

WINFIELD JOURNAL



Event Calendar

March 26-April 12

Early voting for Consolidated Elections DuPage County Election Commission 421 N. County Farm Rd. Wheaton, IL M-F 8AM-4:30PM Sat/Sun 9AM-Noon (Closed Easter Sunday)
More info: 630-407-5600

Tuesday, April 17

Noon – 3:00PM
Consolidated Elections More info: 630-407-5600

Saturday, April 28

9AM – 4PM Arbor Day Tree Sale
Winfield Community United Methodist Church, 0 S 347 Jefferson St. (See p. 6)

Why Vote?

By Jed Skillman

Some Winfield residents may be wondering why they should go to the polls and vote April 17th. This year's Village election is uncontested, so where's the excitement?

There are four residents running, unopposed, for four offices; three for Trustee positions and one for Village Clerk. Under these circumstances, come election day, all the candidates would have to do is show up at the polls, vote for themselves, and they'd be officially "elected". No muss, no fuss.

This is a very different situation from the election of two years ago. Recall, that year the issues were big and clear, and everyone knew it. Among them were irresponsible and disrespectful behavior from some elected officials; rampant poorly planned land development; and the lack of consideration for the quality of life issues that brought many people to Winfield in the first place. To many residents,

the Village seemed up for grabs to the highest bidder.

That year citizens couldn't wait to get to the polls. In some precincts they were lined up out to the sidewalk when the doors opened. Voter turnout was extremely high for a "local" election, well over 60%. When the results were in, by a wide, 2to-1 majority, the new administration was elected to office. It was not an "us versus them" election, or a competition of one neighborhood against another. The election of '05 was about real issues that concerned people from one end of the Village to the other. Election numbers that strong prove it.

Considered outside the framework of specific "issues" the real basis of the last election is still valid for this elec

(Vote, cont'd on p. 3)

Two Gentlemen from Winfield

The Winfield Journal would like to introduce Dennis Keeler and Glenn VadeBonCoeur to the residents of the Village of Winfield.

This Winter these two gentlemen pulled their Election packets and walked amongst their neighbors and friends, asking for signatures on their petitions. They then returned these completed petitions to the Election Commission and now stand before us, the residents of the Village of Winfield, as candidates for Village Trustee in this Spring's Consolidated Elections. This article will endeavor to inform you, the voters of Winfield, about the backgrounds, ideas and vision of Candidates Keeler and VadeBonCoeur.

Mr. Dennis Keeler was born and raised in Chicago. He received his BSEE (Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering) from the Illinois Institute of Technology and spent the bulk of his professional career as an Electrical Engineer with the Nestle Company. After his retirement as a Project Manager, Dennis and his wife Eileen, also a Chicago native, moved three years ago from Wheaton to the Klein Creek Townhomes in Winfield. They are the parents of two adult children, Kelly Anne and Matthew Charles.

Mr. Glenn VadeBonCoeur is also an Illinois native, born and raised in Kankakee. Glenn was educated at the University of Illinois and received his Bachelor's degree in Finance. Glenn began his professional career in International Banking, working at the Harris Bank and then moving to Impact Solutions, an international banking software provider to banks, such as Lloyd's and Deutsche. Four years ago, Glenn made a huge change in his professional career and started the Interquest Detection Canines, Chicago office. This major career decision has proven to be very personally rewarding for him. His partner at Interquest is the highly trained and talented Dandy, a six year old Golden Retriever. Glenn and

his wife, Donna, are longtime residents of DuPage County and have lived in the Village of Winfield at Fredericksburg Farms for ten years. Dandy lives here too!

Appointed by Village Board President Rudy Czech, both Dennis and Glenn began their public service to the Village on the Plan Commission and each has a thorough and grounded respect for the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Keeler stated that he views the Comprehensive Plan "not as a guideline but as a Constitution." He further explained that "from an Engineering framework, it is important to set long term plans, review them and periodically update them. But one must stay true to the integral Plan. Wholesale changes are prohibitively expensive." Mr. VadeBonCoeur believes, "that our Comprehensive Plan lays out a solid path for future development in our Village." He further stated, "development must be appropriate to our Village - in size, in location, in scale and in timing." Glenn firmly stressed that "first and foremost, any development must be oriented toward benefitting our residents and preserving the character that is so treasured in our Village."

As Dennis delightedly states, "every entrance into Winfield is peaceful."

