
◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

Issue 130

October-November, 2004

**WEXFORD WATCH
IS FOR
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

One of the largest capital investments of Wexford Village are the bike/walking paths. We have about 30,000 linear feet, usually five feet wide, throughout the Wexford greenways. These paths are unique within the Madison community and offer an enjoyable alternative for walking and biking. However, some of these paths are over 25 years old and are beginning to show some deterioration. Although we did a major resurfacing and cleanup project a few years ago, we expect some major repairs will continue to be needed within the next few years. The Wexford Board will continue to assess and review the status of these paths and will communicate the situation to all Wexford residents.

We invite all residents to visit our website <http://www.wexfordvillage.org> for items regarding updates on Wexford events and many other features. The Wexford Watch is our bi-monthly newsletter which is printed and then distributed by numerous volunteers to approximately 750 residences within Wexford Village. We would like to consider the possibility of establishing an electronic newsletter that could be done inexpensively and without the challenges of wind and weather. It would require a 100% ability to participate by email by our residents. Watch for future discussion on this issue and we welcome your ideas on this topic.

You may have observed construction work around Wexford in the past several weeks. Intercoin Construction has been doing work in several isolated areas for utility companies. The City of Madison is continuing to consider our proposal for a traffic calming project at the Sawmill and Westfield intersection. Again, everyone will receive updates as they become available.

The annual Wexford Village Homeowners Association meeting will be held this year on Monday, November 29th at 7PM at the Alicia Ashman Library in the Community Room. As always, we are looking for residents to join and participate on the Wexford Board. We have had another outbreak of Dutch elm disease within the Wexford greenway areas and on private lots. These trees are considered a public nuisance and must be removed according to city mandates.

***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>

Alder News:

Greetings from your Alder,

Fall has arrived, and with it comes the annual discussion and deliberation on the City's capital and operational budgets. The Mayor's proposed capitol budget includes funding for equipment for a new single stream waste and recycling collection system, the City's first municipal swimming pool, the development of five new neighborhood parks, and the development of the new fire station on the east side. Absent from the Mayor's capitol budget proposal is an eighth ambulance to help reduce EMS response times to emergencies on the west side of Madison. To meet the anticipated revenue shortfalls from State revenue sharing, the Mayor has asked City departments to submit operational budget requests that are 1% lower than the actual 2004 budget. A 1% reduction in essential services (police, fire, and EMS) and direct services (streets, parks, libraries, etc.) could significantly reduce the services that you receive. Furthermore, reductions in State and County budgets for human services could increase requests for additional funding from the City. These conditions could have a significant impact on the 2005 City budget and your property taxes.

I plan to conduct a listening session for ninth district residents in mid to late October regarding the proposed budget to hear your comments and suggestions. I will post a meeting notice on my web page on the City web site (www.cityofmadison.com) and forward a meeting notice to neighborhood association leaders.

The Swimming pool committee continues working on proposing a site for the City's first public swimming pool. The committee has decided that there is little support for locating a public swimming pool in Wexford Park and has dropped that site from consideration. However, they have endorsed a proposal to place a referendum before City voters on the November general election that would allow a swimming pool to be constructed at a City park that is near a waterway. This would allow Warner Park, Franklin Field, and Burr Jones Field to be considered as potential pool sites. An earlier referendum in the 1990s required that major any development at a City Park near a waterway be placed on a referendum for consideration. Recently, the City Attorney's office offered an opinion (based on a technicality) that this referendum did not prevent the City from developing in parks near waterways without a referendum. The City Attorney suggested that the City Council could allow development in parks near waterways without a referendum, but only with a majority council vote. Even if this opinion were correct, I do not agree with it. A majority of the voters endorsed the limitation on developing parks near waterways, and I respect their wishes. I will only support a swimming pool at a Park near a waterway if the referendum passes. The proposed referendum would not permit any other major development in a park near a waterway other than this one swimming pool. Finally, I will only support the development of a public swimming pool when I am satisfied that it is in the best interest of the City of Madison.

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 Annual Meeting***
The annual Wexford Village Homeowners Association meeting will be held this year on Monday, November 29th at 7PM at the Alicia Ashman Library in the Community Room.
- ***Ashman Library Book Sale***
The pre-sale starts Thursday, November 11, 2004, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for members of Friends of the Alicia Ashman Library. You may join the Friends at the pre-sale – a membership costs \$5.00 for an individual, \$10.00 for a family. The sale will be open to the public on Friday, November 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday November 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A bag sale will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost of a bag of books is \$5.00.
- ***No Call List Update***
Residents need to re-register for the “no call list” every two years and the two years will be up starting September 1. People can sign up at any time even they did not sign up previously. To sign up, call 1-866-966-2255, or visit NoCall.Wisconsin.gov. To report the violations of the No Call, please call 1-800-422-7128.

