

WINFIELD JOURNAL



Event Calendar

Through February

Victorian Decorations, Kline Creek Farm: Victorians believed a beautiful home led to a beautiful soul. Tour the farmhouse to see decorative pieces from doilies to animal mounts, and try your hand at quilting. Tours begin on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (630) 876-5900

Sunday, Feb. 11

Noon – 3:00PM
Danada Equestrian Center, Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides: Experience the thrill of a 15-minute ride through the woodlands and open fields of a snow-covered preserve in a horse-drawn sleigh. First come, first served. \$5 per adult, \$2 per child ages 5 - 12, children under 5 free. Reservations required for groups of 10 or more. Call (630) 668-6012.

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 – 8:00PM
Winfield Public Library, Chicago Wolves Read to Succeed: Meet Chicago Wolves' Defenseman Nathan Oystreck. More information at (630) 653-7599

Through March

Motherhood on a Pedestal, Kline Creek Farm: Motherhood was highly valued in the 1890s, especially for its role in raising children. Learn about the work that went into keeping a home and caring for a family. Tours begin on the hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (630) 876-5900.

Winfield United Presented With Gold Leaf Award *By Phoebe Smith*

Winfield United was awarded with the Gold Leaf Award, presented at the annual conference of the Illinois Arborist Association on October 18 in Tinley Park.

Winfield United was nominated for the award by Edith Makra, Community Trees Advocate for the Morton Arboretum in Lisle.

see Award on page 4

Accepting the award on behalf of Winfield United for a Better Community are (L-R) Edith Makra (Morton Arboretum), Michael Smith, Phoebe Smith, Vivian Rockett, Terry Cooper



Village Board Passes Revised Tree Preservation Ordinance *By Cindy Keck*

The Winfield Village Board passed revisions to the Tree Preservation Ordinance at its regular Thursday meeting, January 4. The Environmental Concerns Commission (ECC), Village Board Trustee Liaisons Jack Bajor and Christine Petitti, Village Manager Bill Barlow and Carri Tullier have spent much of the past eighteen months hard at work crafting a strengthened Ordinance.

“The original draft was recommended by a developer with very little resident input. Now it will be more objective,” said Village President Rudy Czech. The revised Tree

Preservation Ordinance (2007-1-3) can be found in the Village Code on the Village of Winfield website under ordinances pending codification.

Over 23 communities in the greater Chicagoland metropolitan area – including counties, villages and home owners’ associations – are presently working on establishing or strengthening local ordinances for the preservation of natural habitats. On June 10, 2006, The Morton Arboretum hosted a Community Tree Preservation Forum, moderated by the Arboretum’s Community Trees

see Tree Preservation on page 3

Commitment to Public Service

*Trustee Joel Kunesh missed several meetings in the Jul-Sept timeframe due to an illness requiring hospitalization.

How do we measure public service by our elected officials? How do they perform after they win election to public office? We hear a lot from some Trustees about their many years of service and their commitment to their community. Is it true or is it campaign rhetoric?

Serving on the Village Board involves attending regular Board meetings, serving as Board liaisons to other Village commissions, participating in ad hoc meetings concerning proposed developments, and representing the Village at various community functions.

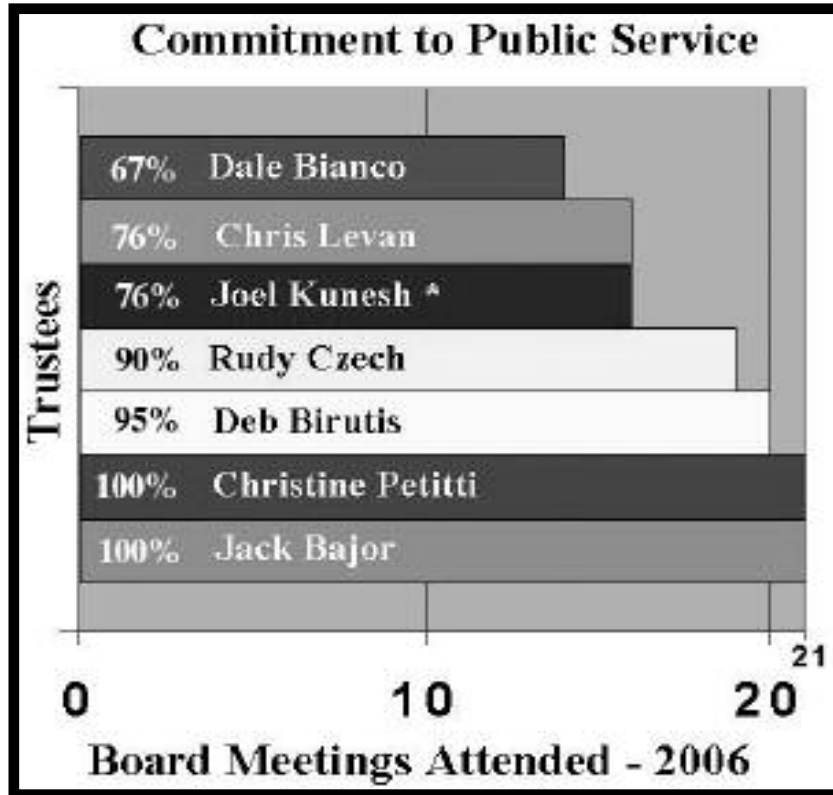
Those who are truly committed to serving the Village of Winfield fulfill their responsibilities throughout their entire

