

WEXFORD WATCH

Issue 159

Summer 2010

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Watch
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

This is our first paperless Wexford Watch. We are sending this issue based upon e-mail addresses that our editor has received. We will publish one paper edition each year with a summary of the year's events. Also, if you change your e-mail address (or any other info), please update your data via the website <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationUpdate.htm> or forward that information to our data coordinator and Board member, Trish Watts at pwatts@tds.net.

Dave Tolmie has resigned as the editor of the Wexford Watch. We wish to thank Dave for his many years of dedicated service to this task, of gathering information and presenting all the information in a very organized fashion. With Dave's resignation, we are now looking for a new editor for the Watch, as indicated by the name; the new editor will have complete editorial freedom to format the newsletter. If interested, please contact any Board member.

Richard Ihlenfeld will join the Wexford Board, effective in August. Richard is serving after the resignation of Matt Thomas who had served for several years and moved out of state.

The annual Wexford Garage sale occurred on May 7th & 8th. Thirty-two households participated in the event. Publicity was via the Middleton and Madison newspapers and Craig's List. Feedback from several resident indicated that despite the weather, sales were very good and on par with expectations.

The Wexford Village Fourth of July Parade and Picnic will begin at 10 AM on Sunday, July 4th. Assembly of parade participants will occur at South Woodmont and Sawmill Road and follow along Sawmill Road, into the Wexford Park shelter. A traditional picnic will follow with hot dogs, drinks, and desserts with organized games for children of all ages.

All modifications to the exterior or changes in the building footprint of any Wexford residence must be reviewed by the Wexford Architectural Review Committee. We have received verification from the Director of the City Planning division, that the City of Madison will NOT approve any plans for any building permit unless it has been approved by Wexford Village.

The mowing of our greenways got off to a fast start, approximately 2-3 weeks earlier than usual and at press time,

Wexford Board News continued...

this trend has continued. Our contract with Barnes usually anticipates the industry standard of twenty mows per year.

The Wexford Board is considering a contract to restructure and repave approximately 250 feet of the bike path adjacent to Applehill Circle and East Newhaven. This area is severely damaged by ground upheaval and tree roots. Additionally, the same contractor will resurface many bike path areas that failed to maintain resurfacing that was done during the summer of 2008.

The Board of Directors is also reviewing strategy as to how to maintain the integrity of the bike/walking paths. Less emphasis will be placed on the resurfacing and greater attention placed on filling any major and minor cracks. The paths have a life expectancy of several decades and the proper maintenance will delay any major reconstruction. An estimate for complete repaving would be in the range of \$500,000, based up present replacement costs.

The remodeling of the traffic circle at the intersection of Sawmill and Westfield Road has been completed with a widening of that area to allow easier passage for vehicles. Pedestrian crosswalks have been also been painted.

We have received word from the City that all garbage and recycling bins may be taken to curbside 24 hours before garbage pickup and returned within 24 hours. The bins must not be left in the front of the yard. The best place is in the garage.

Eight of the thirty-four Wexford circle islands have been cut, trimmed, and landscaped by members of the Wexford Board. Since we did not use a contractor, we saved several thousands of dollars with our only cost being a new chain saw for Wexford Village, which is free for any resident to use. We ask Wexford residents to contact any Board member if you have any concern about the appearance of your circle island.

We remind all Wexford residents that live adjacent to any of the bike paths, that bushes, tree and any plantings must be kept trimmed so as to not impede pedestrians or bikers. If there are any questions regarding ownership if the vegetation, please contact one of the Board members so that we can ascertain any responsibilities

We, also, remind all residents that the Wexford covenants and City of Madison statutes require that residents maintain their homes exteriors and maintain yards with the timely mowing of grass, trimming of trees and shrubs, weeding, and remove junk and litter in the yard, both front and back. This is an aesthetic and a good neighbor issue for all of us.

Did you know that High Point Swim Club now does birthday parties? Check out their web site at <http://highpointswimclub.com>

Saturday Market on the Square

When: 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (go to website for exact dates)

Where: Capitol Square

Website: <http://www.madfarmmkt.org/>

Check Out the city parks website for activities

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/parkAct.html>

Keep updated with the latest neighborhood events at our very own website:

<http://www.wexfordvillage.org/>

Wexford Park Update by Ken Schmidt

We did have the park day clean up in April. Despite the rainy weather we were able to remove a lot of brush and make 3 large piles for pickup and collected 7 large garbage bags with trash and garlic mustard. Thanks to everyone that helped.

