

# Friends of Klein Fen

Friends of Klein Fen  
West Chicago, Illinois

Please visit our new website at: [www.friendsofkleinfen.org](http://www.friendsofkleinfen.org) Non-Profit Organization 501(c) 3  
[www.friendsofkleinfen.org](http://www.friendsofkleinfen.org)

## Friends of Klein Fen Newsletter - October 2008 \*\*\*URGENT UPDATE\*\*\*

A few weeks ago we distributed a September Newsletter to recognize some of the serious stormwater issues that we have in our local community. The **Friends of Klein Fen** outlined an action plan to organize a formal statement addressing water quality and storm water concerns that would be sent to the City of West Chicago and other government agencies prior to the final approval of any Planned Unit Development on the St. Andrews Golf and Country Club property. This property is currently under re-zoning consideration in West Chicago (high density housing and commercial use).

A recent letter that was sent through one of our local advocacy groups, the DuPage River Coalition, and their president, Christopher Stull, highlights our action plan. The letter (see back page) was addressed to several local, county, state officials and other environmental leaders requesting their attendance in a **Storm Water Summit** that will be hosted by the **Friends of Klein Fen** and planned for later this month.

Be advised that the **City of West Chicago's Development Committee** is meeting this Monday, October 13, 2008 (7:00 PM at the City Hall Council Chambers) to discuss one of the following agenda "Items for Consent": *St Andrews Golf Course – Annexation Agreement Amendment, Annexation, Re-zoning, Special Use Amendment, Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Text Amendment*. If you are interested in what the City of West Chicago is planning...it is worth attending.

Many residents have voiced their concerns and supported our organization's initiatives with a tax-deductible donation. We thank those of you for your recent support as it assists us in securing the legal counsel and advice we need to effectively continue our efforts.

Please cut/tear off and return this note with your donation made payable to the:

**Friends of Klein Fen**  
**745 Tanager Lane, West Chicago, Illinois 60185**

\_\_\_ \$100.00 (Donate \$100 or more and request an informational packet that includes a T-shirt)

\_\_\_ XL, \_\_\_ L, \_\_\_ M, \_\_\_ S Please provide your name/address and phone:

\_\_\_ \$75.00, \_\_\_ \$50.00, \_\_\_ \$25.00, \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Klein Fen Mission Statement:

To raise awareness about Klein Fen, to support the preservation and restoration process, and to promote the adoption of best management practices for storm water control and natural conservancy throughout the upper reaches of the watershed surrounding the West Branch of the DuPage River.

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October 8, 2008

Jennifer Hammer, Land Conservation and Water Specialist, Conservation Foundation  
Jim Klienwachter, Land Preservation Specialist & Conservation @ Home, Conservation Foundation  
Brooke McDonald, President, Conservation Foundation  
Mike Kwasman, Mayor City of West Chicago  
Mike Fortner, State Representative, House District 95  
Randy Ramey, State Representative, House District 55  
Dewey Pierotti, President, DuPage County Forest Preserve District  
Roger Kotecki, Forest Preserve Board Member, District 6  
Jim Zay, County Board Member, District 6 (Chairman of the Stormwater Committee)  
Bob Larsen, Candidate for County Board, District 6  
Dirk Enger, Candidate for County Board, District 6  
Bill Newell, Wayne Township Supervisor  
Ken Spitz, Wayne Township Highway Commissioner  
John Millner, State Senator, District 28

Re: Meeting of residents in unincorporated areas

Several weeks ago we experienced a unique event in DuPage County. For nearly forty-eight hours, storm fronts stalled over our area and delivered up to 17" of rain. What made this event so unusual was that the rain fell consistently over the entire area identified as the watershed of the west branch of the DuPage River.

There have been heavier rains in the past, but they are often isolated to certain sections of the watershed, allowing municipal and county stormwater structures to work efficiently and effectively. But this event struck the entire watershed all at the same time, leaving no "slack" in the system to handle the sudden inrush of water from all directions. The result was that some areas experienced severe flooding, while others did not. Many of the residents of subdivisions located to the east and north of the city limits of West Chicago experienced varying degrees of damage from stormwater flooding. Many of these residents have expressed anger and frustration with what they see to be a failure of the County stormwater system that they assumed would protect them from such events.

Some of these residents are concerned that the recent annexation and re-zoning of five parcels commonly known collectively as the "St. Andrews property" could lead to potential future development that, regardless of whether it is R-1 or R-3, would lead to an increase in impermeable surfaces that would aggravate the stormwater runoff situation, and overwhelm their existing stormwater structures, thus leading to an increase in the number of incidents of residential flooding.

Many of these questions and issues have been brought to the **Friends of Klein Fen**. As an organization dedicated to natural conservancy in the watershed of the West Branch, we have access to information about environmentally friendly, low cost alternatives that have been demonstrated to ease flooding and improve water quality while preserving precious open space for public use all at the same time.

Accordingly, the **Friends of Klein Fen** would like to extend an invitation to you and any other City officials who would like to attend a Regional Stormwater Summit that is being sponsored by the **Friends of Klein Fen** to share this information with our neighbors in the watershed who are in the unincorporated areas.

The purpose of this Summit is to bring together neighbors who have experienced common problems to inform them of what they as individuals, as well as a regional group, can do to reduce the frequency and severity of such flooding in the future. The purpose of this meeting is not to assess blame, but rather to look critically at what systems worked well and which ones did not, thus giving our elected officials in Wayne Township and the County valuable information to assist them in making improvements in the system where necessary.

This meeting will also serve the purpose of informing those area residents who do not live in West Chicago how the City's PUD process works, and what kinds of technical requirements that any proposed development of the St. Andrews property would have to satisfy – particularly relative to stormwater issues- before plans for development could be approved.

We are also extending this invitation to our Forest Preserve representative, our County Board candidates from District 6, and our State Representative from District 95 and State Senator from District 28.

As President of the DuPage River Coalition, a branch of the Conservation Foundation, I will be moderating the Summit. The goal is public education and the proposing of solutions that do not involve extensive expenditure of public funds or massive capital projects. The emphasis will be on natural methods of alleviating stormwater problems while maintaining water quality in the West Branch, and the environmental impact of stormwater runoff.

I hope you will contact me at 630-293-6659 and accept this invitation to attend this Summit. Once we know who is interested in attending, we will be setting the date, time, and place to accommodate as many of your busy schedules as possible. We would like to hold this meeting by the end of October, so a quick response would be helpful and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or require any additional information please contact me.

Regards, Christopher Stull, President, DuPage River Coalition

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