term regardless of who the other trustees

ofwinfield.com. Click on Minutes & Agendas to access attendance information

at each meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Winfield. The accompanying chart summarizes attendance at all 21 regular and special meetings of the Village Board from January 5, 2006 through October 5, 2006. Being a Trustee is a volunteer position, but we should still expect dutiful, honest performance. These are our elected leaders who we trust to make informed, ethical decisions for the good of the residents of Winfield. Likewise, it is our responsibility as residents, to make informed decisions in

voting for Trustee candidates. Stay informed, get involved, be



are or how the other trustees vote. See for yourself at [**Join Winfield United**
 Volunteer Projects – Education – Community Activism

\[www.winfieldunited.com\]\(http://www.winfieldunited.com\)
 Or call \(630\) 868-6122

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

Please provide your name, address and phone number and mail to WU, Box 383, Winfield, IL 60190. Annual membership dues are \\$30.](http://www.village-</p></div>
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By Jed Skillman

Trustee Kunesh Returns

Around of warm applause greeted Trustee Joel Kunesh on his return to Village Board service. This summer Trustee Kunesh suffered serious complications following a routine surgery on June 16th. Extended hospitalization and medical attention were required. Trustee Kunesh is fully recovered. During his absence from Village Hall, his duties were handled by fellow Trustees Jack Bajor, Deborah Birutis and Christine Petitti.

Tree Preservation, from page 1

Advocate Edith Makra and Lisa Burban of the USDA Forest Service.

Much of the opposition to the regulation of natural habitats is rooted in property rights, while advocates for tree preservation are motivated by the depletion of open space associated with urban sprawl. There is also concern over the redevelopment practice known as “tear-downs,” whereby modest homes are torn down and wooded lots often clear-cut to make way for larger homes, or “McMansions,” as they have come to be called.

Rising populations, greater demand for real estate from residential and commercial interests, increasing stress on residential and commercial infrastructure all conflict with the desire for open space and wildlife preservation. Typical of the general debate over environmental regulation, tensions between public and private interests is the source of much controversy surrounding the debate over municipal tree preserva-

tion ordinances in particular.

Advocates for tree preservation in particular argue that trees enhance and protect the aesthetic character of

uses and mitigate the impact of traffic from multi-use areas. The Village of Winfield is in a particularly vital situation, nestled as it is among no fewer

than five properties within the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County: Winfield Mounds, Timber Ridge, Roy C. Blackwell, Belleau Woods Forest Preserves and Klein Creek Farm.

Advocates for private property rights tend to accuse conservationists of being anti-growth, or opposed on principle to any and all development. Conservationists respond by pointing out the folly of neglecting issues of water quality, storm-water management, sewage treatment, road management and the aesthetic appearance of commercial areas and residential neighborhoods for short term gain.

Improvements to the existing Tree Preservation Ordinance will go a long way

toward establishing the necessary public oversight to zoning and development trends that will have a real impact on the appearance, the character and the future of Winfield.



Not everyone looks forward to the Environmental Concerns Commission's revised Tree Preservation Ordinance.

neighborhoods and roadways, help absorb storm-water runoff, conserve valuable energy resources by reducing surface heat with shade, minimize the impact of adjoining differing land

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Articles, comics, poetry, reminiscences,
jokes (keep'em clean, folks)

CONTACT

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info@winfieldunited.com

(630) 868-6122

NEIGHBORHOOD CLASSIFIEDS

LIMITED TIME SPECIAL RATE

Babysitting, lawnmowing, snow shoveling, Businesses and professions

\$5 per line for 4 issues (a whole year!)

