**Village Council – Candidate Bio’s**

**Chris Rintz**

*Village President, Term ends 2021.* Christopher Rintz resides at 1175 Spruce Street with his wife and has resided in Winnetka for 28 years.  Chris has previously served as a village trustee from 2008-2012, 2016 and then 2017 to present as Village President.

Chris has developed many town centers, including the Harbor Park Development in Kenosha, Racine, Downers Grove and Bartlett. He has been involved in the historic revitalization of several neighborhoods, including Chicago's Near West and South Sides, West Haven, South Haven, Keia Village, Village West and Hutchinson's Row. He is a member of 4 Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panels. Chris has a degree in Organizational Behavior from Northwestern University Magna Cum Laude and has been self-employed with New England Homes, LLC for over 30 years.

**Andrew Cripe**

*Village Trustee, Term ends 2021*. Andrew resides at 548 Maple Street with his Wife and 4 children.  Andy has been a resident of Winnetka for 15 years and has served as a trustee since May of 2015.  In addition to the Village Board, Andy also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Caucus and the Winnetka District 36 Strategic Planning Process.  Andy is currently employed as a Partner/Equity Shareholder with Polsinelli LLP in Chicago

**Jonathan Alt**

Jonathan resides at 982 Elm Street with his wife and three children.  Jonathan has been a lifelong resident of Winnetka.  Jonathan is currently the Chief Revenue Officer of Lifestyle Brands at Dotdash.

Jonathan’s interest in the Village Board was born out of his love for Winnetka and interest in helping Winnetka become the best possible version of itself in order to attract new residents and businesses.

**Kim Mancini**

Kim resides at 800 Rosewood Ave with her Husband and three children.  Kim is a lifelong resident of Illinois and has resided in Winnetka for 5.5 years.  Kim has vast experience on other boards including most recently on the Winnetka Community Nursery School Board as its Vice President, President and Past President.  Kim holds an MBA from the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business.

**Parks – Candidate Bio’s**

**Eric Lussen**

*Parks Commissioner, Term 2017-2021.*  Eric and his wife, Meredith, have lived in Winnetka since 2014. They have four children ages four to ten. Eric earned a BS degree from Boston College, an MS degree from Boston University, and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Eric is a senior vice president at Fidelity Investments with 22 years of institutional investment exerience.

In addition to his role as a Commissioner of the Winnetka Park District, Eric is a board

member of the Winnetka Hockey Club and the Saints Faith, Hope & Charity School. Over

the past few years the Lussen family’s favorite Winnetka Park District programs include the

Family Camp Out, Fourth of July Parade, and the Winnetka Winter Express.

**Warren James**

*Parks Commissioner, Term 2017-2021.*  Warren grew up in Winnetka attending New Trier High School. He and his wife Amy moved back to Winnetka in January of 1997 where they raised three children, two daughters and one son, New Trier classes of 2016, 2017 and 2021, respectively. Warren earned a BS from the University of Illinois School of Engineering and has been in the real estate development and construction industry for over 33 years. He is a founding principal of REVA Development Partners, LLC, developing and constructing multi-family properties in suburban Chicago and Denver.

Warren is presently completing his first term as a Park District Commissioner (2017-2021) and prior to that he served as co-chairman of the Winnetka 2030 Lakefront Master Plan. Warren has actively served in Scouting with Winnetka Pack 18 and Winnetka Troop 20 for more than 12 years and is the founding director of Friends of Future Builder Scouts which supports Future Builder Scouts in Ghana. He also coached AYSO soccer for eight years. Among his many interests, Warren is a commercial pilot, a water and snow skier, boater and golfer.

**Colleen Root**

My husband, John, and I relocated to Winnetka from Houston, Texas as of October 1, 2018, having lost our Houston, Texas home of 42 years and my Elder Law office when the Army Corps of Engineers deliberately released the Addicks Reservoir in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. This governmental action destroyed over 9,000 homes and businesses in West Houston, of which ours was one, and transformed the area into ‘Lake Houston’ traversable only by boat for a period of twenty-one days. Having spent the first twenty-five years of my legal practice as a corporate attorney with a focus in natural resources, environmental and administrative practice, I was cognizant of the delicate balance between nature and human development and the problems that arise when that balance is not successfully achieved. My interest in serving the Park District as a Trustee focuses on a desire to continue Winnetka’s tradition of preservation and improvement of its many beautiful parks and beaches, inclusive of its dog beach at Centennial Park, residential amenities that were instrumental in our selection of

Winnetka as our new home over other North Shore communities.