With reference to the Village's Town Center project, both candidates support a vibrant Town Center. But Dennis also expressed the position that "we need to decide what we want to be when we grow up. What do we want to attract?" And Glenn believes that "while we may all have wishes and dreams for one business or shop, we must recognize that defined economic considerations and the probability of success are the factors that will dictate which business models will best fit our downtown environment." In light of

this reasoning, both candidates support "the proposal of working with professional economic consultants in order to gain a clear understanding of the Village's specific business environment." As Dennis Keeler has said, "who do we want to be when we grow up?" Glenn's viewpoint is that "once we have identified the parameters for an optimal fit, the Village will be in a position to make a compelling economic case to attract the best businesses to our downtown area".

Now, unfortunately, we need to address a very important issue. There is no point beating around the bush regarding our recent history: the past two years have been contentious and fraught with rancorous discord. Winfield's image in the local newspapers, when we have rated notice, has been altogether negative. In order to improve the situation, the Village Board revamped our own Ethics Code - laying out what is and isn't acceptable behavior. Candidates Keeler and VadeBonCoeur wish to build on the civility this strengthened Code has begun to achieve.

So here we are, voters of Winfield. We have two strong candidates, Dennis Keeler and Glenn VadeBonCoeur, who support the Comprehensive Plan, support a vibrant Town Center and respect and value the character and charm of the Village of Winfield. These two candidates want to engage in lively debate and discourse as our monumental projects advance. They also want to conduct themselves and our local government with dignity, professionalism and respect - particularly respect for their colleagues and especially, respect for the residents of Winfield. Dennis Keeler and Glenn VadeBonCoeur support a public and transparent agenda that benefits all the residents of Winfield.

Therefore, will we step up April 17 and support these two gentlemen from Winfield?

Emerald Ash Borer: Don't Panic

Contrary to what you might hear or read in the coming years, the devastating Emerald Ash Borer is not necessarily a death sentence for your Ash tree.

Homeowners do have options if they work with a reputable tree service that understands the insect and knows how to deal with it.

In 2006, the first infestation in our area appeared in St. Charles. While it was hoped that this would be the only infested area, by Fall the Beetle was found in four more areas of Illinois. Unfortunately it appears the insect may spread as rapidly here as it did in Michigan and Ohio. In

the beginning it was said that the insect multiplied and moved so quickly that nothing could be done to save any of the Ash trees. We now know that this is not true. Several studies done by Michigan State University in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture have shown that specific soil and trunk treatments will save Ash trees. While no treatments are guaranteed to prevent infestation, soil and trunk

treatments can, if started early, kill the larvae as it begins to burrow into your Ash before major vascular damage occurs. Early on, the soil drench treatment consists of the combination of a certain insecticide along with a rich suspension of fertilizer. It is well known that by keeping a tree as healthy as possible it is better able to withstand attacks by insects or fungal problems.

The second treatment involves a "shot in the arm" or trunk injection of insecticide as the situation nears your town.

(See Ash, p. 6)

(Vote, cont'd from p. 1)

tion. Simply, Winfield voters expect honest, good-faith effort on the part of their elected officials. They rightly expect Village government to operate for the benefit of Village residents – and no one else. No shouting, no name-calling, and no side-deals.

But Village government, even without all the dramas, still requires a lot of work. In order to keep things running there are meetings to attend, committees to serve, paperwork to study. Even a simple thing, like putting up a new stop-sign, requires study and discussion. In the back of every voter's mind is the knowledge that being a thoughtful, conscientious elected Village official is largely a thankless job. Who'd want the hassle?

This year Winfield is fortunate to have four good citizens who have stepped forward and will commit to the work.

Even though there is no meaningful opposition, these candidates have been spending their evenings attending meetings and their weekends going door-to-door. They have been introducing themselves, listening to resident concerns, and explaining their own individual visions of what Winfield is and where they would like to lead it. Even before elected, they are doing the work necessary to properly manage the Village's affairs.

The election of April 17th is largely ceremonial. But we, as Winfield residents, owe these four fellow citizens our "vote of confidence". Our votes tell them "thank you" for doing a job no one else wanted to do. It also tells them that we are an engaged, participating electorate, that we appreciate sincere and honest effort, and that we, too, are paying attention to our Village.

Join Winfield United

Volunteer Projects – Education – Community Activism

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.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

CONTACT

Winfield Journal: PO Box 383, Winfield, IL 60190

info@winfieldunited.com

(630) 868-6122

Notes on Tax Season

A strong indication of how the progress of development adds stress to public services is the frequency of civic referenda that show up on our ballots each election day. Civic revenue distribution is not a one-stop shop, and it is not always clear to see where our tax dollars are headed.