Payment received by the start of the quarter

Award from page 1

Winfield United for a Better Community, a grass roots organization in Winfield was formed in 2004 to better represent the residents of Winfield in local political activities, communicate with the entire Village of Winfield, and to promote volunteerism for local improvement projects.

Raising community consciousness about the value of trees in the suburban landscape was a major project undertaken in 2006. This was accomplished on Arbor Day, April 23rd, 2006, by distributing 1,148 native trees (sycamores and red maples) to the same number of children at four local elementary schools attended by Winfield children in 38 classrooms.

Handing out 12-18" seedlings were 5 Winfield United volunteers accompanied at some locations by Morti, the Morton Arboretum's costumed, speaking tree, and Mike, another Arboretum volunteer.

Children and presenters discussed the many values of trees and how to plant the bare root trees that they so

gladly accepted. Teachers and administrators were delighted with the presentations. Many thank you notes from the students followed in the next few days.

The seedlings, in bundles of 50, arrived in time for a team of 11 Winfield United volunteers to go to work at separating, carefully wet-wrapping and bagging roots, and stapling information and instructions to the bag.

Also, plans were solidified by the Winfield United volunteers for the first "at cost" Native Tree Sale in Winfield to be held the day after Arbor Day. As it turned out, all 104 trees were sold in the first hour of the sale. Plans are being made to increase our inventory next year.

The Village of Winfield's Environmental Concerns Commission is presently working on strengthening our tree preservation ordinance, based upon input by Winfield United and other involved citizens.

We value our suburban forest canopy and we are committed to maintaining a balance of green space

To Winfield United for a Better Community,

Thank you for your contribution to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Midwest Shelter is the first Veteran's transitional facility in DuPage County. We will provide medical and psychological treatment and employment opportunities to our Veterans. Your contribution helps us to continue our work.

Thank you again,

**Bob Adams,
Chairman**

**Midwest Shelter for
Homeless Veterans**

Editor's Note: For more information please visit
<http://helpaveteran.org/>

Birutis from page 5

enunciated by Deborah, "I find it ludicrous that someone would even think that I am anti-development. Look at my voting record. I voted for Shelburne Farms, Fisher Farms, the DTA Sports Center on St. Charles and the Shiner Group development next to CVS. AND, I am 100% focused on developing Towncenter. I participate in all Main Street meetings, promote Winfield whenever I can and will continue to work hard to attract national developers who have the vision and, more importantly, the resources to make this happen". As she has repeatedly stated, "if we simply follow and execute our existing 2001 Comprehensive Plan and the 2002 Towncenter Plan, our Village will be financially sound for the next twenty

years. I am committed to making this happen."

Lastly, as we all know, the previous two years have been somewhat cantankerous and fraught with discord. In light of these occurrences, the Village Board strengthened its Ethics Code. Not only were the rules regarding how and when a Trustee may meet with a developer delineated, but also guidelines were issued regarding a Trustee's conduct and what is and is not acceptable behavior at Village meetings. Apparently, not all truths are self-evident.

So there we have it. Deborah Birutis is a vital component of a Village Board that is modeling its governance on the principles of teamwork and transparency. As Finance Liaison for all the financial and administrative

matters of the Village, she has made significant contributions to our quality of life and stands for strong, solid Village finances, smart growth and assisting residents with their concerns. When asked why she was running, Deborah replied, "I decided to run because I felt the Village Board had made a lot of progress in the last two years and I want that to continue. Our finances never looked stronger and we have Fund balances that are increasing. It is an exciting time for the Village of Winfield and I want to be a participant."

Deborah Birutis is the real deal.

For further information on Deborah Birutis's ideas concerning "Sustainable Revenues for the Village of Winfield," a wonderfully logical and cogent essay by Deborah Birutis and Jack Bajor, please visit www.winfieldunited.com.

Birutis Runs for Village Board

Deborah Birutis was appointed Village Trustee to Village President Rudy Czech's unexpired term in May, 2005.

She has recently pulled an election packet to run for the position in her own right in this Spring's Consolidated Elections. This article is an effort to introduce Deborah to you, the voters of the Village of Winfield.

Deborah was born in Euclid, Ohio and raised in Canada, where her father worked in the field of Education. She returned to the United States to attend school at John Carroll University, majoring in Finance and earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She subsequently received her M.B.A. in Management at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. A point of reference to Deborah's tenacity is that she worked full-time during her pursuit of higher education. Deborah spent fifteen years as a Financial Executive in Finance, Accounting and Administration for various corporations, before stepping down as Vice President - Finance and Administration for Teldata, Inc in 1999 to raise her son, Alex, who is nine years old. Deborah and her husband, Andy, came to Winfield by way of Carol Stream and have lived in the Village for three years.

