
◆ WEXFORD WATCH ◆

Issue 135

August—September, 2005

**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.**

**EDITOR: ROGER
KONG, 1114 N.
WESTFIELD RD.
SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
EACH ODD MONTH
TO wexfordwatch
@yahoo.com**

**DISTRIBUTION BY
BLOCK CAPTAIN:
JIM RATHER.**

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The situation with the light pole vandalism along the path from Thornhill Circle to S Woodmont has been officially resolved. The three individuals involved with the vandalisms (non Wexford residents) have made full restitution of \$8140. After careful consultation with various members of the judicial system, restitution without prosecution was determined to be the most expedite method of resolving this episode. The three juveniles will be facing the discipline of their parents. Judging from various conversations, it will be more stern than our judicial system. The next step is to replace the unlighted areas as soon as possible. We will review many different options for the lighting of the vacated area, and enlist the opinions of any adjacent residents. We would like to have the lights and poles replaced before November 15th.

Surveys have recently been sent to residents that live within 500 feet of the Westfield Road and Sawmill Road intersection from the City of Madison, to solicit their opinions about the traffic claiming project at that site. It is suggested that the project would be completed during 2005.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers that worked on the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic at Wexford Park. We received many favorable comments about the turnout and the spirit of the Wexford Village residents.

A special recognition to residents of Castle Bar and Andover Circle for all of their work in landscaping their circle island and making it a very aesthetic area. Although, Wexford Village tries to do major cleanup on all of the circles every 4-5 years, we rely upon the efforts of Wexford residents to make the islands more appealing during the summers. We encourage "all circle residents" to perhaps consider doing the same on their circle or request some financial support for the project.

Please refrain from placing any personal yard waste on Wexford circles or greenways. It just detracts from the appearance of these designated public green spaces.

Lastly, the Board is also looking for a member who is willing to edit the Wexford Watch. Please contact me if you are interested in.

Table of Contents

<i>Board News</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Alder News</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Wexford News</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>More News</i>	<i>4</i>

***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,

The common council has been particularly busy the past couple of months. Among other things, the council approved a major reorganization of two existing departments to create a new Department of Civil Rights, approved funding for the new Goodman Pool and awarded the construction contract, and reaffirmed the Police Department's policy and use of Tasers. The common council is working on a number of ongoing issues: The common council organizational committee (CCOC) is continuing to discuss proposed changes to the city's lobbying ordinance. The CCOC will be holding a public hearing on lobbying in August and should be making recommendations within the next couple of months.

The Board of Estimates is continuing to discuss possible changes to the City's Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) policies. A number of individuals and groups are concerned that TIF is being used to subsidize downtown condominium development and development of facilities that may not subsidies. Others are concerned that TIF is being used to offset the cost of providing affordable housing units required under the new exclusionary zoning ordinance. The BOE should complete their review and make recommendations to the common council this fall.

The Police Department is working with the mayor's office and downtown alders to try to make the 2005 Halloween party on State Street safer and less costly to taxpayers. The impact of the Halloween party has been significant for a number of years.

The new smoking ban took effect on July 1, 2005. Now all taverns, bowling alleys, and other areas covered by the ordinance are 100% smoke free. Restaurants that have separately ventilated rooms for smokers will have to go 100% smoke free by January 1, 2006. We have been receiving many communications from bar owners and bartenders describing the impact on their business and livelihood. Many council members anticipated that there would be a significant impact on local business, particularly bowling alleys and small bars. We are also receiving e-mails from anti-smoking advocates throughout the state. Many of these e-mails were generated through an appeal from Tobacco Free Dane County. I believe that the issue of banning smoking in bars, restaurants, and some other businesses is not over, but will return to be discussed again.

The mayor has issued guidelines to City department heads to start preparing their 2006 Budgets. In light of the recently approved State Budget, the Mayor has requested that departments submit budgets that are 3% below the 2005 budget. An across the board cut of departmental budgets could have a devastating impact of public services. It could result in layoffs of police officers and fire fighters, closing of beaches, and/or the reduction in public works services. It appears that the council will not be able to increase funding by raising taxes, so we must work within the budget limits that we have been given.

I plan to hold a series of Town Hall meetings this fall in all of the neighborhoods of the 9th district to discuss the proposed 2006 City budget and other issues that are important to neighborhood residents. These meetings will be scheduled after the mayor has announced his 2006 proposed operating budget but before the budget is adopted. I will work with the neighborhood associations to schedule a date, time, location, and agenda for the meetings.

Thanks to all of you who have called or e-mailed me with your comments or questions. Please feel free to contact me at:

E-Mail: district9@council.ci.madison.wi.us

Phone: 829-3425

Paul Skidmore



Ashman Library News:

- For adults:
Art Exhibit: July 1 - August 30
"Mountains, Water and In Between." Oil paintings by C. K. Chang.
Book sale: Our next Friends of the Alicia Ashman Branch book sale will be held starting on Thursday, November 17, through Saturday, November 19.
- For teenagers:
Our Ashman Anime Club will continue to hold film screenings this fall; please call 824-1780 or check our Web site at http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/calendar/location_ash.html for showing dates and times!
- For kids:
Book baby storytimes: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM
For children ages 0-18 months with an adult. One adult per child is recommended. Call 824-1780 to register two weeks in advance.