My early years were spent in a 1780 Federal farmhouse located in the country outside Gettysburg, PA. I was graduated from Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA with an AB in History & Theology and received my JD from the University of Tulsa. Throughout the summers of my college and law school years, I worked as a Seasonal Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. I’ve always been most at home in nature with a keen interest in the preservation and restoration of natural habitats.

Throughout my forty-two years of legal practice, I’ve been active in both legal and community volunteer efforts as co-founder of the Houston Chapter of the Women’s Energy Council, Council Member of the Houston Bar Association, Council Member of the Houston Chapter of the Federal Energy Bar, Participating Member of the Houston Bar Association Elder Law Council, and have worked with several Blue Ribbon Committees at the Texas Railroad Commission. I also served as a Trustee of our Houston neighborhood Homeowners Association for many years, initially as Secretary, then Vice President and then as President for a period of five years. During that time,

the Association worked with the City, County and Flood Control District in the construction of the Buffalo Bayou Hike and Bike Trail, a park that bordered our neighborhood.

While in Houston I was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church. I am currently a member of Winnetka Congregational Church and involved with its Bell Choir and Rummage Sale. John and I are often seen walking a 3-year old Basset named Penny Pawlette. My son, Andy Root, and family reside in Winnetka. My four-year-old granddaughter, Elsie, participated in the Park District’s Summer Camp and currently loves the Park District’s Snowplow Sam Ice Skating classes.

**Winnetka-Northfield Library –** **Candidate Bio’s**

**JP Ruiz-Funes**

*Library President, Term expires 2021*. JP Ruiz-Funes is a 25-year resident of Winnetka where he and his wife Mary raised four children, now in the work force and finishing college. Mary did most of the work (and an awesome job) as JP spent a lot of time travelling for business, and still does as an independent management consultant.

During all these years, the library was a central point of the Ruiz-Funes family life for education, fun and personal enrichment. It was an honor for JP to be able to give back when elected as a library trustee in 2017. JP served first as treasurer and currently as president since 2019. He is looking forward to working with our new library director to continue to build the library as an invaluable asset for our Northfield and Winnetka communities.

JP was born in Paris, France, educated as a mechanical engineer, and received his MBA from Harvard Business School. He is a traditional book lover and a relatively recent convert to everything digital as an essential means of ensuring that our library is always open to the public.

**Sarah Muñoz**

My family moved to Northfield in 2017. I am in my fourth year of teaching Spanish at Hubbard Woods. I enjoy going for runs with my husband, creating arts and crafts with my daughter (age 3) and spending time reading and discussing books with my sister. I have volunteered with several organizations throughout my life. Some of those organizations are, Amigos de las Américas (volunteer in Honduras and trainer in Winnetka), St. Benedict Church recycling program, Saint Pascal Church senior center volunteer, composting program at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, and ELL instructor for adults at Oakton Community College.

Volunteering as a Library Board Trustee is something that my family of teachers, librarians and authors greatly value. My mother founded the Great Books program during her 38 years of teaching at New Trier High School. She recently passed away. This Board role not only reflects my interest in supporting the community that I live and teach in, but it also becomes a meaningful way to honor my mother, her passion for reading, and the love for reading that she gifted to me.

**Tom Sundell**

A Winnetka homeowner with my wife, Ivy, since 2008, and our daughters, who are graduates of New Trier, college, and now out in the world earning their livings.  Originally from Pennsylvania and a BA graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo.  A Human Resources consultant for fifty years, most recently with Aon Hewitt, now retired.

Formerly a volunteer with the Evanston Public Library-North Branch and currently a volunteer with the North Shore Senior Center as a life stories interviewer.  Principal avocation is as a novelist with one novel published traditionally in 2001 and eighteen additional novels available online.

**Melissa Mitchell**

Melissa has been living in Winnetka-Northfield for two years with her husband of nine years, Chris, and two daughters. Melissa was born in Midland, Michigan and moved with her family to Houston, Texas in middle school. She went to college at Texas Tech University and then earned a Master of Art, studying advertising, at the University of Texas. She has worked at Starcom for almost 12 years and is a Media Director there.