From the minute Deborah arrived in Winfield, she has hit the ground running! Her efforts include, but are not limited to, serving as a School Board Member and on the Finance Committee of St. John the Baptist Church, as a substitute teacher at St. John's, as Community Projects leader for Winfield United for a Better Community, as Long Term Care Ombudsman for DuPage County and as an Executive Board Member, Treasurer, for Cub Scout Pack 575. Her work as Community Projects

leader for Winfield United for a Better

Community involves organizing and assisting with community projects in conjunction with the Winfield Village Manager, Main Street Winfield, Friends for the Library, Winfield Area Gardener's Club, the Winfield Historical Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Prairie Path Association. She also served on the Communications Commission for the Village of Winfield prior to her appointment as a Village Trustee. She is a roll-up her sleeves, hands-on individual and truly an asset to our Community.

Which is all well and good, but why should you vote for her for Village Trustee this Spring? For one, she has a proven track record of looking out for the residents of the Village of Winfield; she respects your opinions; and most importantly, she respects your money.

For the first time in the Village's history, Winfield has a Finance Committee that will consist of three Trustees, a Resident and the Treasurer. Previously, this important function of local government was placed in the hands of one Village Board member and a Consultant. Also, with the help of Deborah's leadership, our impact fees have been increased for the first time since 1989. These fees directly benefit our schools, library, park district and local government. Our impact fees are now more in line with the fees levied by the surrounding communities. Impact fees are important to our community because they provide needed funds before a new project becomes a taxing body. And most exciting of all, under Deborah's direction, and for the first time in ten years, we have

an increase of \$60,000 in the General Fund balance! Through strong fiscal oversight and management, the '06-'07 General Funds budget is adhering to a strict 5% growth rate in expenditures to an estimated 8% increase in revenues. These are policies that place the Village on solid financial footing for the foreseeable future.

Another refreshing change is that the current administration listens to the residents. For years, the residents of Klein Creek have asked the Village to relocate Reliable Wrecking Co. After ten years of promises, this is now happening and a timetable is in development to convert this property to residential homes consistent with the surrounding homes. Listening to the residents of the Village has also led to the strengthening of the Village's Property Maintenance Codes, with fines increased and stepped up enforcement.

Deborah is a strong adherent of following the Village's Comprehensive Plan for land use and is committed to its thoughtful implementation. "What is designated residential remains residential, what is listed as commercial, stays commercial," succinctly sums up her position. In this context, the Village Board has made a strong partnership with Central DuPage Hospital and is coming ever closer to starting Phase II of the Towncenter project covering eleven acres on the northwest corner of Winfield and Highlake Roads. As Deborah stated, "developing Towncenter as a destination place benefitting all residents is an exciting project. Smart growth is possible and Winfield is starting to be proof of that."

And now let us lay to rest the bugaboo charge that Ms Birutis has an anti-development bias. As clearly

see Birutis on page 4

By Phoebe Smith

Middle School Prairie Planting

Plans for the creation of the Winfield School Outdoor Classroom are well underway as two professional landscape designers have been consulted to put the final touches on a plan that corresponds to requests made by Winfield School teachers via a survey last fall.

The purpose of creating an Outdoor Community Classroom at the Winfield Public School is not only to landscape the grounds, but also to bring learning out of the classroom into a space where students, teachers and community members can learn about the importance of biodiversity and about the natural world of which we are a part. Special attention will be given to habitats native to Illinois with the intention of familiarizing students and residents with the natural history of the area and restoration

efforts we can make to ensure the preservation of these native habitats for future generations.

A team of avid volunteers are in the process of applying for grants to help cover the costs involved in the project, and are also discussing ways to integrate other community groups into the project. We hope that the Winfield School Outdoor Classroom project will be a cooperative effort of students, teachers and community members who will find joy in working together, learning about nature and

beautifying a highly visible stretch of our hometown's main street. Preparation of the planting beds will begin around the middle of April 2007. Winfield School children will have an opportunity to help install small plants before school is out for the summer. Watering and weeding will be done by Winfield United volunteers throughout the summer and until the plants become established. We look forward to the opportunities for learning this outdoor classroom promises to bring to the school and the community as a whole.

Would you like to join the fun?
Visit www.winfieldunited.com
Or call (630) 868-6122

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E-Mail:

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WU Wins Gold Leaf Award & More...

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