
◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

Issue 124

October-November 2003

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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

Each year, a professional lawn service performs a weed and feed program on all of the greenway areas within Wexford Village. This is usually done during the first week of October, since it is suggested that this is the best time for achieving the best weed control throughout the year and simultaneous fertilizing of the greenways. We have approximately 20 acres of green space that is included and although the cost is about \$2000 for the application, this is actually a decrease in cost from the past years due to competitive bids.

A traffic survey has been sent to residents adjacent to the Sawmill and Westfield intersection requesting opinions about traffic calming options. Details can be seen in the article included in this newsletter.

The Annual Wexford Village meeting will be held on Monday, November 24th at 7PM at the Alicia Ashman Library. An update on Wexford Village issues, a presentation by city officials, and the election of new board members are included on the agenda. Five board member seat are open, so PLEASE consider offering your time and efforts to contribute to your community.

Some of the greenway light poles have been consolidated in areas around South Woodmont and Apple Hill Circle. This was done after consultation with our lighting contractor, to reduce the higher density of poles in certain areas and decrease energy cost without sacrificing appearances and safety.

Thanks to everyone to take the time to water city trees during this summer's intense drought. It has been suggested that each tree adds \$100 to the value of properties, so beside the authentic value of trees, there is an economic advantage to take care of our environment .

***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,

School has started again, and there are many students walking, running, skateboarding, and driving, near the schools. Please drive carefully in school zones, particularly before school, at lunch time, and after school, when many students are out. I am pleased to report that there has been some progress on the traffic problems at the intersection of Gammon Road and Tree Lane (next to Jefferson Middle School). Over the summer, the City Traffic Engineering Department completed some improvements that they hope will make the intersection safer and more “pedestrian friendly”. Specifically, they 1) eliminated the left turn lane on south-bound Gammon Road (into Jefferson), 2) added a new, separate left turn lane on south-bound Gammon Road (into Memorial H.S.), and 3) widened the Gammon Road median and added a pedestrian “safety area”. The Madison Police Department, the School District, Traffic Engineering, and I will be monitoring the intersection this next semester to see how well it works. It’s too early to tell how successful these improvements will be. Therefore, we have not ruled out the possibility of requesting that a traffic signal be placed at this intersection if it continues to be unsafe for pedestrians. I would appreciate your opinion on these improvements. Please let me know how these changes affect traffic safety in the neighborhood.

A local group is attempting to increase the minimum wage in the City of Madison to \$7.75 per hour through a binding state referendum or a supermajority vote of the Madison Common Council. This would require local businesses to pay a minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage. While I think that the Federal minimum wage is too low, there is some disagreement as to whether or not this local ordinance could, or should, pre-empt state or federal regulations. Another concern worth noting is the potential effect on businesses in different municipalities with different minimum wages. I would appreciate your input on this issue.

The City Council has begun deliberations on the 2004 City budget. For a number of reasons, this budget could be particularly challenging. I’m sure most of you recognize that the state budget crisis has resulted in drastic cutbacks of revenue sharing to municipalities and counties. Furthermore, the State is reducing the amount of money it reimburses to municipalities which provide services to tax-exempt state properties. The Mayor has released his proposed capital budget and will be releasing his operational budget in early October. The Mayor has asked all city departments to submit lean budgets to help decrease City spending. Specifically the Mayor has requested that the Police and Fire Departments submit budgets no greater than 2003; he has also requested that the other departments submit budgets that reflect a 2% cut from 2003. Due to inflation, previously negotiated labor agreements, and other factors, the Mayor’s directive could result in cuts in services to City residents. The Mayor’s proposed capital budget includes opening 5 new neighborhood parks in the City in 2004 (none of which are in the 9th district). His Capital Improvements Program (which is not part of the 2004 Budget) also includes opening additional new parks, at least one swimming pool, a new fire station, and a new police station in future years. If approved, these improvements could result in increases in the operational budget, and a possible property tax increase. While I support the development and operation of needed public facilities, I



believe that we must be fiscally responsible. I plan to support funding for basic services (police, fire, E.M. S.) and most direct services (streets, parks, library, etc.). I think we need to look carefully at reasonable funding for non-profit community services and other programs. I would like to hear your opinions on the City Budget. What do you feel is important? What should the City fund? What can we cut back on? What can we do without? Would you like to see lower property taxes, even if it means a reduction in services? Would you like to see more services, even if means higher property taxes? Do you feel that your property taxes are too high, compared to the services you receive?