Toddler storytimes: Mondays at 9:30 & 10:30 AM
For children ages 18-35 months with an adult. One adult per child is recommended. Call 824-1780 to register two weeks in advance.

Preschool storytimes: Thursdays at 9:30 AM
For children ages 5 and under. Groups welcome. No registration required.
- The Alicia Ashman Branch Library is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 9 PM, and Saturdays 9 AM to 5 PM.

Messages from Dane County Executive:

I prepare the \$413 million budget by October 1 and the County Board and I usually complete action on the budget around Thanksgiving. My job is to both set the level of spending at a level you can afford, but then to deliver on your most important priorities. I created a levy sealing (equivalent to the population increase plus inflation) eight years ago that has kept down county property taxes and based on your input we have prioritized public safety and human services. But each budget is new and this is the time for you to tell me what you want for 2006.

At this time under the proposed state and federal budgets for 2006, Dane County loses another several million in state and federal dollars. These come on top of the cuts we've already sustained over the past several years, including about \$8 million alone in state cuts. With these challenges, it is so important that I hear from you about your budget priorities.

Citizens and community groups have already begun sending letters to me, but in addition, I will be hosting several budget hearings. Two of those sessions will focus specifically on the Human Services budget, which makes up almost half of the total county budget. The other hearings will be more general, and focus on the rest of county government, including such critical areas as public safety and transportation. The dates for those September hearings are not yet set, but will be advertised in the local media and available on our website at <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/> or by calling our office at (608) 266-4114. But please write or e-mail me your priorities at falk@co.dane.wi.us <mailto:falk@co.dane.wi.us>.

More News:

- **Wexford Village Covenant Reminder**
Service vehicles, recreation vehicles and work vehicles are to be stored in the garage spaces of the home. Please don't park off streets near Gammon Road or park along both sides of a relatively narrow street like Middleton Street. Visibility is blocked which is dangerous. Please park your vehicles in your garage or in your driveway.
- **For Former Members of Highpoint Pool**
Have you been waiting for years to receive our \$800 membership money back from Highpoint pool and have just been ignored? So far it's estimated that Wexford pool owes families \$80,000 and clam they don't have to do anything about it, nor is there anything we can do. If you would like to try and do something about that, lets meet in September and discuss it—Andy Garcia, 836-8998.
- **Participating in the Development Process**
The Department of Planning and Development is pleased to announce that an electronic version of our guidebook, "Participating in the Development Process: A Best Practices Guide for Developers, Neighborhoods & Policymakers" is now available. The guidebook can be accessed at: http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/BPG_Final_for%20weba.pdf.
- **Thank you contributors for Wexford Park Playground**
A sincere THANK YOU to all the individuals and businesses who have generously donated to the improvement of Wexford Park Playground. The Wexford Playground Improvement Committee is pleased to announce we have successfully raised our goal amount for Phase I of \$5,000 to be matched with a city grant of \$5,000! Look for improvements in the park this fall including more swings, a merry-go-round and an added playstructure platform with steps and double driving wheels. We have ambitious goals for Phase II for more improvements in the spring of 2006. We want to raise \$10,000. We will be adding trees for shade, a two-seater airplane and fire truck, and possibly adding improved monkey bars, a curved slide and if a miracle happens, a climbing structure. PLEASE help us out—Checks can be made out to the Madison Parks Foundation-Wexford Park and sent c/o Sue Hunt 7113 Longmeadow Rd, 53717. For more info, call 831-3133. Any amount is appreciated!
- **Tree and Bench Donation Program**
The Tree and Bench Donation program offered by the City of Madison Parks Division is a wonderful remembrance to someone plus you can share the cost of a tree or a bench to be placed in your favorite Madison Park for all to enjoy. There are many trees and styles of benches to choose from: Trees—your cost as low as \$75 without plaque or \$275 with a plaque, and Benches--your cost as low as \$425, include a plaque. For a flyer, call Jeanne Duffy 831-3078 or more info: www.cityofmadison.com/parks.
- **Wexford Junior Soccer League for the Fall**
All four and five year olds are welcome to join us for soccer at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this fall. We will meet from Tuesday September 6th through Tuesday October 11th from 6:00 - 6:45 PM (six sessions). All skill levels are welcome, the goal of this league is to have fun! Have your child bring a water bottle, no other equipment is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Ruplinger at 836-9170.
- **Gardening volunteers needed**
Oakwood Village West and East need volunteers in helping their gardens through the summer. For detail info, please contact Kim Viney at (608)230-4238.

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