
◆ WEXFORD WATCH ◆

Issue 131

December, 2004-January, 2005

**WEXFORD WATCH
IS FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD
EDIFICATION AND
DOES NOT
SPONSOR ANY
PERSON OR
ACTIVITY LISTED
HEREIN, UNLESS
SO NOTED.**

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SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
EACH ODD MONTH
TO wexfordwatch
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JIM RATHER.**

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The Wexford Village annual meeting was held at the Alicia Ashmann Library on Monday November 29th. Mayor Dave Cieslewic cancelled his appearance due to a last minute conflict, but Annette Miller, assistant to the mayor, attended and responded to question from the residents. Concerns of residents included police protection, vandalism, the neighborhood police officer (NPO) concept, identification of recreational options for teenagers, and traffic management.

Alderperson Paul Skidmore also identified continuing concerns west side police and emergency medicine coverage, traffic volume and growth.

A major concern for Wexford residents has been the water reclamation project associated with the MGE power plant being built on the University of Wisconsin campus. One engineering concept is to use surface water to replenish the aquifer by the utilization of sub-terrain pipes. The two designated areas include Wexford Park and Odana golf course. There have been numerous concerns about this project's impact upon neighborhoods adjacent to the park. Apparently, there is some hint that the project will be directed to Odana, but Wexford Village must remain vigilant on any developments on this engineering project

Two streets have been identified for major traffic calming efforts, Westfield and Sawmill intersection is now third on the City of Madison's list for 2005. Residents adjacent to that area can expect a final survey (Jan-Feb 2005) by the City to determine the exact appearance of that project. Longmeadow Road is a very recent addition on the list with about 50% of the residents signing a petition making that request. That project is now number 6 on the City's list.

The proposed budget for Wexford Village was presented with no expected increase in the present fees of \$75 for single residences and \$37.50 for condos. As always, the major expenses for the Association is for the maintenance of the greenways with \$33,000 of our \$49,000 budget being designated for mowing, fertilizer, lights, etc.

Identified goals for Wexford Village during 2005 is to establish a complete written policy and procedures and pursuing an email list for all residents so that we can minimize the written flyers and newsletter that we produce.

***Wexford Village Website: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>
Submission to Wexford Watch: wexfordwatch@yahoo.com***

Free advertising on the Wexford Neighborhood website. Update your directory information online at <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationUpdate.htm>

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Alder News:

Greetings from your Alder,

The 2005 operational budget includes a spending increase of 3.7%, and results in a mil rate of approximately 7.9. This will translate to a modest increase in the property tax levy and an increase in your property taxes. Some highlights of the capital budget include: \$300,000 funding for a new Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center, \$500,000 funding for a new swimming pool, funding for the new single stream waste and recyclable collection system, funding for a new east police precinct facility, funding for a new east side fire station, funding to develop and funding to renovate the park maintenance facility at Franklin Field. Some highlights of the operational budget include: funding for 5 additional police officers, continued funding for a police crime analyst, and continued funding for essential services that affect our residents.

Even though the 2005 budget is higher than what I wanted, I feel that it is better than last year. This year I was one of several alders that pledged not to support a budget or budget amendments that would increase the budget beyond the amount proposed by the Mayor.

The Mayor has proposed creating a City Department of Civil Rights by merging the Affirmative Action Office and the Equal Opportunities Commission and funding it in the 2005 operational budget. This proposal generated much debate and significant opposition. A number of alders, including myself, felt that this proposal was moving too quickly and it needed more input and debate. The budget was amended to create an ad hoc committee to discuss this issue further, and make recommendations back to the Common Council. I would appreciate getting your comments and suggestions on this proposed reorganization.

I participated on a walk-along with the Police Department this past Halloween. I walked along with a platoon from the Special Events Team on the 300 and 400 blocks of State Street on Saturday, October 30, 2004. I was able to observe the entire event first-hand. For most of the evening, the police were successful.

At the November 23, 2004 Common Council accepted the Swimming Pool Committee recommendation that the pool facility will be constructed at Franklin Field. The pool facility will include parking, volleyball courts, and other support facilities. Most of the funds to construct the facility will come from donations. The generous \$2,000,000 gift from the Goodman brothers this past year represents about one half of the cost of construction, and serves as a rallying point for swimming pool supporters and fund raisers. The City has pledged \$500,000 in City money for the facility. A feasibility study that was completed by a swimming pool consultant and city staff has established that the facility can likely operate without a subsidy from the City budget.

In early November I received several phone calls and e-mails regarding two incidents of vandalism in the Blackhawk neighborhood and some late night mischief in or near Wexford Park. I have discussed both issues with Lt. Peterson of the Madison Police Department West Precinct. I am pleased to report that two individuals were ar-



rested, and confessed to the vandalism in Blackhawk.

