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# ◆ WEXFORD WATCH ◆

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Issue 132

February—March, 2005

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WEXFORD WATCH  
I S F O R  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
EDIFICATION AND  
D O E S N O T  
SPONSOR ANY  
PERSON OR  
ACTIVITY LISTED  
HEREIN, UNLESS  
SO NOTED.

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WRITING BY THE  
FIFTEENTH OF  
EACH ODD MONTH  
TO wexfordwatch  
@yahoo.com

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## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

The Wexford Board is in the midst of accepting contract proposals for the mowing of our greenways. As mentioned previously, we usually abide by the lawn care industry standard of 20 mowings per year. After all of the bids are received, the Wexford Board will review and accept a bid based upon cost, references, and past performance.

Winter has finally arrived, and just a brief note indicating that Wexford Village does have some obligations in removing snow from sidewalks in our area. We have about five specified areas that we have contracted for snow removal. This does not include any of the greenway paths, since they are not considered sidewalks. Typically, the pathways remain snow covered for most of the winter. Additionally, we usually do not respond to occasional light pole outages during the winter months, unless the situation presents a safety hazard, i.e., exposed wires, poles across the pathway, etc.

Just an update on the MGE cogeneration plant water project—Wexford Park vs. Odana Park. We have received good assurances from the Madison Mayor's office and MGE that the water reclamation project will not be located at Wexford Park. The Odana golf course site appears to be a better situation from an economic, engineering, and political perspective.

The Architectural Review Committee of the Wexford Board has the responsibility of reviewing proposed plans for any additions or modifications of the exterior of any Wexford Village Home. This was a directive that we received from the original developer (Voss) of the area. Room additions, decks, changes in external appearances of home must be reviewed by the Wexford Architectural Review Committee before the City of Madison will issue a permit. There are certain standards that must be followed by the Committee including the original covenants, previous or historical acceptances, good aesthetics, and common sense. If anyone has any question about and issue regarding the Architectural Review, please contact any individual on the committee that are listed on the Wexford Village website.

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

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

## *Alder News:*

### *Greetings from your Alder,*

Winter has finally arrived! After a December with record low snowfall, we have experienced two major snow storms in January. The City Streets Division has worked hard to keep our neighborhood streets clear and safe. I commend them for doing such a good job under difficult circumstances. Even though they are working hard, there may be some streets that need extra work. If you are experiencing problems in your neighborhood, please contact me, or the Streets Superintendent directly (Al Schumacher - 266-4680 -[aschumacher@cityofmadison.com](mailto:aschumacher@cityofmadison.com)). Also, please remember that alternate side parking regulations are in effect from November 15, 2004 through March 15, 2005. You must park your car on the even side of the street on even days and on the odd side of the street on odd days. These regulations are enforced from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. regardless of whether there is snow or not!

The past two months have been relatively slow in regard to city political activity. Traditionally, there is little activity in December and January, due to the holidays. Also, since the April, 2005 elections will include all aldermanic seats, many individuals are preparing for re-election or election. We are assured of having at least five new alders, as five current alders will not be running for re-election.

Alder Brenda Konkol has been holding a series of listening sessions in the City in response to the Economic Development Commission's report on how to make the City more friendly to business. The purpose of the meetings are to discuss the public's perception of city government. I had the opportunity to participate in the listening session at the West Police Precinct this past month. What I heard was that west side residents were concerned about the delivery of essential services (police, fire, and EMS), the delivery of basic services (public works, parks, libraries, streets, etc.), and the city's relationship with local businesses. I share these concerns. I would appreciate hearing from you regarding what you feel is important and what the city should be focusing on. I will share your comments with Alder Konkol and remember them as we deliberate future city initiatives.

The City is considering modifying its lobbying ordinance. There are proposals that are currently being discussed that will clarify the definition of lobbyist, expand the list of individuals who need to register as a lobbyist, and provide better education to help individuals and groups comply with the spirit of the law. The intent of the law is to provide a disclosure of anyone who is paid to influence the decisions that the City Council makes. I would appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

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](mailto:district9@council.ci.madison.wi.us) Phone: 829-3425 **Paul Skidmore**



## *Wexford News:*

- **Wexford Village Homes Association 2005 Budget**     *Treasurer—Paul Stang*

Receipts:

Interest: 600; Assessment: 47,000; Park donation: 2,000; Late fee income: 150: Total: 49,750.

Disbursements:

Directory: \$2,200; Event Expense: 1,200; Lawn care: 2,200; Light repair: 1,840; Mowing and pruning: 21,700; Utilities: 7,000; Insurance: 700, Other: 1,500; Postage: 900; Printing: 500; Professional services: 2,000; Repair: 100; Snowplowing: 2,000; Supplies: 200; Taxes: 310; Wexford Watch: 400; Storage: 400; Park Improvements: 2,000; Storm sewer assessment: 2,600. Total: 49,750.