She believes that authenticity, kindness, and accountability are vital parts of all relationships, both professional and personal, and strives to keep these at the forefront of her life every day. Between her family and her work, she keeps busy with a plethora of creative hobbies including, but not limited to baking, knitting, sewing, photography, and sidewalk chalk drawings on demand. Melissa enjoys reading a broad array of books including historical fiction, cookbooks, memoires, and most recently is exploring fantasy and social justice.

She is passionate about reading and education and knows the Library Board will be a good place to exercise those passions in her community.  She has volunteered with food banks and women's shelters in the past and has been looking for the right way to give back in the North Shore.

**Todd Van Neck**

I have lived in Winnetka for the past 18 years, along with my wife Kathy and daughters Gillian (20) and Lauren (16).  Gillian is now in her sophomore year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, while Lauren is in her junior year at New Trier High School.  My wife manages global compensation and benefits for Information Resources, Inc., which is a data analytics firm mostly serving consumer products companies; their primary competitor would be Nielsen (also based here in Chicago).  My family is Canadian; I was born in Windsor, Ontario but pretty much raised in Michigan, and did both my undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Michigan (Go Blue!).  My career has been in the budgeting and finance realm in higher education, at UI, Northwestern, and now at UIC.

I currently serve as the Associate Dean for Administration in the UI College of Medicine, located in the West Loop.  I’ve been doing that job for the past nine years, which basically translates to acting as both the chief financial officer and the chief administrative officer.  I have served on a couple different non-profit boards, most recently with the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Institute (on their finance committee) and before that (before kids) with an Evanston-based organization called Connections for the Homeless.

I’m a huge movie fan and can generally be counted on to find an appropriate quote for any occasion, drawing on the thousands of movies I’ve seen.  The primary genres I’m drawn to in my reading are science fiction and history, so current events seem to play to both of those.

Fun fact – because our house sits right on the border between Winnetka and Glencoe, and we pay taxes to both, our family has resident privileges in both library districts.  Yay!

**Jan Churchwell, Alternate**  
I’ve lived in Northfield since 2011. After graduating from New Trier, I attended Vassar College and have a B.A. with Honors in Latin from the University of Michigan. I lived on the E. Coast for 10 years, but I’ve been back in the area since 1978. I grew up in Wilmette, my family lived in Glencoe for nearly 40 years, and I’ve always considered the North Shore “home.”   
  
Currently I’m the New Trier Township Assessor, a position I’ve held since 2014. I’m running again in 2021.  
  
I’ve served on various volunteer boards for over 25 years — Chicago Vassar Club, condo association, Counseling Center of the North Shore, and the Chicago Contract Bridge Club. I play Duplicate Bridge and teach Bridge through NTX (also since 2014).  
  
I hope that the next few years will provide a brighter path to the future for my country. And I have a dog. I’ve always had dogs; my parents always had dogs. I like cats too, but I’m allergic to them, so it’s dogs for me. Bridge, dogs, helping the residents of NT Township. That’s me.

**Joan Esposito, Alternate**Joan has lived in Winnetka for 15 years, raising two children here. She currently hosts an afternoon radio talk show. Previously a reporter and anchor at Tribune Broadcasting WGN-Channel 9, ABC-owned WLS-Channel 7 and later at NBC-owned WMAQ-Channel 5.

Joan formed [J2 Strategic Communications,](http://www.j2sc.com) a media training firm, and also taught broadcast writing and production at Tribeca Flashpoint Media Arts Academy.

**D36 CANDIDATE BIOS**

**Steve Cirulis**

*Vice President* Term 2017-2021 Steve Cirulis has lived in Winnetka for over nine years. He and his wife, Suzy have three children, two who attend The Skokie School, and one who attends Carleton Washburne. He has been a member of the District 36 school board since 2017.

Steve is currently the CFO AND Chief Strategy Officer of Potbelly Sandwich Works, where is is responsible for improving the company’s performance and driving growth. He has held senior strategy and general management roles at Panera Bread, McDonald’s Corporation and Gap Inc., as well as Prophet, a brand and marketing consultancy.

