



September 21, 2008

Dear Winfield United Members,

We are now successfully entering our milestone 5th year as an organization. It continues to be an interesting and rewarding journey for our members whose efforts have had a positive influence in improving our community. Our organization continues to be driven by so many volunteers who graciously donate thousands of hours because they care so much about Winfield.

During this past year significant accomplishments were made by all of our operating teams: Community Projects, Civic Involvement and Communications. I want to briefly highlight some of these results without detracting from all of the hard work provided by each team's volunteers throughout the year.

The **Community Projects Team** coordinated a variety of projects including several Village beautification projects and supplied activities for children at the Criterium Races and Good Old Days. The funds raised by our now famous Minnow Races and Good Old Games are contributed to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton. Our new feature, the Petting Zoo at Good Old Days, was a huge hit this year! The major team project is the Outdoor Community Classroom at Winfield School which continues to "grow" both in size and in beauty. Phoebe Smith and her team of hard working volunteers from throughout the area have received grants to support the project and have done an amazing job that words simply cannot describe. Please make sure to stop by and view the work in progress and be simply amazed at what can be accomplished when people work together to benefit the community.

The **Civic Involvement Team** will be busy during this upcoming election year interviewing interested candidates and then selecting the best qualified candidates to endorse for the election. This promises to be an exciting year as there are 4 trustee positions up for election as well as the Village President. Our team will work diligently to qualify the best possible candidates who choose to run for office. As in every election since our inception, interested candidates who request our support will be offered the opportunity to interview with our team. The grueling interview process allows the candidates to state their positions on issues and give the team an overall sense of their character. Our ideals for open, honest, and ethical government will help guide our team to make the best selection for endorsement.

Fund raising by the Civic Involvement Team began this summer with the first ever Sculpture Garden Party and Ice Cream Social at Steve and Debbie Mueller's residence. Their outdoor sculptures, the music by Nils' band, the ladies' colorful hats and the ice cream all made for a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon. Our appreciation to Eleanor Himmelfarb for organizing the event.

The **Communications Team** also had a very successful year as well. They work diligently to update our website with new information on a regular basis, including posting notes of the Village Board meetings taken by WU volunteers. The editions of the Winfield Journal that they publish are chocked full of interesting stories and helpful information. They will coordinate with

the Civic Involvement Team to include information on endorsed candidates in the issue prior to next year's election to provide helpful background information on the candidates for all the community.

The tremendous success of Winfield United for a Better Community can only be attributed to the strong support of our members as active participants in our community. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our Team Leaders, we express our sincere gratitude to each of you for volunteering your valuable time and resources well beyond all expectations. Together we continue to make Winfield a better place for all of us.

Our continued success as an organization is directly dependent on the future commitment of our membership. As we participate in a greater number of volunteer projects, improve communications throughout the Village, and support open and honest government, we must also realize that our efforts will be limited by the number of members willing to volunteer for these tasks. Personally, I am asking each of our members to further challenge themselves in the next year by finding at least one additional member who would be willing to join in our efforts. Imagine the community benefits that our organization would be able to provide if we doubled our volunteer members.

Many of our activities and projects still require financial assistance which is why we continue to ask for your financial support. Our annual membership dues remain at \$30 per household. In addition, many of our members have asked for the ability to make further contributions to help finance the organization's good work. I am pleased to announce a new level of membership available to any interested members which enhances our ability to conduct community business.

Platinum Membership : \$500.00 and up
Gold Membership : \$250.00 to 499.99
Silver Membership : \$150.00 to 249.99
Bronze Membership : \$50.00 to 149.99

Our fiscal year begins in September and member dues are requested to be sent to:

Winfield United
P.O. Box 383
Winfield, IL 60190

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your support and for making.....Winfield United for a Better Community.

Visit our website www.winfieldunited.com for additional information.

Steve Romanelli
President