Art Cart in the Park

The Art Cart will be back at Wexford Park again this year. The Art Cart is a free traveling art program that provides creative art-making experiences to children ages 3+ and their families. Activities include both group and individual projects with a variety of materials. It is sponsored by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art and Madison School and Community Recreation. The dates for Wexford Park are:

Thursday 7/8 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Monday 8/9 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

The flower gardens in the park have all been planted. Enjoy them before the rabbits do. Thanks to David Pophal for tilling them and to Ron and Emily Rueckert for helping with planting and maintaining them. Weed pullers are always welcomed.

Plan to continue this summer with the clean up in the woods of the invasive trees, mostly the buckthorn and vines and clean up around the trees that have been marked for future tree canopy leaders. The ice rinks are also scheduled to be re-graded this summer so they will be easier to maintain in the winter.

Remember that the park closes at 10 PM. If you see or hear any activity in the park after that time, please report it to the police department.

Our goal is to work with them to help prevent any vandalism in the park.

City Highlights

Elver Park Fireworks this Friday, July 2 at 9:30 p.m.

Family-friendly event at Elver Park on Friday, July 2. Fireworks start at 9:30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/elverparkfireworks/>

Check out the New Fire Department Web Site!

Learn about your neighborhood Fire Station, see why you should bring your family to Safety Saturday and make sure you are using the correct smoke alarms in your home.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/>

Plan Now for Your Child's Back to School Immunizations. The Wisconsin Immunization Registry is an easy way to check you or your child's immunization record.

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/WIR.htm>

Roadworks

Your resource for City of Madison 2010 road construction projects. Major road reconstruction projects: County Highway M, Downtown Reconstruction, East Washington Avenue, Lien Road, and University Avenue Corridor. Keep informed with Road Construction Updates.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/transportation/roadworks/>

Madison Public Library News

Make a Splash with Our Summer Reading Club

PreKindergarten-grade 6 students*

Visit any Madison Public Library location or register online to join the Summer Reading Club. Every book or hour read (or read to) counts. Earn great prizes, including free event tickets, free pizza and a free book! Prizes are available starting June 18.

<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/youth/slp/slp.html>

Students grades 6-12*

Keep track of the number of books you read this summer and earn great prizes, including the chance to win a HD Flip Video Camera or a \$250 college scholarship from Ed-Vest! Create an online **Teen Reads** account and login throughout the summer to record each book you read. Rate and review your books for others to see!

<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/teen/teenreads.html>

Wet Weather Means More Mosquitoes

Avoiding Bites and Enjoying the Outdoors

The mosquito season in Dane County started this past May but mosquito activity has been relatively low until now. Recent rainfall has spurred the emergence of a extra large crop of pesky mosquitoes that are causing problems in many parts of Dane County. The majority of the mosquitoes that are pestering us are the floodwater mosquitoes, which generally don't carry disease such as West Nile virus but can be a significant deterrent to our enjoyment of the many outdoor activities in Madison and Dane County.

The best way to protect yourself from mosquito bites is by keeping mosquitoes out of your house, wearing long pants and long sleeves while outside, and using a repellent that contains Deet, Picaridin (KBR3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus. The US Environmental Protection Agency has a new tool to help pick the repellent that may work best for you. The tool can be found at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/index.cfm#searchform>

While we cannot completely exclude mosquitoes from our outdoor activities, you can reduce their presence by eliminating standing water on your property that can provide excellent locations for mosquitoes to lay their eggs. These small stagnant water sources around our homes are especially attractive to the Culex mosquitoes that are most likely to be carrying West Nile virus in our area. To decrease your chances of being a mosquito nursery:

- Clean out clogged rain gutters,
- Change the water in birdbaths, wading pools, and pet water dishes every 3-4 days,
- Properly dispose of old tires, see the Recyclopedia for more information.
- Make sure that items on your property (boats, pool covers, pots, bird baths, etc) do not hold water for more than 3 - 4 days.

<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/mosquitosite/topicalrepel.html>