Steve earned an MBA in finance and marketing from Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a B.A. in economics and political science from Northwestern University. He is a founding member of The Nora Project, a nonprofit which aims to teach students empathy and create friendships between them and their peers with disabilities.

**Alyssa Rapp**

As of January 2018, Alyssa was named the CEO of [Surgical Solutions](https://surgical-solutions.com/) by private equity firm [Sterling Partners](http://www.sterlingpartners.com/). Within six months, she was named one of Crain’s Chicago’s “Notable Women in Health Care” (June 2018). From 2005-2015, Alyssa served as the founder & CEO of Bottlenotes, Inc., the leading interactive media company in the U.S. wine industry. During the Bottlenotes years, Alyssa was named one of Inc. Magazine's [“30](http://www.inc.com/30under30/2008/profile/24-rapp.html) Under 30” coolest entrepreneurs in America (September 2008). Starting in 2014, Alyssa joined the ranks as a lecturer-in-management at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business. She was also named an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago’s Booth Business School in April 2020.

Alyssa earned a B.A. in Political Science and the History of Art from Yale University in 2000 and an M.B.A. from Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business in 2005. At Yale, she earned the Frank M. Patterson prize for the best essay on the American political system for her senior thesis on public housing reform in Chicago. Alyssa was appointed by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to serve a four-year term on the board of directors of the [Illinois Housing Development Authority.](http://www.ihda.org/) She served on the organization’s audit committee during her tenure. Thereafter, Alyssa was appointed by Governor JB Pritzker to the Illinois Humanities Council board of directors.

In October 2019, ForbesBooks released Alyssa’s book entitled [*Leadership and Life Hacks: Insights from a Mom, Wife, Entrepreneur, and Executive*](https://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Life-Hacks-Entrepreneur-Executive/dp/1946633836)*.* It hit the Amazon bestseller list in business management in January 2020. She also published [*Hacks for the New World: How to Live and Work in the Age of Sheltering at Home- and Beyond*](https://www.amazon.com/Hacks-New-World-Sheltering-at-Home-Beyond-ebook/dp/B087M8DRDG/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=alyssa+rapp&qid=1588280179&s=digital-text&sr=1-2) (Redwood Publishing, April 2020) in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

When not immersed in business and civic life, Alyssa loves to Peloton, do yoga, ski fast, and try as hard as possible to decipher a slider from a curve ball from her husband, 1990 MLB World Series champion and current partner at X10 Capital, Hal Morris. Alyssa and Hal are the proud parents of Audrey Margaret Morris (a third grader at Hubbard Woods) and Henriette Daniella Morris (a kindergartener at Hubbard Woods).

Alyssa has had a lifelong passion for the power of early childhood education: she led the children's dance program at Yale University; she served on the national board of Spark Program for six years, an organization that provides life changing mentorships to middle schoolers in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago. It is this passion and her experience as an educator herself at Stanford and University of Chicago and as a mother of two elementary school age daughters that has inspired her to seek a role on the D36 School Board.

**Dan Waters**

Dan Waters is an 8-year Winnetka resident with two children in Winnetka schools, a daughter at Skokie and a son at Washburne. Dan is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Enjoy Life Foods and is responsible for all aspects of the company’s strategy and execution. Before joining Enjoy Life, Dan was the global General Manager for Babybel cheese and has held operating, finance, and marketing roles at Barilla, Gap Inc., and Deloitte. Dan and his family have recently moved back to Winnetka from a two-year expatriation assignment in Paris, France. He has earned an MBA in strategy and marketing from the Kellogg School of Management and a B.S. in finance from Miami University.

**Peter Eatherton, Alternate**

Peter Eatherton is an educator and a former attorney who lives in Winnetka with his wife Ceylan and three sons, who attend District 36 schools. He currently is a member of the Board of Governors of the Winnetka Community House and has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Counseling Center of the North Shore (previously Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield) as president. He holds bachelors degrees in political science and finance from Truman State University, a masters in education from Northwestern University, and a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. After law school, Peter practiced law at Sidley Austin LLP in the Investment Products and Derivatives Practice Group. He left his legal practice to pursue a career as an educator. He first taught U.S. and world history at Glenbrook North High School. Subsequently he co-founded and taught classes for a small education business, Collaborative Kids, which teaches social competencies to elementary and middle school aged children using hands-on projects and a collaborative-learning approach.