- **Easter Egg Hunt in Wexford Park**

Each year on the Saturday right before Easter, the neighborhood gathers together to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. The 2005 Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 26th.

Time:        9:45 a.m. Easter Bunny Arrives; 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt Begins  
              10:15 a.m. Donuts, Juice and Coffee in the shelter area

In the meantime, we would like to invite the volunteers to help this event. Parents with kids to participating in the egg hunt are encouraged to call Don Michalski at 836-1659 to volunteer.

- **Volunteers for Architecture Review Committee Needed**

The Board invites you to volunteer in serving in the Architecture Review Committee. The committee will review and approve plans involving room and deck additions and changes in external appearances of homes. Please call Don Michalski at 836-1659 to volunteer.

- **Wexford Park Cleanup and Garage Sale**

The park cleanup will be in a Saturday morning in late April in conjunction with Early Day activities. A village-wide garage sale event will be held 8 AM—4 PM, May 13 to 14. Further details will be announced.

## *Ashman Library News:*

- Library hours: M—F 9 AM to 9 PM, Sat. 9 AM to 5 PM, 824-1780.
- Our spring toddler times for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years will be held on Mondays (Feb. 7 to March 28) at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. We'll also have Toddler Times on Wednesdays (Feb. 9 to March 30) at 10:30 a.m. Please call to register!
- Book Baby programs, for parents and babies ages 0 to 18 months, will be held on Wednesdays (Feb. 9 to March 30) at 9:30 a.m. Please call to register.
- This spring we'll also have several programs for teens: Dance Revolution parties will be held on Friday, March 11. Please call for details, times, and to register.
- Stamp Camp, a program to make creative greeting cards, will be held for all teens, grades 6 and up, on Wednesday, March 23. Please call to register.
- As always, our Anime Club continues, with showings on the following Fridays: February 4 and 18, and March 4 and 18. Please call for movie details and times.

## *More News:*

- **The City of Madison Celebrates 150 Years!**  
 In March of 1856 the Wisconsin Legislature passed a bill making Madison a city. That means in March 2006 Madison will be 150 years old. To plan the party, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz has created a Commission to develop and implement a citywide celebration. **Madison150**, the sesquicentennial commission, is excited for the whole city to be a part of the planning. The first five **Madison150** meetings of 2005 will be held in various locations around the city to encourage neighborhood participation. Please come to share your ideas for Madison to celebrate the sesquicentennial. Meetings will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM. Details of the meeting can be found on <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/mayor/mycommit.html>. To get involved or find out more, email Rebecca Kasemeyer, CitiARTS Arts Administrator at: [rkasemeyer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:rkasemeyer@cityofmadison.com).
- **Academy Evening programs in 2005**  
 This program features a series of interesting lectures that are held at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State Street, Madison.  
 Tuesday, March 1, 7—9 p.m. Future Shock: Is Madison Ready for the New Economy?  
 Tuesday, April 5, 7—9 p.m. Lomax and Wisconsin  
 Tuesday, May 3, 7—9 p.m. Modern Psychology Meets Ancient Philosophy  
 Tuesday, June 14, 7—9 p.m. The Roots of Juneteenth in Wisconsin  
 For more information about Academy Evenings, contact Barb Sanford, 608/263-1692 ext. 13, [bsanford@wisconsinacademy.org](mailto:bsanford@wisconsinacademy.org). <http://www.wisconsinacademy.org>.
- **Connecting People and Ideas for a Better Wisconsin**  
 The Schools of Hope Literacy Project matches preschool through third grade children with caring adults for one hour a week of literacy tutoring. On February 25, we are offering a free morning of workshops for people interested in becoming literacy volunteers. This is a great way to get involved in your schools and communities and make a difference.  
 WHAT: Free workshops for prospective and current literacy volunteers for pre-K through Grade 3 children. WHERE: LaFollette High School, 702 Pflaum Road, Madison. WHEN: Friday, February 25, 2005. Registration is from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Workshops are from 9:15-10:25 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.-noon. For more information, you may call Caite Moore at 441-7895.
- **Messages from Dane County Executive**  
 In the 2005 county budget presented to and unanimously approved by the County Board, we held to a tough standard—limiting the tax levy increase to the rate of population growth plus inflation (3.49% this year). This restraint results in a decrease in the average tax rate from \$2.89 to \$2.70 per thousand dollars of equalized valued. Despite controlling spending, we've prioritized key public services. Those services include: public safety—reducing ambulance response time, continuing commitment to the Drug Court, offender halfway houses and the new Pathfinders program that contribute to public safety; human services—a successful grant application for \$450,000 over three years to benefit children and families in the Allied Drive area and to provide a model to improve our work with families county-wide; natural resources—a county-wide ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizers reduce phosphorus in our lakes and help decrease algae; and more efficient government. For further information, contact Lesley Sillaman (608) 267-8823.

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