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# ◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

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Issue 134

June—July, 2005

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EDITOR:  
ROGER KONG,  
1114 N.  
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wexfordwatch  
@yahoo.com

DISTRIBUTION

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## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

During the early morning hours of Saturday, April 9th, individuals(s) destroyed fourteen light poles and light along the bike paths from Thornhill Circle to South Woodmont Circle. The Madison Police did an investigation on that Saturday morning with only a few clues. In addition to the Madison Police Department, the police officer from Memorial High was also notified. On May 19th, we received notification of the apprehension of at least one of the individuals responsible for the vandalism. At press time for this Newsletter, we are working with the family of the individual and their lawyer to achieve a resolution to the situation. Total damage estimate for the incident is \$7000-\$8000. We wish to express our appreciation to those individuals who called Wexford Board members, identifying any suspicious behaviors within our neighborhood regarding this and unrelated events. Further updates regarding this episode will be provided.

On Wednesday, May 11th, Dave Dryer from the City of Madison traffic engineering department met with about 15 Wexford residents regarding the traffic calming project for Sawmill and North Westfield. After much discussion, it was somewhat apparent that 4 way stop signs do not work in this situation and speed humps are too cumbersome and annoying for many.

It appears that the prevailing feeling was the use of a traffic circle. However, a survey from City Engineering will be sent to residents within a defined area of that intersection, and hopefully will archive some sort of consensus.

The Wexford garage sale was held on May 6th and 7th. About 35 household participated. We would appreciate hearing from any participating households regarding any positive or negative situations with the organization, publicity, etc, of the event.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Fourth of July parade and festival. It will be planned for Monday, July 4th at 10 AM. Mote details will be published later and volunteers are desperately needed.

***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 online at <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationUpdate.htm>***

## *Alder News:*

*Greetings from your Alder,*

The first Tuesday in April has brought forth the annual spring elections, including elections for all 20 aldermanic seats. We have six new members on the Common Council, replacing six alders who chose not to run for re-election. I am pleased and honored to serve as your alder for two more years. I will continue to serve on the Park Commission, Public Safety Review Board, Commission on People with Disabilities, and Pedestrian Bicycle Motor Vehicle Commission.

Once again, I walked along with the Police Department's Special Events team at the 2005 Mifflin Street Block Party. Police officials commented on how they were overwhelmed with the number of offenses that they witnessed. They were able to cite only a fraction of those who broke the law. This year's event will likely cost city taxpayers about \$100,000 more than last year. Furthermore, since the Police Department (and Sheriff's Department) allocated more than 100 officers to keep this event safe, there were fewer officers patrolling other districts in the City. I continue to believe that the Mifflin Street Block Party is a series of large private parties that has public security provided at public expense.

Because of the behavior exhibited at the Mifflin Street Block Party and Halloween, I have introduced a proposed "keg ordinance" that would regulate the sale and use of kegs of beer at private parties in residential districts. My proposed ordinance change will be discussed at the Public Safety Review Board, Alcohol License Review Board, and City Council over the next several months. I would like to know how you feel about Mifflin and Halloween, and what we can do to control them.

Recently, the Common Council debated and approved a resolution allowing illegal aliens the opportunity to apply for low interest loans through the City's Community Development Block Grant Authority to help purchase homes. I opposed this resolution, and voted against it.

Recently, the Park Commission received a request from the environmental committee of Progressive Dane requesting that we convert the Glenway Golf Course to an organic (pesticide free) facility. Progressive Dane wanted to demonstrate how a golf course could operate without pesticides. I opposed this effort, as did the Park Commission - the request was denied by a unanimous vote. Our parks and golf course staff are leaders in using integrated pest management techniques. They use non-pesticide methods where ever possible, and only use pesticides when other methods will not work. Eliminating pesticide use from golf courses would result in a deterioration of the courses, and a reduction in their use.

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, and concerns at:

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



## *Wexford News:*

- **New Playground Equipment**

We will be adding to the playground at the Wexford Park this fall and next summer! These improvements will make the play structure safer and more accessible for all ages and sizes. Join us for an informational meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Ashman Library. Donations are greatly appreciated! For more information, contact Jeanne Duffy at 831-3078. See our flyer in this issue of the Wexford Watch.

