more!



Dupage Animals Get New Digs

You probably noticed that the DuPage County Animal Services building which was originally built in 1977, has been undergoing major renovations. A little background on the renovations according to the Communications Officer for DuPage County. The building has had no expansions in over 45 years of the facility's existence. While there have been some interior and mechanical system facility improvements, the program and community's current needs justify an expansion and renovation project that will double the amount of space. The improvements include moving the main entrance to Manchester Road, towards the public view, which will give this once hidden function a primary position on the County campus that emphasizes its role within the community.

The project consists of 4,340 square feet of renovations, 11,486 square feet of enclosed addition areas, plus a 2,217 square foot covered patio for outdoor training and events, along with other contained outdoor exercise and play areas. The

anticipated completion date is Fall 2024 with over \$10 million in improvements.

KEY FACTS:

- Renovation includes improvements within 47% of the existing spaces, including expanded medical and surgical suites, renovated dog kennels, and outdoor play area improvements.
- New additions will increase the current building area by 148%, incorporating flexible spaces, expanded cat housing, a small animal room and a "Real-Life Room" that simulates the comforts and familiarity of home.
- Project substantially reduces stress on the animals by creating spaces to separate species and to allow for more indoor and outdoor exercise.
- Improvements will convert the current utilitarian appearance of the building (back side) to a more inviting community building, and improved integration within the residential neighborhood.

- Both the new adoption and relinquish areas are more accessible and inviting to visitors.
- Improves the conditions for health and safety of animals, staff, and visitors.

More information can be found at:
https://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/departments/animal_services/capital_campaign.php



New Fire Station

continued from page 1

The new Winfield Fire Protection District Station 31 will replace the downtown Winfield station, which was built in 1973 when the district served a population of about 5,000. Today, the WFPD serves over 30,000 residents with one ambulance crew and one fire engine crew.

During the 2020–2022 referenda, Chief Evans outlined three priorities for the district: adding an additional ambulance to the fleet, hiring staff to operate it, and providing space to house it. Voters approved the plan in 2022, and progress has been steady. By fall 2025, these goals are expected to be met with the arrival of the second new ambulance, the addition of staff, and the completion of the new station.

Shop and Dine Winfield – support your friends and neighbors!

Happy Holidays!

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A Peek at 2026 Christmas Mail?

America250 Grand Finale ... 'It's a Wonderful Life' 80th Anniversary Stamp Sheet

By Rich Bysina

At first glance of these four "It's a Wonderful Life" 80th anniversary postage stamps, one might think, "Well, it's about time the U.S. Postal Service paid tribute to this 1946 Christmas movie classic." But hold on! They're not real stamps. They're merely movie

scene photos that very well could be real stamps. Not for this year, or even 2025 ... but for America's Semiquincentennial Year of 2026, which just happens to be the 80th anniversary of the 1946 movie that the American Film Institute ranks #1 on its "100 Most Inspiring Films of All Time" ! Each of the stamps in the proposed 20-stamp sheet represents a scene from the movie in the order in which they appeared. For example, here's

- George & Mary listening to their friend Sam on the telephone, just before they passionately profess their love for one another.
 - Bert & Ernie standing in rain after decorating newlyweds George & Mary's new home.
 - George & Mary celebrating Martini family's new home with bread, salt & bottle of wine.
 - Potter offering George lucrative contract to start working for him.
 - Mary showing honeymoon cash – "How much do you need?" – to save George's business.
 - Uncle Billy, Tilly & Eustace eyeing office clock seconds before closing time.
 - George praying on bridge contemplating suicide before he saves Clarence from drowning.
 - George telling Angel Second Class Clarence, "I said I wish I'd never been born!" in tollhouse.
 - Bartender Nick at cash register "handing out wings".
 - George (now back to real life) and Bert the cop on bridge with just-found "Zuzu's petals!"
 - George running through town – "Hello, Bedford Falls!" – on snowy Christmas Eve night.
 - George yelling "Merry Christmas!" to Potter through his office window. (The \$8,000-thief Potter's response: "Happy New Year to you – in jail!")
 - George hugging his kids – "Pete! Janie! Tommy! Zuzu!" – on stairway in their home.
 - George's younger brother Harry delivering "A toast! To my big brother George...the richest man in town."
 - Mary and George with Zuzu in his arms – "Look, Daddy! Teacher says, 'Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.'" – as a bell ornament rings on the Bailey family Christmas tree.
- Interesting Note: In an article that appeared in the Spring 2023 issue of The Winfield Glimpses, readers were asked to submit their ten favorite
- continued on page 11*

