

# WEXFORD WATCH

WEXFORD VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Crime in Our Neighborhood

The Wexford Village board has been in touch with Lt. Patterson, from the Madison Police Department, about concerns of crime in our neighborhood. There has been one burglary in Wexford Village so far for 2013, and it was likely interrupted because no property was missing. A patio door was kicked in and an unlocked sliding door was used to enter the house.

There have not been any reported thefts from vehicles or reported property damage for 2013. There were incidents in the Middleton areas that border Wexford Village, in addition to incidents in 2012.

Most residential burglaries occur during the day. It appears that burglars are checking to see if people are home by ringing doorbells and determining their next course of action based on that outcome. If no one answers, the burglars enter the residence on the side or rear of the home by breaking out a window or forcing a door. If someone does answer, they ask for someone that does not live there and then they walk away when told that person does not live there.

Burglars might look for signs indicating that no one is home: mail or newspapers stacked up, trash cans on the curb days after trash collection, or a dark house. Some burglars aren't picky and do not care if someone is home. Some break-ins have occurred in the middle of the night, as recently as last year, while homeowners were asleep. Other burglaries occur as a result of open garage doors.

Those living in Wexford Village are the best people to know what goes on in the neighborhood. While police can show a presence, they are not as familiar with people, cars, and activities that are common in the area. The more people are aware of their surroundings, the more they can speak to what is out of place and why.

Always share suspicious information with the police. Burglaries or attempted burglaries should be reported to an officer and not through the police Web site or e-mail. Continue to inform the Wexford Village board of anything happening in the neighborhood, also.

## Wexford Park News

It was a challenging winter for maintaining the ice rinks. It started off in December when we received 18 inches of snow on unfrozen ground and then with an inch and a half of rain in January. The berm that we put around the rinks last summer was a big help in keeping the water in the rinks when we had warm spells.

Though the season was shorter than other years, there were many weeks of good skating. Thanks to Greg Delwiche for clearing the snow and flooding the rinks. Without dedicated volunteers like Greg, the skating rinks would not be possible.

This year the Spring Park Clean up Day (Earth Day) will be on Saturday April 27. A great time to help clean the park and remove garlic mustard from the woods and clear the trails. A flyer will be distributed with more information.

Throughout the year, volunteers continue to clean up, maintain trails, remove invasive species in the natural areas of Wexford Park and Stricker's Pond Park.

If you have questions about the work or would like to volunteer, contact Ken Schmidt at 831-3089 or Si Widstrand at 831-2468.

## Crime Prevention Ideas

- Lock your doors. Many burglary cases involve opportunistic burglars.
- Keep your garage door closed even when you are home.
- Mark your property with a driver's license number for later identification. Consider maintaining a log of property with serial numbers.
- Leave on lights, a radio, and/or TV when you leave the house.
- Have a friend or neighbor look after your house if you go on vacation. Make sure someone picks up your mail, newspapers, cuts the grass, or shovels snow when you are gone.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off, especially when you are away for an extended period of time.
- Install sensor lights on the exterior of your house.
- Consider upgrading all exterior doors in your house to have deadbolts, if they don't already.
- Keep a piece of wood in the tracks of sliding patio doors to make them more difficult to open.

The Wexford Watch is now online. We will only publish one paper edition at the end of each year. To receive the electronic editions published throughout the year, update your e-mail address on our Web site <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationUpdate.htm> or send your e-mail address to Trish Watts at [pwatts@tds.net](mailto:pwatts@tds.net).

## Rummage and Bake Sale

Memorial High School's annual rummage and bake sale is Saturday, April 13 8am-1pm at the Memorial Field House. Donated items can be dropped off Apr 11, 12-6:30pm and Apr 12, 7am-6:30pm.

## Heirloom Gardening

Do you remember the really tasty vegetables your grandparents grew? How about those unusual looking vegetables at the farm markets with equally unusual names, like Mortgage Lifter tomato?

Join Connie Glasheen for an heirloom garden class at the Alicia Ashman Library on Wednesday, March 20, at 7pm. This class is about unusual old-time flavor varieties, their fascinating history, and where you can find seeds.

## Water Conservation

The Saukdale Condos are offering a free three-part series on water conservation that is open to all Wexford residents. This information is especially timely as residents begin to assess the damage of last summer's drought. All programs are on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm in the Saukdale Community Center.

Mar 27 - Mindy Habecker, Using Water Wisely

Apr 10 - James Burke, Maintaining Green Landscapes

Apr 24 - Roundtable Discussion, The Water Dilemma

## Garden Cold Frames

Several residents have asked about building cold frames for their gardens.

The Wexford Village covenants do not prohibit building cold frames as long as they are neat, temporary, and use heavy enough materials that will not tear and blow around the neighborhood.

## Emerald Ash Borer

The City of Madison Forestry Section has updated its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Web site [www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/).

Residents can enter their street address to find out if there is an ash tree planted in front of their home or within the neighbor-

hood. There is also information about reporting suspected EAB sighting. The Web site has information about the pest and images for you to help you identify EAB.

At this time, there are no confirmed sightings of EAB in Dane County.

## Pathway Lights

In response to questions from residents, the board considered turning off path lights during the winter months. However, the cost to have our electrical contractor turn off all 19 electrical boxes in November and turn them on in March was excessive. MG&E would continue to charge us a monthly "metering charge" of \$9.61 for each box, even if no electricity was used.

With the recent burglaries and other vandalism in Wexford Village, keeping the lights on provides extra security. Many areas of Wexford are dark at night, and turning off the path lights would make them darker.

There are 99 light poles along our 3.7 miles of paths. During 2010 and 2011, the

lights were changed over from incandescent bulbs to environmentally-friendly spiral CFL bulbs to save electricity.

Our electric bill averaged \$ 542.75 per month in 2010 and 2011 or \$18.10 per day. Each of the 99 lights takes an average of 18.3 cents per day to operate, including a 6 cent per pole metering charge and 12.3 cents for electricity.

If you notice a problem with one of the poles, please inform the board. Each of the light poles is marked about knee high with a number facing the walking path. Simply send the pole number to [rwi@chorus.net](mailto:rwi@chorus.net) and describe the problem. Our electrical contractor will be notified to make the repair.

## Pet Identification

Most people never expect pets to be lost or stolen. The reality is that accidents do happen, and when they do, many owners are unprepared. Last year, Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) received 1,047 dogs and 1,831 cats to the shelter as strays.

According to Animal Service Officers, the two biggest reasons for losing a pet are children and workmen inadvertently letting them out of the house or yard. About 71% of dogs and 16% of cats are returned to their owners. Many more pets could be reunited with their owners if they are microchipped and/or tagged.

A microchip is the best way to reunite lost pets with their owners because tags can get separated from the animal. The combination of a tag and microchip give the best

of both worlds by providing a visual ID and an implanted ID.

Have your veterinarian check your chip yearly to make sure it remains up to date and in place.

No pet should be allowed outside its house without identification. Microchipping can be done on a walk-in basis whenever the shelter is open or by your veterinarian.

During National Pet Week, April 21-27, DCHS will be offering a \$15 microchip and \$5 ID tag special at the shelter on 5132 Voges Road. No appointment is necessary.

Go to the DCHS Web site ([giveshelter.org](http://giveshelter.org)) for directions and more information or call 608-838-0413.