



WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 153

October - November 2008

**THE WEXFORD
WATCH
IS FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD
EDIFICATION AND
DOES NOT SPONSOR
ANY PERSON OR
ACTIVITY LISTED
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NOTED.**

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**SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
EACH ODD MONTH
TO**

dtolmie@charter.net or
wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The Wexford Village Homeowners Association Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday November 18th at 7PM at the Highpoint Church (Micah Center E) on Highpoint Road. We encourage all Wexford residents to attend. Agenda items include a report of the financial and physical status of Wexford Village, election of board members, and a discussion of the possible need to raise the annual dues for fiscal year 2009.

In mid-September, the project of filling in cracks and resurfacing of the bike paths was completed. This initial phase was focused on the southeast portion of Wexford, areas south of Westfield and Sawmill Roads, typically the first developed areas within our Association. During 2009, other designated sections of the bike paths will be rehabilitated. The estimated cost of this initial project is about \$7000, from budget 2007 and 2008. We constantly need to be vigilant about the maintenance of these paths, since they represent several hundred thousand dollars of capital investment.

The blueprints for each Wexford residency have been removed from storage. At press time, these blueprints are being labeled and sorted for distribution to each Wexford resident. We will devise a plan of distribution, assuring that each resident receives their blueprints personally.

Each year, you may notice the flowers in Wexford Park, the Wexford sign at Gammon and Sawmill, and the roundabout at Sawmill and Westfield. It is not magic, but reflects the total dedication of Ken Schmidt, (vice president of the Wexford Board.) Ken has personally tended the plants, watered, and provided other care for these areas for several years, through drought, flood, and unfortunately vandalism. We truly salute Ken for his dedication, in providing color and other visual appeal in our daily journeys during the growing season.

The City has completed the chip sealing project on a significant number of streets within Wexford. Some areas have been delayed due to the requirement of more significant crack repair, most noticeably, certain sections of Sawmill Road.

The Wexford Board is very actively recruiting Wexford residents who would be willing to participate in a re-energized Welcoming Committee. No experience is necessary, but enthusiasm and some good ideas are very welcome. If interested, please contact any Wexford Board member.

Neighborhood Scoop

Sidewalk Talk:

The City Sidewalk Program will be doing repairs in Wexford Village in 2009. The city is currently in the process of marking the sidewalk so that they can get an accurate estimate for the 2009 contracts. Sections of sidewalk that have been marked with white paint will need to be replaced in order to repair the defect. The City shares in 50% of the repair cost and the property owner is responsible for the remaining 50%. The city will not know the cost of replacement until they bid the contract early in 2009. Sections of sidewalk painted in pink paint indicate a sidewalk joint that will be saw cut in order to remove a trip hazard. The City covers the entire cost of saw cutting these trip hazards. Construction will likely start in late April or early May of 2009 and continue through the summer.

Prior to work beginning, property owners will receive an estimate in the mail along with a notice of a neighborhood meeting that will be held to discuss any issues that they may have regarding the Sidewalk Program. After the work is completed, the property owner will receive a bill that they may pay in full before October 31, 2009 without interest. Or, they may use the City's five year installment plan that is set up through the Comptroller's Office. All of this information will be included with the estimate sent to property owners in the spring.

Coyote Sightings:

Coyotes have been spotted walking down Sawmill Road and in other areas of Wexford Village. Please read the following information, provided by the Wisconsin Humane Society, to help keep you and your pets safe. The likelihood of problems from the coyote is very small, but the information is useful just in case. The entire article can be found at: <http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/coyotes.aspx>.

Coyotes are not considered a disease threat. Outbreaks of rabies in coyotes are rare and not commonly implicated in the transmission of the disease to humans or companion animals.

Coyotes are drawn to urban and suburban neighborhoods for two reasons: human encroachment into native habitat and the availability of food. Take the following steps to prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:

- Dispose of especially attractive food wastes such as meat, cheese and eggs by adding a small amount of ammonia to the bag.
- When composting, use enclosed bins rather than exposed piles. Avoid adding dog or cat waste, meat, milk or eggs to compost.
- If you have fruit trees, pick the ripe fruit and keep fallen fruit off the ground.
- Motion sensing lights or sprinklers may deter coyotes from your yard.
- Clear bushes and weeds away from your home. Dense vegetation provides attractive habitat for animals on which coyotes prey.

Cats and small dogs may be seen as prey to the coyote, while larger dogs could be injured in a confrontation. To avoid these situations consider the following:

- Keep companion animals in at night. Coyotes are primarily nocturnal.
- Keep cats indoors where they are also safe from cars, other animals and from getting lost.
- Don't leave pet food outside.