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- a list my son Jay and I – with a few disagreements to be sure – quickly put together:
- Young George hitting cigar lighter – "Hot dog!" – in Gower's drugstore.
 - Young Mary Hatch & Violet Bick sitting at soda fountain.
 - George holding arms out wide in the suitcase store.
 - George & Mary doing Charleston at high school graduation dance.
 - George & Mary walking together after falling in swimming pool.



Saturday, December 7th 1-4pm
Hedges Station 0N555 Winfield Road

Snacks with Santa!



Carol along with The West Chicago High School Choir
FREE Cookies and Hot Cocoa!
Take a photo with Santa!

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

Follow Santa afterwards to the Village Tree Lighting for more Wintery Fun!

The GardenWorks Project Wraps Up Second Season with Ronald McDonald House® at NW Medicine CDH

By Eileen Tibble

The food growing season comes to a close at the Ronald McDonald House® (RMH) near North-western Medicine Central DuPage Hospital. In their second year of partnership, The GardenWorks Project, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization improving food security and food access throughout western Chicagoland, with the financial support of the Tony Reyes Family Founda-tion, has brought a new ap-proach to fresh food access and health and wellness to the Winfield community.

In this second gardening season, The Garden-Works Project planted vegetables at RMH near Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital for the purposes of improving food access for families residing on site, creat-ing therapeutic activities for families and staff, and providing gardening education as a source of recreation. Beans, tomatoes, basil and more grew all season, nurtured and har-vested by The GardenWorks Project board member, Bill Waters, and pro-grams associate, Jackie Pierucci.

Local registered dietitian and owner of The Garden Plate, Mary Zupke, regularly harvests and cooks these vegetables with the kids residing at the house. “I love seeing their little faces light up when they pluck a tomato” notes Zupke, who helps the young chefs incorporate fresh basil and tomatoes into mini caprese skewers, quesadillas, or strawberry shortcake. “The kids have enjoyed seeing where their foods grow and how to use them in the kitchen. I love how The GardenWorks Project highlights how simple gardening can be!”

Samantha Schmidt, Manager of Fam-ily Services at RMH near Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, reflects on the many benefits the gardens have brought to families. Schmidt notes that the gardens have provided a healthy recreation opportunity for the kids to enjoy, a tranquil space for parents, and a fun opportunity for Meals from the Heart volunteers. “RMH near CDH is very grateful! We look forward to picking and planting new items for next season!”

Proud supporters of the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana (RMHC-CNI) mission to help children and families get better together and access high-quality care, The Tony Reyes Family Foundation generously granted funding for a 3-year garden project. The GardenWorks Project is grateful to the Tony Reyes Family Foundation for their support in expanding fresh food access and wellness in Winfield.

GardenWorks relies on volunteers, donors, and corporate sponsors to fulfill its mission to improve food security and well-being for our neighbors.

To learn more about The GardenWorks Project and become a donor, sponsor, or volunteer, visit:

Web: gardenworksproject.org; FB: @The GardenWorksProject; IG: [gardenworksproject](https://www.instagram.com/gardenworksproject)
Tony Reyes Family Foundation: thetonyreyesfamilyfoundation.org
Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chica-goland & Northwest Indiana: <http://ronaldhousechicago.org>.

The GardenWorks Proj-ect is a non-profit organiza-tion dedicated to alleviating food insecurity in the west-ern suburbs of Chicago. The organization provides resources and education to help individuals and families grow their own food, and it also operates



Left: Local registered dietitian and Ronald McDonald House volunteer Mary Zupke, harvesting vegetables

Below: Bill Waters, The Garden-Works Project board member and Jackie Pierucci, programs associ-ate, tending to the gardens at Ron-ald McDonald House near Central DuPage Hospital.'



a network of community gardens that provide fresh produce to those in need. Weekly donations to area food pantries also fulfills their mission to address the critical issue of food insecurity in our community.