Roughly three-quarters of my own household's property tax dollar is distributed between the grade school and high school districts. The rest is distributed among an array of civil service providers, with the Park and Fire Protection Districts receiving a bit more than a dime, and the Village of Winfield slightly less than a nickel. The rest is divvied up among the Library District, College of DuPage, the Forest Preserve District, DuPage Airport Authority, Winfield Township Road Maintenance, and the West Chicago Mosquito Abatement District.

For a breakdown of how your property taxes are distributed, visit the webpage of the County Clerk at the DuPage County website:

www.dupageco.org/countyclerk/index.cfm

Armed with the knowledge of the overlapping taxing bodies that draw from it, we may then hold the bureaucracy accountable for the priorities revealed in their budgets.

With progress comes the need to maintain a sustainable physical and civic infrastructure.

By all means, let us keep a watchful eye on those who distribute our hard-earned tax dollars. But sometimes we just have to buck up and pitch in.

Society is made up of countless nuts and bolts that need to be maintained, and we are all in this together.

Trustee Birutis Reports: Measurable Progress for Village

Residents curious about details of recent progress in Winfield are encouraged to visit – and bookmark – the Winfield United web site www.winfieldunited.com and then click on the “2007 White Paper on Winfield’s Success”, as reported by Village Trustee and Finance Chairman, Deborah Birutis.

Trustee Birutis begins her report with this clear declaration:

“The Village of Winfield has made amazing progress in less than two short years under the current administration.”

Her report runs over twelve pages in length and contains a lot of good news.

Of particular note are comments related to

- The planning for Phase II of the Town Center development at the NW corner of Winfield and High Lake Roads.
- Increased fees paid to the Village by developers, bringing Winfield more in line with surrounding communities.
- Board passage of a strengthened Tree Preservation Ordinance.
- Board passage of a strengthened Ethics Code governing the behavior of elected officials at public meetings and limiting inappropriate private meetings with developers.
- The Annexation of the land occupied by Reliable Wrecking in Klein Creek, and development of a timetable to convert the property to residential use consistent with the surrounding the Klein Creek neighborhood.
- And of special importance to the Tax Paying Public, this little bit of news: for the first time since 2001 Winfield Village finances are in the “plus” column! It is interesting to note that in fiscal 2005, the last year of the old administration, the Village ran \$306,000 in the red. During the first year of the new Administration this trend was reversed, and the Village ended the year with a \$60,000 surplus! Added up, that is a net turn-around of \$366,000 – without raising taxes or making concessions to developers. Even better numbers are projected to appear in April, the end of this fiscal year.

This encouraging report reflects well on the management skills of Trustee Birutis and the other members of the new Village Administration. Their determination and resourceful efforts have clearly benefited residents. The Birutis report deserves the attention of all Winfield residents.

School Prairie Update

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 is 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

Election Day Tuesday, April 17

Village Trustee

Deborah Birutis
Dennis Keeler
Glenn VadeBonCoeur

Village Clerk

Anne Mareachen

Library Trustee

Karen H. Hannah
Carol Tenyak-O'Connor
Laura Slivinski

Dist. 34 School Board

Bob Brown
Craig T. Martin
Rita A. Grady

Dist. 94 School Board

Gary R. Saake
Charles Jacques
Ruben O. Campos
Christopher J. Stull
Katherine M. Doremus
John P. Jensen

Park District Commissioner

Tom Duggan
Daniel Hitzeman

Winfield Township Road Referendum

Winfield Fire Protection District Referendum

10% OF MEMBER PURCHASES MADE BETWEEN APRIL 4-7
WILL GO TO WINFIELD UNITED POLITICAL COMMITTEE

POTTED PETALS

Home and Garden

FLORAL ~ GARDEN ~ GIFT

219 South Main Street Lombard, IL 60148 / 630-620-0448

16” SOFTBALL

Looking for adults interested in joining weekly informal 16” softball games.

No gloves, no uniforms, no expenses; just the love of Chicago style softball.

Weekends and/or weeknights when diamonds are available.

Contact Barry:
bdredze@comcast.net

By Cindy Keck

Go Vols!

In the past two years the Community Projects team has logged over 1200 hours of work, helping make Winfield a better place to live and work!

Our team of volunteers has helped with the painting, gardening and watering in public areas, pulling invasive plants, Good Old Days, cleaning the Prairie Path, and working at the book sales with the Friends of the Library. We began improving the drainage and landscaping around the steps coming down from the railroad crossing at Church Street.