See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

Our next neighborhood watch meeting will take place at the Alicia Ashman Library Branch on October 28th at 7:00pm. It is always very important for as many people to attend as possible. This meeting will have several topics of discussion as well as training by the Madison Police Department. Key speakers will be Dave Tolmie, Officer Mary Anne Thurber, and Alder Paul Skidmore. Also in attendance will be a representative from the Madison Parks Department. The following topics will be discussed:

- ❖ We will receive training from the Madison Police Department and city Parks Department on the new Madison Parks Watch program. (See page 4 under park news for details). This will get us additional signs for the park, and help show the city that we are serious about taking care of our neighborhood. PLEASE attend and show your support.
- ❖ We will be setting up neighborhood patrols for Halloween. This year Halloween falls on Friday night, and there will be many young people out and about at all hours of the night. If we were to set up several small teams of people to patrol the streets, park, and greenways, then we can most likely reduce if not eliminate any vandalism or mischief. It is very important to keep a presence out and about so that we can keep our residents and neighborhood safe and beautiful. If you will be unable to attend the meeting and would like to volunteer to be part of a group patrol, please contact Dave Tolmie at 836-8784 to be scheduled. You can also contact him at dtolmie@charter.net or at wexford_ncw@charter.net.
- ❖ There will be a petition available to sign that is asking the city to paint crosswalks at the intersection of Sawmill Road and North Westfield Rd. Please be sure to sign it.

We really need to have lots of people involved to make a large impact in the crime in our area. Wexford is a large place, and the more people we have involved, the more of a chance we have to put a stop to most of the crime. We need a good plan of action to prevent and minimize senseless crime in our area. Please join the watch group to help keep Wexford a wonderful and safe place to live. If you are interested in joining the Wexford Neighborhood Crime Watch program, please contact Dave Tolmie at 836-8784, or e-mail him at wexford_ncw@charter.net.

The Madison Police Department West Precinct has requested that residents fill out a survey on their website. This will help them better understand our concerns and what we perceive as the major problems in our area. You can find the survey at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/west.html>. Simply click on the **"Take the 2008 West District Community Survey"** to start.

The Madison Police Department (MPD) reminds us that when we witness suspicious activity to call dispatch immediately at 255-2345. If we don't call the police, they won't know what is happening in our area. We request that when you report an incident to the police that you also fill out an incident report on the Wexford Village website (<http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationIncidentReport.htm>). This way we have a database of all incidents that happened in our area, and we can use this information for the neighborhood crime watch volunteers, as well as work with the MPD to solve these issues.

Big Thanks

Our deepest thanks goes out to the wonderful volunteer work done by Randy Ruplinger for the Junior Soccer League, and Barry Vredenbregt for putting together an amazing T-ball and coach pitch league. We also extend a huge thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that helped with these wonderful programs at Wexford Park.

See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.

Park News by Ken Schmidt

The Madison Parks Department in conjunction with the Madison Police Department is launching a **PARKS WATCH** initiative designed to raise community awareness of the city's beautiful park system in an effort to better protect our beautiful public spaces.

In much the same fashion as NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH we are asking the generous people of Madison to extend their watchful eyes and ears to the public spaces throughout the City of Madison. We are particularly interested in securing the cooperation of citizens whose homes or businesses overlook the public parks and public spaces as well as asking visitors who use these attractive and friendly facilities to serve as park ambassadors. The many generous volunteers who regularly tend to the parks and raise money for the park system will also be included in the process.

Madison Police Department representatives will be available to train residents in the processes of PARKS WATCH, focusing specifically on how to be a good witness as well as when and how to contact the 9-1-1 Center. After training the volunteers, the City of Madison will provide signs for the parks that have been "adopted" by the neighborhood.

Thanks to the great work by Dave Tolmie, Wexford Village has started a similar program last year with Dave's Neighborhood Watch Program. What we need now are for many more people in Wexford to get involved. It has proven very beneficial thus far. Please contact Dave today for more info and to get added to the Neighborhood Watch email mailing list.

The temperatures are starting to get colder and soon the snow will be here. How about enjoying the winter weather and volunteering to help flood and maintain the ice rinks in Wexford Park. Even if you are not a skater it's a great way to stay healthy and get some exercise and good fresh air. Hope to hear from many of you so we can have another great ice skating season.

Brush Collection

October is the last month for the year that brush will be collected by the city. Brush collection for Wexford Village will start on Monday October 13th. Brush must be at the curb by 7 AM on that day. Any brush after that date will need to be taken to the Badger Road drop of site. Please also do not place brush on the curb prior to one week before pickup.

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See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.