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Happy Holidays from the Winfield Historical Society



Snacks with Santa
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Museum closed:
December 8th-January 12th

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Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Please welcome new member Asha Habas, owner of Pilates and Energy Healing by Asha in the Winfield Salon & Spa Suites at 0S104 Winfield Road. We celebrated Asha's grand opening with a ribbon cutting in October. Asha's positive energy and can-do attitude will inspire you! Find out more at www.mindbodyasha.com. Asha, we are so excited you're here!

September saw the Chamber engaged in the Good Old Days farmers market and business expo. We had a record 18 vendors participate and we look to add more for next year. With the help of Rich Bysina, we hosted Miss Illinois USA Grace Rodi on Sunday of Good Old Days. Grace participated in the parade, greeted residents, and sang the Chicago Bears fight song on stage. A welcome reception for Chamber members to meet Grace was hosted by Winfield Wealth Advisors.

Our annual Fall Arts Festival was a smashing success the third weekend in September. Winfield's Antique and Chic hosted more than a dozen vendors and hundreds of shoppers throughout

the weekend. Congratulations to Kathy Agresti for organizing another successful weekend!

Thank you to Healthcare and Associates Credit Union for hosting our October networking meeting! October also showcased the Winfield Historical Society's first annual Cemetery Walk at St. John's cemetery on October 11th. Mid-month, members met at Cooper's Corner for a happy hour social. On Halloween, Prairie Trail Center hosted our growing Prairie Haunted Trail with trick or treating for the community at participating businesses, a DJ, face-painting, a balloon artist, and hay rides from The Tony Reyes Family Foundation. A shout out to Dave Nelson of Farmers Insurance and Denise Cubel of Admiral Builders for coordinating efforts and offering an outstanding event for Chamber members!

At our November networking meeting, hosted by Berger Bros Pub, we voted on the 2025 President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors. Thank you Joy, Esteban and Greg for the delicious breakfast

sandwiches! And a huge thank you to Dave Nelson, Mike Michelin, Peter Krumins, Denise Cubel, Frank Panzek, Kathy Agresti, Roger Fox, and Frank Curiale for leading our Chamber next year! On November 7th, Manbot Coffee Roasters and Winfield Wealth Advisors co-sponsored an evening social with a beer tasting for members. Our Women In Business committee is collecting gently used purses and new bras/underwear for the women of DuPage Pads shelter through 12/13.

I look forward to seeing you at our year-end holiday party on Friday, December 13th at Cooper's Corner!



The GWCC around town:
Clockwise: The October meeting; Halloween happiness with Frank Panzek of Lions Panzek, and Jennifer Tortoriello of Pet Wants, Halloween hay ride in downtown Winfield; and GWCC at the September arts festival.
See more photos on page 8.



The Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce sure knows how to keep the community engaged. From Summer Cruise Nights to the Falls Arts Festival to Prairie Haunted Trail, there's something for everyone. Plus, our monthly networking meetings are a great way to connect with fellow chamber members.

Happy Holidays to you!

We're looking forward to seeing the exciting things 2025 will bring to Winfield.



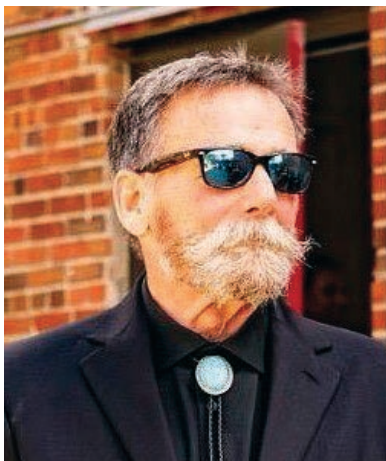
A note from the President
Jennie M. Fleming
Financial Advisor

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My time as 2024 GWCC President has been both rewarding and insightful. The support and generosity of Winfield's business community is a testament to the strong connections and collaborative spirit within the Chamber. The board of directors played a crucial role in navigating the challenges and celebrating the successes of the Chamber. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dave Nelson, Farmers Insurance, on being voted in as the 2025 President. I am confident that under his leadership, the Chamber will continue to grow and prosper. With such a strong, supportive network, the future is bright for all of us.

