



WEXFORD WATCH



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THE WEXFORD WATCH

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SUBMISSIONS IN WRITING BY THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH ODD MONTH TO

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Board News |
| 2 | Make a difference |
| 3 | Neighborhood Watch
Special Thanks
Neighborhood Poop |
| 4 | Park News
Special Thanks |

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The Wexford Village Annual meeting will be held at the Highpoint Church on Old Sauk Road on Tuesday, Nov 17th at 7PM. There will be a separate mailing of notification, proxy ballots, and agenda. We hope to have a large turn out this year. Please come with questions, suggestions, and ideas for the board to consider for the next year. Also any and all interested people in joining the board are welcome. New officers will be elected and anyone interested in filling any of the positions should let us know and have a nomination submitted. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We would like to give special recognition to Ken Schmidt, of the Wexford Board, who does so much work with the Wexford Park and other areas around Wexford Village. Please note that the flowers at the Wexford Park and the Wexford Village sign at Sawmill and Gammon Roads are the results of Ken's attention to the planting, tending, weeding, and watering during the past very dry summer.

Additionally, Wexford Village hired a student to assist in the gardens and to help with the mulching of the paths in Wexford Park and Applehill Circle and clearing trees and brush from those areas. Funds for this assistance was taken from the Parks Fund to which many Wexford residents (approximately \$2000) contributed during this past year.

If you walk along Strickers Pond, you may note that the Madison/Middleton barrier has been landscaped. With the assistance of a Wexford resident removing weeds, brush, stones, etc. New mulch has been placed in that area to help control weeds and moisture. Gurdip Brar, Middleton alder, donated several perennial plants, and Tom Wilke of McKay Nursery, donated several shrubs. Please come by and check out the big improvements.

The Wexford Village board is in the process of reviewing all of the policies and procedures for our organization. During the past thirty years of Wexford Village functioning. There has been little documentation of many procedures. During this review process, we will try to preserve and protect the past, monitor the present, and more importantly, prepare for the future.

It was the intention of Wexford Village to continue with the repair and resurfacing of additional walking paths, but there are several questions regarding the quality of work done on the paths during 2008 have arisen. Any additional work will be postponed until these questionable issues have been resolved with the contractor.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Make a difference in the life of a visually impaired or blind child or adult. There is at least one person in Wexford Village waiting for a guide dog. This amazing organization needs your help to keep helping Wisconsin residents.



OccuPaws is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization located in Madison, WI. OccuPaws is a world-class, innovative and life-changing organization dedicated to empowering the visually impaired while raising awareness and education for both adults and children. Our mission is to place well trained guide dogs of excellent health and temperament with Wisconsin residents who have visual disabilities.

Our guide dog mobility and Children's Visual Companion Dog training sessions take place in the comfort of the client's home environment. We do this because we believe that legitimate, personal circumstances (family obligations, professional commitments or secondary health conditions) should not prevent an otherwise capable individual with a qualifying visual impairment from enjoying the companionship and assistance a dog guide can offer. Each dog and person is carefully matched according to such traits as lifestyle, personality, activity level, and walking speed.

In addition to harness work and obedience commands, our trainers teach each client about the learning style of their particular dog, about various aspects of dog behavior, and about the innate characteristics of their dog's breed. By the end of each in-home placement, the client will have learned how to teach their dog new skills, and how to work with and care for their canine partner throughout the entirety of its career.

Our hope is that our small size and collaborative training practices will allow us to provide an extremely supportive and highly customized experience to each of our dog-person teams.

All of OccuPaws' guide dogs are placed with their human partners **FREE OF CHARGE**. OccuPaws operates solely on public donations. There are so many ways that you can help in our mission to improve the quality of life for a local visually impaired individual.

Join the community of generous people who support us in our mission to change lives. Your financial support not only shows your compassion for dogs and visually impaired people, it shows that you believe in the integrity of our program.

We are also happy to take volunteers to be puppy raisers or help in any way. Please see our website for full details on our program, making donations, and volunteering.

<http://www.occupaws.org>

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

Neighborhood Crime Watch

This summer was a pretty quiet one for crime in our neighborhood. I attribute this to all of our wonderful efforts of keeping our eyes open, and calling the police when we see things that don't look right. It is because of these efforts the crime has gone down this summer in our area. We do still need to keep up our hard work, or it will return.