- **Wexford Park** *By Ken Schmidt, Board Member*

I want to thank everyone that braved the cold and wind to come to the Earth Day Park Clean Up. Garlic Mustard is a major threat to Wisconsin's woodlands. It spreads rapidly and in a few years can displace native woodland plants. Wexford Woods is full of Garlic Mustard and we need your help to remove it. The plants need to be pulled out by the roots, put into plastic bags and be collected with the regular trash for landfilling. Do not compost Garlic Mustard. We are still planning on bark mulching the trails in the woods this summer. Again we need help wheeling and dumping it on the paths. The mulch will be dumped at the park entrance to the woods. When you see it there feel free to start spreading.

Most of the special projects in Madison Parks are done by volunteers and funded by the area residents with matching grants from the Madison Parks Department. We need your help to keep our park and woods a great place to enjoy. Madison will have 2 park rangers this summer patrolling the Madison Parks in the evenings and on the weekends. They hope that this will help cut down on the vandalism in the parks and help provide assistance and education to park patrons. If you have any park issues or ideas, please let me know and I will do my best to assist you.

- **Volunteers for Covenant and Architecture Review Committee Needed**

The Board invites you to volunteer in serving in the Architecture Review Committee and the Board member responsible for Covenant enforcement. 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.

- **Fourth of July Parade**

The annual Fourth of July parade and festival will be planned for Monday, July 4th at 10 AM, starting from Woodmont Circle/Sawmill Rd. Volunteers are needed for various activities in the Wexford Park and shelter.

## *Ashman Library News:*

- Library hours: M—F 9 AM to 9 PM, Sat. 9 AM to 5 PM, 824-1780.
- There are summer activity in the library for both kids and adults. Please pick up event brochure from the library or check out the new Madison library website for more details. (<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/>)

## *More News:*

- **Building Inspection News**

The Inspection Unit of the Department of Planning and Development began offering consumers the option of obtaining certain permits online. Any property owner or licensed contractor may obtain a building permit for roofing, siding, or window and door replacement online. Simply go to [www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com), look for "Online Payments" on the bottom left of the opening page and click on "Building Permits" and follow the directions. Permits are issued at the end of the business day and faxed or mailed the next day. Call Harry Sulzer at 266-4568 for any question.

- **Oakwood Village Volunteers Needed**

Oakwood Village West needs more volunteers to help in the Village Apartments independent-living facility Terrace Tea Room serve customers once or a few times a month on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at 230-4238 or [kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net).

- **Westside Senior Center Annual Book Sale**

The Westside Senior Center's annual book sale will be held from June 11 to June 18. The sale hours on weekdays are 11 AM to 7 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Sunday from 12 to 4 PM. The Center is located at 602 Sawyer Terr., behind Hilldale Mall, just beyond the post office. There is a large collection of books on all subjects. Donations will be accepted through June 6. If you have any questions about the sale, please call the Senior Center at 238-0196.

- **Madison Civics Club**

Galvanized by the struggle for women's suffrage, five founding women formed the Madison Civics Club in 1912 as a study group to develop ways of formulating ideas for positive social legislation. Over 90 years later, this year's program will kick off on Saturday, October 8th with an address by Pulitzer Prize Winner, author and Madison native, David Maraniss. Call 255-1508 or visit the website <http://www.madisoncivicsclub.org> for more information.

- **Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin-Briarpatch**

YSOSW-Briarpatch has been providing free crisis intervention and referral services to teens and their families in Madison for over 30 years. Volunteer opportunities are always available at Briarpatch, and there are great needs for Host Home volunteers; volunteers who provide short-term respite care for our teenaged clients. Currently, Host Home volunteers are needed, who provide this important service to our clients. Please call volunteer Coordinator Rachel O'Leary at 251.6211 to volunteer.

- **Lost and Found:** A Blazor brand child's scooter with blue foam covered handles. Please contact Barbara at 831-3538.

- If you are on the waiting list for receiving a pool stock owed by the High Point Swimming Club, please contact Andy Garcia at 836-8998.

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