- Admiral Builders**
Mike Rootberg, Denise Cubel, Beth Ciabattari
- Antique & Chic**
Kathy Agresti
- Berger Bros Pub**
Judy Anetsberger, Greg Anetsberger
- Bobby's Liquors**
Raj Bagaria
- Cantigny Park (Robert R. McCormick Foundation)**
Matt LaFond
- Central DuPage Vision**
Dr. Atha Hyderi
- Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church**
Reverend Jesus Morales
- Compass Mortgage**
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- Cooper's Corner**
Ryan Muehlfelt
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- Re/Max All Pro**
Sheena Tovt
- Re/Max Suburban**
Roger Fox
- Save Your Back Moving**
Mark Sullivan
- Scone House Café**
Toni Browley
- Senior Tech Support**
Tony LaPalio
- Shamrock Garden Florist**
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Andy Herrero
- St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**
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- The Barber Shoppe**
Kathy Agresti
- The Tony Reyes Family Foundation**
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Eron McCormick
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Sophia and George Kouvelis
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- Village of Winfield**
Carl Sorgatz, Curt Barrett, Peter Krumins
- We Know Tickets**
Frankie Curiale
- Winfield Education Foundation**
Lesley Gena
- Winfield Farmers Market**
Rich Bysina
- Winfield Fire Protection Dist.**
Chief Steve Evans
- Winfield Foundation**
Meg Goodman
- The Winfield Glimpses**
Patti Weber
- Winfield Historical Society**
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Matt Rich
- Winfield Shell Station**
Pete Mancini
- Winfield Station Luxury Apartments**
Patti Curry
- Winfield Wealth Advisors**
Jennie M. Fleming
- The Written Word Center for Dyslexia and Learning**
Tara and Craig Chapman

In Memoriam



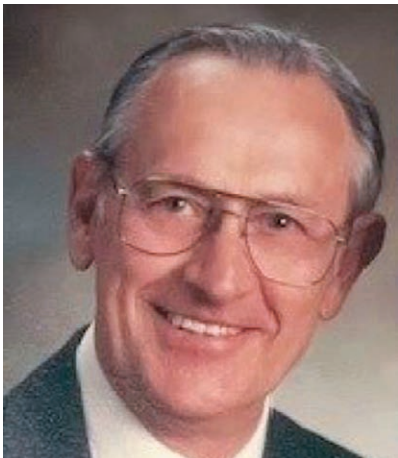
DONALD R. BRACH

Donald R. Brach, age 67, of West Chicago, passed away peacefully on November 14th, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 11th, 1957 in Geneva, IL to William “Bill” and Beverly Ann Brach. He was a 1975 graduate of West Chicago Community High School and played on the 1974 Wildcat State Championship team. Don was united in marriage on September 22nd, 1984 to Colleen Marie Kerrigan. He enjoyed traveling, golfing, fishing, music and occasionally a little whisky. He also spent many years as a talented carpenter. Don was a member of the St. John’s The Baptist Church Knights of Columbus Council 8002 where his love for his community grew even bigger. Volunteering and helping others was something he truly loved. He took great pleasure being surrounded by family and friends but was especially proud to be a father.

Don is survived by his children, Maggie (Sean) Geraghty and Mike Brach; mother, Beverly Ann Brach, brothers Bill (Terry), twin Jim (Sue), and Tim (Tina) sisters, Anne (Ed) Doyle, Mary (Carl) Britton; many nieces, nephews, relatives and numerous friends.

Don was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Colleen, in 2010 and father, Bill in 2019.

Visitation was held Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm at Norris-Segert Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Funeral Mass was held Friday, November 22, 2024, at 2:30pm at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, 0S233 Church Street, Winfield.