You will see many of us working at the prairie planting at the public school as that project progresses. We have already committed to helping with the Prairie Path clean up April 28, and to working with the Chamber of Commerce to help make Good Old Days go smoothly in September.

Check www.winfieldunited.com for dates of our other upcoming volunteer opportunities.

E-mail us at info@winfieldunited.com if you would like to join in!

(Ash, cont'd from p. 3)

If this Emerald Ash Borer situation worsens as it did in other states, Illinois will lose almost every one of its 130 million Ash trees. The only Ash trees left will be those which were treated properly. In consideration of cost, this treatment should not be considered for every Ash tree. A homeowner should assess their property and determine which Ash tree or trees are most valuable to their landscaping design. Is the tree well located? Does it provide shade to the patio, deck or the house itself? How many years will it take to grow a new tree in its place? Does it add value to my property due to its aesthetic appeal? If the answer is yes, then the tree is certainly worth some yearly maintenance. We do this for our lawns, why not for our trees?

One story – in September we went to Michigan to see the situation first hand. It was sad. There were miles and miles of neighborhoods, parks and forest preserves

with thousands of dead Ash trees or just the remaining stumps. We met with a local Master Arborist who has been dealing with the situation for four years and has a tremendous treatment program. We went to malls, apartment complexes and the Oakland Airport to find an “oasis” of live Ash trees in the midst of the devastation. It was a beautiful thing to see. This arborist said he has saved over 92% of the Ash trees he has treated even with the “late” treatment start. He said Illinois has a distinct advantage in that we can learn from Michigan and Ohio and get an “early” start. He feels that over 98% of the Ash trees that are properly treated can be saved if homeowners and cities will be proactive and start now! In doing this, you will be the proud owner of what will become a very rare tree in Illinois, the Ash.

Craig Casino is President and CEO of Tree Green Specialists, Winfield, IL

WINFIELD UNITED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY
In cooperation with The Morton Arboretum

TREE SALE

3 GALLON SIZE REDBUD, OAK, RIVER BIRCH, DOGWOOD, AND A FEW OTHERS

ENHANCE THE LANDSCAPE OF OUR ALREADY BEAUTIFUL TOWN!

All Trees \$25.00

SATURDAY APRIL 28

**Winfield Community United Methodist
Church parking lot
0S347 Jefferson St.**

(Corner of Jefferson and Sunnyside)

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

(or while quantities last)

Questions -- Call 690-7608

**This is a non-profit, community service event sponsored by volunteers from
Winfield United for a Better Community**

Winfield United's Annual Tree Sale April 28

Winfield United for a Better Community, in conjunction with The Morton Arboretum, will again be sponsoring a tree sale to celebrate Arbor Day.

A selection of ornamental and native trees will be offered at the low price of \$25.00 per tree. Varieties include Redbud, Dogwood, Oak, and Clump River Birch, as well as a limited selection of other native varieties. These trees have been selected to flourish in our hardiness zone.

The sale will be held at Winfield Community United Methodist Church, 0 S 347 Jefferson St., at the corner of Jefferson and Sunnyside in Winfield.

The sale is Saturday, April 28, starting at 9AM (no earlybirds

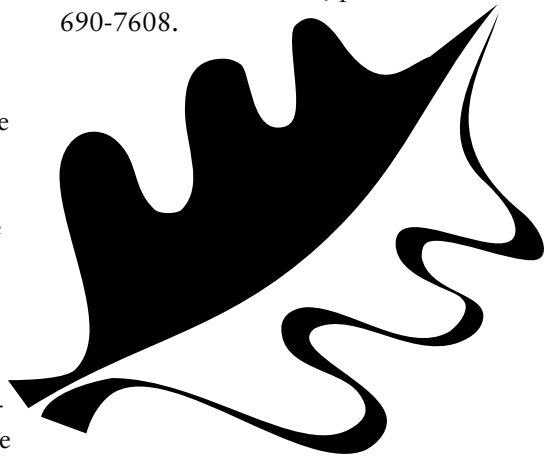
please). We will continue until 4 P.M. or while supplies last.

The Winfield United volunteers are sponsoring this event to help enhance the beauty of our already beautiful town with some lovely tree choices. A tree expert from Morton Arboretum will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about planting and caring for your tree. Complete planting and care instructions will be provided for each tree.

Last year's sale was very successful, and we sold out quickly. We have

ordered more trees for this year's sale for your planting pleasure! A Tip: Plan to arrive in the morning for a better selection.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call 690-7608.



WINFIELD UNITED
PO Box 383 / WINFIELD, IL 60190

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Winfield United for a Better Community

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