I'd like to ask all of you to keep an extra eye open on Halloween this year. Let's make this a safe one for all the children in our neighborhood and those that are visiting. Remember that this is a big night for staying out late, and often crime happens late into the night. Let's do our part to ensure it does not happen in Wexford Village.

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>

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you goes out to Randy Ruplinger and Barry Vredenburg for organizing the Junior Soccer league and Wexford area baseball league respectively. We also extend big thanks for all who helped them make this a successful and fun event for all area kids. It is programs like these that really make a difference!

NEIGHBORHOOD POOP

Several complaints have been made about people in Wexford Village not cleaning up after their dogs. Residents are responsible for cleaning up after their pets no matter where they are, or whose yard they are in. The city of Madison has an ordinance covering this issue, and citations can and will be issued to those who violate it. Let's all be good neighbors and clean up after our four legged friends.

TRAFFIC CALMING CIRCLE PROJECT

As many of you know, the traffic circle at the intersection of Westfield Rd and Sawmill Rd has some safety issues. Last year Dave Tolmie submitted a petition to the city to have crosswalks painted and to have something done to better protect pedestrians. So far nothing has been done about this that we can see.

The city of Madison has actually come up with a plan to redesign the curb ramps to make this intersection safer for all to cross. This should happen next year. Here is the message Dave received from city engineering about the project:

"We agree the situation for pedestrians can be improved at Westfield and Sawmill. Our staff has reviewed this and we believe that the best course of action is to place this work in next year's sidewalk contract. We intend to reconfigure the curb ramps so that they do not conflict with traffic in the circle. Brenda Stanley will be the Project Engineer. Following the construction, the cross walks will be repainted. Let us know if you have any other concerns."

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

Park News by Ken Schmidt

Summer has come and gone and now fall is upon us. It has been a very busy summer for Wexford Park. There were many activities and parties hosted at the shelter throughout the summer. Soccer and baseball are always active sports that make great use of the park. This summer a new sand volley ball court was installed in the park. A lot of people take advantage of the tennis courts and the children's play ground equipment gets used all year long. The park's department in installing a new base around the play ground equipment this fall.

We have been busy this summer also doing a lot of maintenance in the park. The trails through the woods were all cleared and over 100 cubic yards of bark mulch was spread on them. All the suckers growing up around the trees in the park and around the tennis court were removed. The non-mow areas have been trimmed and the low hanging branches on the trees in the park were removed. That's in addition to the regular upkeep of the flower beds, traffic circle and plantings around the village signs.

I want to give a big thank you to all those who helped from tilling the flower beds, watering, weeding and planting them to helping with bark mulching the trails. We also hired two students to assist with some of the bigger projects.

We continue to work on the woods restoration project. A lot of the invasive buckthorn trees were removed with the trail clearing, but many more thousand remain. This is a many year project and we will continue to clear out the invasive and diseased trees to promote the growth of the oaks and other native desirable trees.

Now as the weather is starting to turn colder it will be time to start to think about ice skating and cross country skiing. The ice rinks are usually started around the first part of December. If you enjoy the outdoors and would like to help with the ice rinks or any park projects we always welcome your assistance.

Last and most important I would like to thank everyone that makes an extra donation to the park and greenways fund so we can continue to work on projects to keep Wexford Park and Wexford's natural areas looking great. If you have any ideas for projects for the park or green spaces or items that would be beneficial, I welcome your ideas.

FALL LEAF AND BRUSH NOTES

Fall Leaf Collection will begin on Monday October 5th.

How should I put my leaves out for collection?

We prefer that you pile your leaves loose at the street edge. Keep leaves separate from brush and avoid piling them around or next too mail boxes, trees and utility poles. **Do not put leaves in the street. When you put leaves in the streets they can be washed into our lakes where the nutrients contribute to algae growth.** It is also against Madison Ordinance to place leaf piles in the street.

The yard waste drop off sites will be open through Sunday November 29th.

WEST: 402 South Point Rd. (Brush will not be accepted)

Hours of Operation:

- Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun: 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- Tue & Thu: 8:30 a.m. until **8:00 p.m.**

October is the last month for brush collection this year. Collection date for Wexford is The Second Monday of the Month.

Any brush after that time will need to be taken to
1501 W. Badger Rd. (West Side Streets Facility)