LAVERNE ‘VERN’ HABERKAMP

LaVerne “Vern” Haberkamp, 96, of Fond du Lac, WI, and formerly of West Chicago, IL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Hospice Home of Hope, Fond du Lac, WI. Vern was born on August 7, 1927, in Bensenville, IL, the son of William and Mary (Theis) Haberkamp. On September 24, 1949, Vern married Rose Marie Koller



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in Winfield, IL. Vern served in the U.S. Navy as a seaman from 1945 – 1946. He worked for Northern Illinois Gas Company as a mechanic and technician. Vern was a “jack of all trades,” who enjoyed woodworking, carving, building, wildlife, gardening, and traveling with family.

Vern will be missed by his daughter, Patricia Ann Majerus and son-in-law, Howard William Majerus of Fond du Lac; and many family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Mary; wife, Rose; and their schnauzer, Max.

At Vern’s request, no services will take place. Cremation has taken place with burial to follow at Assumption Cemetary, Wheaton, IL.

Memorials in Vern’s name can be made to the Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Services are in the care of Uecker-Witt Funeral Home, 524 North Park Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI, 54935. Additional information and guestbook can be found at ueckerwitt.com



MARY THERESE MCVICAR

Mary Therese McVicar, nee Murnane, 70, of Belleville, IL, born Monday, June 7, 1954, in Euclid, OH, passed away peacefully Tuesday, October 22, 2024 surrounded by family at Barnes-Jewish

continued on page 11



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Spotlight on Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

By Jennie Fleming

“Living in Faith Everyday” was the motto shared by Pastor Jesus Morales and his wife Kaya when I met them this fall. Pastor Morales has been leading Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Winfield for two and a half years. At 27 years old, Pastor Morales, his wife, and their young daughter, Apolonia live in Winfield with the goal of sharing God’s love, and “...being an asset to the community in any way it needs”.

Pastor Morales shared that Christ Our Savior is a welcoming and genuine community where visitors are remembered and regular congregants are appreciated, fostering a heartfelt sense of belonging. At the heart of it all is the Gospel and Christ’s love for everyone, which drives every action and brings the congregation together in faith. The goal is to grow in faith and family as we serve each other and the community.

Christ Our Savior has been opening its doors to the community since 1970. Currently, they host many community groups, including a Boy Scout Troop. This troop helped the church build a Blessings Box, located in the front yard of the church. It is available 24/7 to anyone in need of food and some common household cleaning products. There is a little light on the box, expiration dates are checked, and it is regularly restocked. No need to check in when you visit.

Christ Our Savior also hosts an Ethiopian congregation for refugees, one of only two churches in Illinois to offer this support.

Every summer, Christ Our Savior hosts a free



summer kickoff party for the community with food, music, and bounce houses. This winter, an adult community bible group will meet on Wednesday evenings. In December, enjoy a Christmas concert, composed by their professional music director, Dr.

Sojung Lee Hong. Dr. Sojung has worked to obtain an annual grant that allows her to teach free music lessons to children in the church.

Service times are 9:00am in English, 12:30pm Ethiopian service, 5:00pm Spanish service. Or, connect via livestream the services on Facebook (https://fb.watch/vEEFcbkl2_/) and YouTube (*Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church - YouTube*).

Great things are happening here! You can find more information about this warm and welcoming church at their website www.christsaviorswinfield.com, email questions to coslcwinfield@gmail.com, on Facebook at *Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church – Winfield*, or for spiritual guidance call 630-518-1517.



The Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce celebrated the October opening of Pilates and Energy Healing by Asha. See story and more photos on page 7.



Above left: Pastor Jesus Morales and wife Kaya with their daughter, Apolonia in Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Right: The church hosts a blessing box, built by a local Boy Scout troop, to dispense food and household items to the community in need.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