The Mayor will be publishing his operational budget proposal soon. You can view it on the City web site, www.ci.madison.wi.us, when it is available.

Thank you for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, issues, or announcements (to be included in my newsletter) at:

Paul Skidmore
13 Red Maple Trail, Madison, WI 53717
Phone: 829-3425, E-Mail: district9@council.ci.madison.wi.us

Wexford Village News

- Progress is being made on the concern of traffic problems in Wexford. Westfield Road at Sawmill Road is enrolled in the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMCP). The Traffic Engineering Division works with the City's Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission (PBMVC) to determine which projects proceed in 2004 as part of the program. A petition for our neighborhood was received to be considered for potential funding as a NTMP project. A petition map in which signatures were to be obtained included 12 homes at the Westfield/Sawmill intersection. At least 50% of those homes needed to sign the petition agreeing to proceed with planning for a NTMP project. The signatures were gathered and returned to the city. We now await their reply.
- The Madison Police Department sent our police liaison a 2003 Community Survey to complete to gather information about the neighborhoods and schools and their thoughts on the police, safety and crime. Please take a few minutes to assist our police district in gathering your comments, thoughts and feelings by going to the website (www.wexfordvillage.org/survey.htm) and completing a short questionnaire. Detailed reports will be shared with our neighborhood association.
- The welcoming committee has visited 20 new families from Jun. 1, 2003 to Aug. 31, 2003. The visits were made by Patricia Baer-Watts and Linda Flakne. Please report the new residents to Patricia Baer-Watts at 827-0018.
- The Board of Directors are still recruiting volunteers to serve in the Architecture Review Committee. Wexford residents who has architecture background are welcomed to participate and serve the committee. Organizers for social events, namely Easter Egg Hunt, garage sales, and Fourth of July parade, are also needed.

Ashman Library News:

- **Kids' Programs**

Book Baby Storytimes (ages 0 to 18 months, with adult) 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 8 through Dec. 3.

Toddler Time Storytimes (ages 18-35 months, with adult) 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Oct. 6 through Dec. 1
10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 8 through Dec. 3

Teddy Bear Picnic (kids 7 and under and their families) 6 p.m., Tuesday Nov. 11

Gingerbread House Workshop (kids ages 2 to 15) 2 p.m., Saturday Dec. 20

We do ask that you register for all kids' programs (space is limited) by calling 824-1780.

- **For Teens**

Ashman Anime Club Friday nights, Oct. 3, 17, and 31, at 7 p.m.

- **For Adults**

Ashman Book Group 7 p.m., Tuesday nights, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 (The books are "Enemy Women," by Paulette Jiles, and "The Eyre Affair," by Jasper Fforde, respectively.)

"A Lifetime of Learning to See," a watercolor exhibit by American artist Lee Weiss, will be on display in the library through October 27. Please drop in anytime and view these big and beautiful originals.

- **November '03 Book Sale**

"It is almost time for the Alicia Ashman Library's semi-annual used-book sale. The sale is scheduled for Friday November 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday November 15, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a Bag Sale from 2-3 p.m. A Pre-Sale is held Thursday November 13, from 5:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the Friends of the Library. You may join the Friends of the Library by becoming a member on the day of the sale or any day of the year! We welcome your books, which may be brought to the library anytime between now and sale time. Please, no textbooks and magazines. Volunteers are welcome to help with the book sale the week of November 10th. If you would like your books picked up, are interested in volunteering or would like information on how to become a Friend of the Library, please contact Jane Kessenich, November '03 Book Sale Chairperson at 836-8429 or e-mail jpkessenich@charter.net. We hope to see you at the Alicia Ashman Library on November 14 and 15!

More News:

- **Halloween is coming...**

Join the First Annual Halloween House Decorating contest. Submit a picture and your address to pwatts@tds.net. We will post all entries on the neighborhood website and let the neighborhood vote for their favorite. Winner to receive a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

- **Babysitting Co-op**

Are you in need of babysitters occasionally? Would you like to get to know other families with children in the neighborhood? With the Wexford Babysitting Co-op, parents provide sitting for each other. We have dependable, responsible and fun parents to share in the care of our kids. We feel we are better parents to our children because we have time to spend with our spouse, our other children and even ourselves! Call Sue Hunt at 831-3133 for more information.