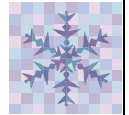


# WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 154

December - January 2008-2009

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**EDITOR  
DAVID TOLMIE,  
7434 SAWMILL RD.**

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## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

The Wexford Village Home Owners Association Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, November 18th at High Point Church. Fire Chief Debra Amezcua gave a short presentation on the current status of the new fire station on the West side, new staffing requirements, an additional ambulance crew, and new regulations regarding fire protection and safety. Additionally, she responded to numerous questions affecting these and other issues (See page 2 for details on a new proposed ordinance on smoke detectors).

Dave Mahoney, Dane County Sheriff and Wexford resident, discussed various considerations regarding public safety and regionalization. Alder Paul Skidmore also presented a few issues from the City of Madison's perspective.

A very quick review of events affecting Wexford Village residents during 2008. With a total budget of approximately \$55,000, we remain in a balanced budget situation. We did a major update with the resurfacing of a significant area of the bike paths, totaling about \$7000. As always, over 80% of our total budget is spent on the 570,000 square feet (13 acres) of green space, 30,000 feet of bike paths, and approximately 110 light poles.

A motion was passed, at the annual meeting, to raise the Wexford Village annual dues to \$90 per individual residence and \$45 for condos. This is in response to increased routine and maintenance expenses for our association. During 2009, we expect to publish a new Wexford Directory, resurface additional bike paths, and perhaps perform a major trim on many of our 34 circle islands.

In addition to raising the dues for 2009, the board has approved an increased fee for late payment of the dues. A large fee and lean on your property will be assessed for non payment. Be sure to read the details in the letter you will receive in the mail with your dues bill. We greatly appreciate your payments on time as well as your generous donations to the park fund.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Wexford Board News (continued)*

Each residency should have received a copy of their house blueprints, since Wexford Village will no longer store these documents. We found that there were just a few that were missing. If you have not received yours yet, please contact a board member to find out more information.

We have completed the last year of our mowing contract with our current vendor. We are soliciting ideas on specifications, and potential new vendors that would be willing to submit bids for the next mowing season.

The Wexford Village Board of Directors continues to search for additional 1-2 new board members. If you are interested, please contact any current board member. In addition, Dave Tolmie is looking for help with the Wexford Watch. Anyone interested, teen or adult, please contact Dave at 836-8784 or via e-mail at [dtolmie@charter.net](mailto:dtolmie@charter.net).

## New Smoke Alarm Requirements

The Madison Fire Department has presented a proposal to the Common Council to change current smoke alarm laws. The following is a summary of some of the proposal. These are great ideas, and we should all take a look at our smoke alarms for safety. See full details on the Wexford website.

### **Assessment of Current Conditions:**

- 98% of homes have smoke alarms, however, only 48% of the alarms work.
- Current building and fire codes, manufacturer's requirements and approval agencies (UL) require replacement of smoke alarms in service for more than 10 years.

### **Owner Occupied, One-and Two-Family Dwellings**

- Maintain smoke alarms
- If alarms installed before 1999, replace alarms with AC/DC alarms or alarms with 10-year battery. Subsequently, replace every 10 years.

### **Rental Properties**

- Install additional alarms to protect both sides of the bedroom door
- After August 15, smoke alarms powered solely by a 9-volt battery are prohibited.
- All replacement smoke alarms must be AC/DC or 10-year battery
- AC alarms can remain in service until they reach the 10-year service life. After that they must be AC/DC.
- New requirements must be met prior to sale of August 15, 2009 whichever is sooner.

### **Maintenance and Testing**

- Standard batteries shall be replaced at least annually or in accordance with the manufacturer
- Owner is responsible for common area smoke alarms
- Tenant is responsible for the maintenance and testing of alarms within the dwelling unit, but does not include replacement or installation
- Alarms must be replaced after 10 years of service or per date on alarm
- Tenant can be cited or prosecuted for damaged, missing or in-operable alarms.

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

# Neighborhood Crime Watch

The last Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting was a very good one. We had Officer MaryAnn Thurber from the Police Department talk to us about the new Park Watch program in the city. Our group is already doing this type of program, but we got some good pointers, and encouragement to keep up the good work.

This year was a very good one as far as crime in our neighborhood goes. The number of incidents reported is down, and the vandalism to the park was reduced to just one incident. I attribute this to our wonderful residents keeping their eyes open and reporting suspicious activities. The more we let vandals and criminals know that we are watching, and don't tolerate crime in our area, the more they will learn to stay away.

I'd like to remind everyone to keep their doors locked, and walk in groups when it is dark. With the state of the economy the way it is, the more robberies and break-ins we can expect. We can already see an increase in the robbery rate in downtown Madison, so let's not let it come into our neighborhood. The people committing these crimes are looking for easy victims and entry into homes, so by keeping in groups and locking our homes and vehicles, will help discourage such crime.

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>

## Note from Dane County Exec.

Changes in leadership at both the state and federal level bring new hope for important public policy conversations that are long overdue.

New initiatives will be tough to come by in state and federal budgets, but given the new direction I'm confident basic services and needs will come first.

With new leaders at the federal level this could mean help paying heating bills for those falling behind. It means helping folks facing foreclosure and financial ruin get back on their feet. There's new hope for national health care and the return of grant programs to help local communities put more cops on the street and improve infrastructure like roads and bridges.

Those dollars will bolster our ongoing efforts in county government to protect public safety and human service programs, while helping cap property taxes.

Demand for public services is increasing because of the current economic downturn. That same difficult financial climate makes it tougher for families to pay more. That's why my 2009 county budget puts more into our shared priorities of public safety and human services at a cost of around only \$2.00 more on the average home.

At the state level new leadership means a fresh chance to change smoking laws in public places. There's new hope families across Wisconsin will be able to breathe clean air when they're out enjoying a Friday fish fry.

It means a greater focus on toughening Wisconsin's lax drunk driving laws and countering a culture that makes us less safe.

## Park News by Ken Schmidt

The summer activities in the park have ended and winter fun is starting. It is now time for sledding, skiing and skating. The ice rinks are being prepared and depending on the weather should be ready for skating soon. Our great neighbor Jerry Watts has volunteered again this year to help plow the rinks. This is the biggest part of keeping the rinks open and we are very grateful for his help. We now just need several more volunteers to sweep the ice clean and continue to spray a thin coat of water over the ice every day. We encourage student and hockey players to also get involved and volunteer. Please contact myself or Dave Tolmie if you are interested and we would be happy to show you what to do. The ice rinks are flooded and maintained by volunteers. Your help is needed to continue to provide a great local place for skating.

I want to also thank everyone that made an extra donation to the park fund last year. We were able to install 2 disk golf baskets in the park and also provide for the plantings and extra care to help keep the park a clean and fun place for all to enjoy. Thanks again to all of you that have helped either through your donations, park clean-up day, flower planting, watering and weeding, pruning and trimming and park patrols. With everyone's help our park continues to be a great asset to our neighborhood. Ken Schmidt

## Neighborhood Scoop

Now that winter is here, it remains very important to keep the sidewalks in front of your home clear of snow and ice. The City of Madison can impose a fine of over \$100 if you don't have your walkways and curb-cuts cleared within 24 hours of the completion of a snowfall. It would also be wonderful if those residents that live at a bus stop would clear a path to make it safe to load and unload the city and school buses.

A question has been asked of the board about how many domestic animals are allowed per household in Wexford Village. We looked into the covenants, and found that it clearly states each household is allowed up to two domestic animals. See your individual copy of the covenants for full details.

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