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In Memoriam

continued from page 8

Hospital in Saint Louis, MO. Our sadness is only overcome by knowing that Mary Therese McVicar has passed onto glory to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mary Therese lived every moment of her life to the fullest! Her deep faith and trust in Jesus shone through by her zest for living and loving others. Her spirited and enthusiastic way of sharing whatever she had with others will truly live on as an example of a person that spread love through her energy and zeal for life! Mary Therese lived her values of faith and family everyday by being interested and engaged in celebrating life and walking alongside others on their journey. Mary Therese “never met a stranger” and considered everyone just a new friend to be made. Mary was the soul of warmth, grace and hospitality and opened her heart and home to many a needy soul starting with family, friends and foster children. Growing up as the oldest sibling of 9 children, Mary Therese was the leader and sometimes instigator of a many a childhood adventure. When Mary Therese met and married her high school sweetheart she took that sense of adventure with her as the military wife of James McVicar, US Air Force, retired. Together they devoted themselves to raising, loving and investing themselves into the growth and development of their three children. They accomplished this while their life travels took them to military bases from Illinois to the Air Force Academy in Colorado, Washington State, Tokyo, Japan and back to the Midwest at Scott Air Force Base. Mary Therese made life-long friends wherever she went, and those friends became family. She celebrated life and learning. Mary Therese taught English as a second language in Japan and truly welcomed her students while also learning Japanese culture and taking that with her to share with others. After raising her own children, Mary Therese worked as a teacher’s aide to expand learning for youth after school. Mary Therese also volunteered at her church with children and reached out to those in need of a cheerful friend. Mary Therese was fierce, intense, fun and passionate about caring for others. Her family was her passion, and she dedicated her life to loving them, often stepping in the gap to make

sure that others had a safe haven when in need. Mary Therese lived a life of joy and spread that joy to others in her sharing of books, perfecting cooking meals together, creating family traditions, and celebrating holidays. She took delight and comfort by appreciating the beauty of nature, and was a member of the St. Louis Botanical Gardens.

Her grandchildren, family and friends will remember her gift of hospitality and celebrations like making gingerbread houses, making Sukiyaki, ensuring that guests feel welcome and special. Mary Therese supported friends in times of trouble and in times of joy. The bravery and grace of Mary Therese shown through when she was diagnosed with ALS in the fall of 2022. Mary Therese mustered her strength of resiliency and focused on making memories and continuing to spread her love and joy even in the face of this overwhelming struggle. Of course, Mary Therese was no stranger to adversity, and she had lots of practice in mustering her courage and tenacity, as she was the fierce and spirited defender of the Cubs in Cardinal territory. Her wish for each of us is that we know Jesus, we continue with strength and that we embrace everyday with anticipation and excitement. Or as this quote says, “Maybe happiness didn’t have to be about the big sweeping circumstances, about having everything in your life in place. Maybe happiness is about stringing together a bunch of small simple joys!”

She was preceded in death by her father, Timothy Aloysius Murnane; and sister, Patricia Mary Murnane. Surviving are her husband, of 50 years, James W. McVicar of Belleville, IL; mother, Ann Marie, nee Belt, Murnane of Wheaton, IL; children, Matthew M. (Michelle) McVicar of St. Jacob, IL, David J. McVicar of Lebanon, IL, and Dr. Megan A. McVicar (Fiancé, Austin Funcheon) of Ballwin, MO; brothers, Joseph M. (Kathleen) Murnane of Colorado Springs, CO, Timothy I. Murnane of West Chicago, IL, and Dr. John Brebeuf (Susan) Murnane of Choteau, MT; sisters, Dr. Joan M. Murnane (Col. Thomas Rendall) of Leavenworth, KS, Christine M. (James) Meece of El Paso, TX, Margaret (Michael) McCarthy of Washougal, WA, and Kathleen (Tim) Morris of Winfield, IL; and grandchildren, Taylor McVicar and Sean McVicar.

Memorials may be made to the ALS Society of St.

Louis. Visitation: Visitation was November 8, 2024 at St. Matthew Church. 1 Belleville, IL. Funeral Services were held at 11:30 a.m., Friday, November 8, 2024 at St. Matthew Church. Interment will follow at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.



MARCILE V. WAGNER

Marcile V. Wagner, 85, of Winfield, IL, passed away on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. She was born on March 24, 1939, in Elmhurst, Illinois, to Joseph and Marie Kammer.

A lifelong resident of the western suburbs of Chicago, Marcile grew up in Lombard and attended Saint Mary’s Hospital Nursing School in Kankakee, where she earned her RN degree in 1960. She married the love of her life, Eugene P. Wagner in 1961, and together they raised four sons. Marcile and Eugene have been residents of Winfield for over six decades.