The late night mischief at Wexford Park, which is an on-going issue, is still under investigation. There are some activities that neighborhood residents can do to help the police reduce these types of behavior: 1) if you see a crime being committed, call 911 immediately (do not investigate or attempt to intervene – keep your self safe), 2) if you see something suspicious or unusual, call the police non-emergency phone number (255-2345) and report it, 3) make your property unattractive to criminals – keep your doors closed and locked, do not leave valuable items visible in your vehicles, keep your vehicles in a garage or at the least keep them locked, and 4) install motion detector lights by your doors. Also, individual neighborhoods may be interested in developing neighborhood watch areas or park watch areas. These watch areas have been effective in reducing problems in many neighborhoods across the state and country. Please contact me if you are interested in forming a neighborhood watch or park watch area. I would be pleased to work with you and the appropriate City officials to help organize the watch. If you do call the City non-emergency phone number, you will be speaking to a civilian dispatcher, not a police officer. If the police are busy or short staffed, you may not have an officer respond quickly. If you do not get a timely response, you can request that a police officer contact you to discuss the issue or problem when they become available.

Thanks to all of you who have called or e-mailed me with your comments or questions. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, announcements (to be included in my newsletter), or issues at:

E-Mail: district9@council.ci.madison.wi.us Phone: 829-3425 *Paul Skidmore*

Wexford News:

- **Wexford Village Covenants:** A short summary of the covenants is listed in the Wexford Directory. There are rules such as: only two domestic animals, no fences over 36" high except where required around swimming pools, no service vehicles, boats, travel trailers, RV ... be parked anywhere other than inside garages, etc. Recently there are complaints regarding a dog running around in the Tramore/Boothbay/Bishops Hill/Norwalk area.

Ashman Library News:

- The Ashman Anime Club will have their last movie showing of 2004 on Friday, December 17. We'll be screening the movie "Please Twins: Three's Company!" Teens under 16 are asked to bring a signed parental consent form (available at the library).
- Toddler Times and Preschool Storytimes will begin in early February; please call us at 824-1780 to inquire about exact dates and times, and to register.
- This spring we will also offer "Donuts with Dad" Storytimes for kids ages 5 and under and their fathers, uncles, or grandfathers. These storytimes will be held on three Saturdays: January 29, February 26, and March 26.

More News:

- **Snow removal:** snow must be removed before noon of the next day when snow stops. For instance, if snow stop before midnight today, it must be removed before noon of tomorrow. If snow does not end after midnight, then the deadline is noon of the following day.
- **Waste collection for big items:** For Wednesday waste pickup like our neighborhood, big items are usually picked up on the third week of each month, depending on the loading of the crew. However, they will always be picked up once a month.
- **Automated collection system:** This new system has been proposed to the City of Madison. The current plan is to start the automated collection of recycling in September, 2005. Automated collection of refuse is planned to begin in May, 2007. The current weekly collection will be changed to bi-weekly collection. For more information, visit the city website: <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/streets/>.
- **Winter parking:** Alternate side parking rules require you to park on the even house numbered side of the street between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on even numbered days and on the odd house numbered side of the street between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. on odd numbered days. Thus, when you park in the evening time, you need to refer to the number of the next day. If you live on a street that has parking on only one side of the street, 24 hours a day, then the alternate side parking restrictions do not apply to the blocks with restricted parking. This exemption only applies to streets with 24 hour no parking restrictions.
- **Neighborhood Roundtable:** The meeting occurred on Nov 20 and was sponsored by the City of Madison and MGE to discuss creation of a “best practices” guide for the development review process. If you are interested in participating in the future meeting, please contact Department of Planning and Development at 267-8727, Ext. 211.
- *Messages from Dane County Executive*
Our 2005 county budget of \$413 million controls property taxes, improves human services, enhances public safety and preserves our lakes and natural resources. We held, again, to a tough standard—to limit a property tax increase to the rate of population growth plus inflation—3.49% this year. Your property tax assessment falls from \$2.89 to \$2.70 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The Sheriff’s budget gains \$3 million in local taxes, outpacing the increase in the budget as a whole. To reduce traffic accidents and fatalities – where we are sadly a leader in the state –we create a new Traffic Safety Team. Our Human Services Department worked hard to qualify for \$4 million in new federal and state dollars for the good work we do for our seniors, families in distress and citizens with physical, mental and developmental disabilities. Funding that the federal government cut for our successful Drug Court is restored with local tax dollars in my budget. And on the environmental front, I continue our commitment to quality of life by funding the Conservation Fund to carry out our citizens’ 1999 referendum vote to invest in precious lands that we can all enjoy forever. The budget also supports measures to clean our lakes, rivers and streams, and creates a first-time pilot program to reduce the litter and sediments dumped into our lakes by old storm sewers.

More information on the Wexford website including items to be given away, for sale, or missing, etc.