Ashman Library News:

- On Saturday, October 9, we'll hold a Lemony Snicket party for kids grades 3 and up. Come and celebrate the series of books that started with *The Bad Beginning!* The party starts 2 p.m.; please call 824-1780 to register.
- Our ever-popular Preschool Storytimes are held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings through November 18. Come one, come all...no registration is required!
- Celebrate Teen Read Week with a scary movie and costume contest for your teens, grades 6 and up, on Friday, October 22, starting at 4 p.m. We're also continuing our Ashmen Anime Club; our anime movie showings will be held on Friday nights, October 1, 15, and 29. Please call 824-1780 to register.
- We're honored to have a repeat performance of *Karate Kraziness*, for kids ages 4 and up, on Thursday, November 18, at 4 p.m. Also, Jo Severt will host two "Music Together" programs at the library for children up to 5 years on Tuesday, November 23, at 9:30 and 10:15 a.m. Please call 824-1780 to register for either program!
- The library isn't for kids only! Our Ashman Friends group will hold a HUGE book sale on the weekend of November 12 and 13; call for open hours and further details.
- Fans of Jan Karon's popular Mitford books are invited to a program entitled "Return to Mitford" on Saturday, October 16, at 2 p.m. Local Jan Karon expert Andrea Brooks Bunk will speak to us on the author's stories and success. Please call 824-1780 for details or to register to attend.

More News:

- *Messages from Mayor's Office*
This year, the city is supporting the development of a new fund to encourage creation of more community garden space in Madison. Many community gardens in town and individual gardeners have already donated to the fund, which will provide as much as \$12,500 per year toward soil testing, land clearing, water systems, fencing and tools for new garden groups. Annual grants will be given out starting in early spring of 2005 and recipients will be selected by a panel of ten community gardeners. To get an application, or to meet others in your neighborhood who want to start a garden, please call Janet Parker at CAC Community Gardens, 246-4730 ext. 218.
- *Trees and Water Pollution*
The water that goes into the storm drainage system, including ditches, is not treated at wastewater treatment plants. Rather, it drains directly into our lakes and streams. In autumn, leaves make their way into our lakes and streams when rain washes them down the storm drains and ditches. Once they get into the water, the leaves release nutrients that contribute to the accelerated growth of algae. The result is a greenish-tinted lake choked with foul smelling, dying algae that can kill fish and other aquatic critters and generally make water recreation an unpleasant experience. So this autumn, when the leaves blanket your yard, please leave the leaves out of the water by keeping them out of the street and gutter or ditch. Whatever goes into the gutter or ditch will eventually go into our lakes and streams.
- *"No Finer Gifts!"*
Purchase community day fundraiser coupon books and make a gift to the University of Wisconsin American Family Children's Hospital Building Fund. Ground breaking for the new facility is scheduled for October 18th, 2004. Purchase one or more coupon packets for \$5 each. Use the coupon(s) at Boston Store, Bergner's, Carson's, Herberger's, and Younkers Stores. Coupons are good throughout the store on Saturday, November 20, 2004, and can be used on top of one-day sale prices. Obtain coupons by sending check payable to UW Foundation-AFCH Building Fund to Jane Dunn, 7617 Sawmill Road, Madison, WI 53717. Make purchase by November 12th to allow time to mail coupons to you.
- *UW Arboretum Volunteers*
The UW Arboretum needs volunteers to keep its programs (and plants) alive and growing! We strive to place qualified applicants into rewarding positions based on their talents and interests, and we welcome new volunteers to join our programs. Advanced registration is required for these training sessions. For more information, contact Judy Kingsbury, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 262-5604 or jakingsb@wisc.edu; or visit our website at www.wisc.edu/arboretum.
- *Academy Evenings" Forum Series to Debut in Overture Center*
The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters is pleased to announce the Academy Evenings forum series that engages presentations, free of charge, about a wide variety of topics of public interest featuring Wisconsin's leading thinkers, scholars, and artists. For more information about Academy Evenings, contact Joan Fischer, 608/263-1692 ext. 16, jfischer@wisconsinacademy.org. Also, see our website, www.wisconsinacademy.org for the complete season schedule.

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