Marcile dedicated over 40 years to her nursing career at Central DuPage Hospital (now Northwestern University Medical Center), where she found joy in helping her patients every day. Outside of work, she actively supported numerous organizations that aided disadvantaged children around the world and young women in her community. A longtime member of Wheaton Bible Church, she embodied the true Christian spirit, living a life dedicated to loving and helping others.

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Putting Others First: Giving Tuesday Campaign

By: Lesley Gena,
Winfield Education Foundation President

The Winfield Education Foundation and Winfield District 34 PTO have launched our holiday giving campaign for the season. Project Hope aims to brighten the holidays for our community in three main ways on Giving Tuesday, December 3.

GIFT GIVING – We are working with our dedicated school social worker to create gift lists for children of Winfield District 34 families with less access to financial resources and fulfill these gift lists with donations from our supporters and friends. Because of our community’s generosity last year we were able to provide gifts to 59 children and give each of our 21 participating families a gift card

IAWL stamps

continued from page 5

scenes from “It’s a Wonderful Life”. Their Top 5 scenes, along with many others received from friends and family, are included in scene numbers 19), 16), 20), 4) and 6) above.

The last piece of correspondence I received from the U.S. Postal Service regarding this decades-old project (it began in 1993 when the proposal was for a 50th anniversary commemorative stamp sheet in 1996) was in May of this year. The letter read in part: “...This topic is under consideration as a possible future stamp. (It) will remain under consideration until the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) assigns it to a program year. ...”

The 5/3/2024 letter had all the earmarks of a form letter, including reference to a “stamp”, instead of a “stamp sheet”, which it absolutely deserves. Just like the USPS 20-stamp sheets issued for Disney Villains (2017), Bugs Bunny (2020), Star Wars Droids (2022), and (incredibly) Dungeons & Dragons earlier this year.

As I keep saying over the years, if anyone wants to see this Frank Capra-directed film starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed appropriately honored with an 80th anniversary commemorative stamp sheet, please voice your opinion with a brief postcard or letter mailed to:

to Aldi!

BLOOD DRIVE – Join us for our Giving Tuesday blood drive, Dec 3 at Winfield District 34 Central Gym from 3:45-6:30 pm. Ages 16+ can donate. You can make an appointment online with our partners at Versiti with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2sjvhr4k> and walk-ins are also welcome. At last year’s Giving Tuesday blood drive our community donated enough blood to save 45 lives!

COAT DRIVE – Bring your gently used, good condition coats to our coat drive on Giving Tuesday, Dec 3 at the Winfield District 34 Central Gym between 3:15 and 7:00pm. Coats of all sizes including adult sizes can be donated. Donations will go to Winfield District 34 families who need them as well

Dr. Joseph L. Kelley, Chairman
Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee (or CSAC)
U.S. Postal Service
475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, D.C. 20261

Note to Tom Hanks: If by chance you receive this article, a simple phone call from you to Dr. Kelley would pretty much make it all happen.

By the way, as far as the official date when the “It’s a Wonderful Life” stamp sheet would be available for sale to the general public in 2026, how about Veterans Day, November 11th?

It would be a subtle, yet significant honor to both Stewart, Operations Officer of the 453rd Bomb Group during World War II, who flew 20 combat missions, and Capra, who directed the seven-part series, “Why We Fight”.

Colorized Stamps?

As most moviegoers know, there is also a colorized version of “It’s a Wonderful Life”.

So it’s possible – just like it’s possible for the NBC Network which owns the rights to the movie, to conduct a nationwide poll to select the 20 most popular scenes – for the U.S. Postal Service to issue not one, but two commemorative stamp sheets: One in its original black-and-white version, the other in full color. The promotional possibilities are endless. *“Hot dog!” and “Hee-haw!”*

as the clothes closet at local non-profit People’s Resource Center (PRC) who will give them out to more of our DuPage County neighbors. Last winter we collected over 40 coats for PRC!

To get involved in Project Hope, please email us at wef@winfield34.org.

Let’s work together to help others and spread hope!

Winfield Education Foundation is extremely grateful to our sponsors who make the work we do possible. Find more info about them here:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/W34EdFoundation/ and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/w34edfoundation/>



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