
◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

Issue 127

April 2004-May 2004

**WEXFORD WATCH
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

Everyone is invited to participate in two of the Wexford Village social events. First is the Annual Easter Egg hunt that will be held on Saturday April 10th, 9:30 AM at Wexford Park. Events include a visit by the Easter Bunny, Easter Egg Hunt, and socialization with other parents in the shelter area. To participate, please drop off 1 dozen plastic eggs filled with candy and/or treats at one of three drop off sites prior to that date, 5 Red mound Circle, 21 Drum hill Circle, and 1018 N Westfield Road.. Last year and estimated 125-150 children participated in the event.

Also, the Annual Garage Sale will be held during the first weekend of May- Friday, May 7th and Saturday May 8th, 8AM until 5PM. If interested , please contact Don Michalski at 836-1659 or email at michalsd@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu about more details. Publicity for the event will be provided by Wexford Village with signs, flyers, and newspaper ads, etc.

Wexford Village has signs at two major entrances for our Association, Old Sauk & Westfield and Sawmill & Gammon. We would like to solicit ideas from residents about enhancing the landscaping in those areas, whether with trees, bushes, perennial and annual flowers, ornamental grasses etc. Please contact any board member with your ideas and visions and perhaps your willingness to assist in the project.

The City of Madison is considering a project that involves a major water management endeavor associated with the new cogeneration plant that is being built on the UW campus. Before any water reallocation from Tiedeman's or Stricker's Pond can be made, the City of Madison will be doing some preliminary tests to verify that the water can be percolated from Wexford Park . There will be some drilling and testing in Wexford Park within the next few weeks to make that determination.

As warmer weather arrives, please be vigilant about nuisance activity and consider activating your Neighborhood Watch. Minimize your individual household susceptibility by keeping doors and windows closed and locked.

***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,

Recently, the Governor vetoed AB633, which would prohibit municipalities from enacting minimum wage ordinances that are higher from State and Federal Minimum Wage laws. I support a higher minimum wage, but I do not support the effort to enact different minimum wage ordinances within individual municipalities.

Soon, the City Council will be debating whether to change the City's anti-smoking ordinance to prohibit all restaurants, taverns, bowling alleys, and hotel lobbies from allowing smoking. The vast majority of responses that I have received from constituents indicate to me that you are opposed to this change. I agree.

Alder Matt Sloan has introduced an ordinance to allow residents to raise chickens (hens only!) on their properties within the City of Madison. I have received a number of opinions and suggestions on this subject (about equally for and against). Some have opined that chickens in residential neighborhoods would not be a problem. Others have said that chickens would attract rats and vermin. I would really appreciate your opinion on this issue! I do know that we have many coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and Ferrell cats on the west side, and they would likely have an impact on the chicken population.

Traffic management continues to be the single most important problem, and source of complaints, within the 9th district. I have requested traffic studies on Westfield Road (at Farmington Road) and on Gammon Road (at Colony Drive) to help determine if we need additional traffic controls (a stop sign on Westfield and/or a traffic signal on Gammon Road at Tree Lane). I am working with various agencies and Alderman to make our streets safer. The Traffic Enforcement Team has been conducting operations on Gammon Road, Old Sauk Road, and Westfield Road to enforce speeding violations and determine the actual speed and traffic volume over a given period of time.

Last month, the Madison Police Department released crime statistics for Madison for the year ending 2003. The year-end statistics indicate that, with the exception of homicide, crime dropped in 2003. These statistics are misleading. Even though overall crime in Madison dropped in 2003, crime in the West District (including the Ninth Aldermanic District) has increased. In particular, theft from autos and property crimes increased dramatically on the west side of Madison. It is important to keep this in mind to keep yourselves safe. The Madison Police Department has several simple suggestions to help make your families safer: (1) If possible, park your vehicles in your garage. (2) Keep your garage doors closed and locked all the time. (3) Keep the entrance doors to your home locked and lighted all the time. (4) Install a motion detector light at all entrance doors (or keep the light on at all times!) (5) If you're going away, tell you neighbors, so they will know if there is suspicious activity. (6) If you see anything suspicious, call the Madison Police Department, they will not be upset if there is not an imminent problem. (Please call LT. Tony Peterson at 288-6110 during the day, or police dispatch at 266-4275 at any time). If you witness a crime or accident in process, please call 911 immediately. Your help in keeping Madison a safe place to live is critical.

The state legislature recently approved SB512 overwhelmingly, which would provide property tax exempt status for non-profit and elderly housing facilities such as



Attic Angels and Oakwood. If the Governor signs this legislation, Attic Angels and Oakwood would be able to continue to provide property tax exempt housing for senior citizens. However, the tax exempt status for properties in excess of 10 acres in a facility would continue to be an issue, and could result in further tax litigation.

Finally, there will be a city-wide election on April 6, 2004. We will be electing our County supervisors, a municipal judge, and Madison School Board representatives. Whoever who support, please make your opinion count by voting!

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:

- Financial Report for 2004 Budget—overall balance: \$52,185.
Receipts: Interest from saving (\$325), Assessments (\$49,800), donations (\$2,000), Fees (\$60).
Disbursements: Directory (\$2,200), Event Expense (\$1,000), Greenway (Lawn Care \$2,200, Light Repair \$6,175, Mowing and Pruning \$21,700, Utilities \$6,300, Storm Sewer Assessments \$1,500), Insurance (\$600), Other (\$1,500), Postage (\$900), Printing (\$500), Professional Services (\$2,000), Repairs (\$100), Snowplowing (\$2,000), Supplies (\$200), Taxes (\$310), Wexford Watch (\$600), Storage (\$400), Donation (\$1,000), Park Summer Program (\$500).
- For those who just moved in to Wexford and do not have the Wexford Directory, please contact Trish Baer-Watts (827-0018). The resident's information can also be updated thru the Wexford website.
- As summer arrives and many of you will be doing some yard work, please make sure that your trees and bushes do not go over the common areas. We all will appreciate if everyone could trim the trees/brushes leaning over the greenway and sidewalks.
- Special thanks are due to Jerry and Trish Watts and all others who helped in the Easter Egg Hunt.

Ashman Library News:

- An exhibition of photos displaying simple compositions, smooth lines, and vivid celebrations of man and nature, by Julian Chandler Photography, will be on display in the Ashman Library thru April 30.
- The Ashman Anime Club continues with a showing of "Kaze No Yojimbo" on Friday, April 2, at 6:45 p.m. All attendees age 16 or younger must bring a parent or a signed permission slip! Please call 824-1780 with questions, or to register.
- Our Hindi Film Showings and Lectures also continue with "Dilwale Dulhany A Le Jayenge" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 10.
- We'll also be screening the latest Harry Potter film (The Chamber of Secrets) and having a Harry Potter book discussion on Tuesday, March 30, and Thursday, April 1. Please call 824-1780 to register!
- Alicia Ashman Branch Library M-F 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 824-1780

More News:

1. *Volunteer Opportunities (contact Kim Viney at 230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net)*
 - Oakwood Village East needs one or two volunteers to assist with the Oakwood Seasons assisted living resident bi-weekly Thursday afternoon bowling activity, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 - Oakwood Village West needs volunteers to assist with the Tabor Oaks assisted living resident weekly Monday afternoon bus outings, 12:45-2:15 p.m.

2. *“Celebrate the Magic of Life” by Dane County RSVP Volunteer Programs*
 - The event is for everyone and held on Saturday, May 1st at the historic Masonic Center in downtown Madison. The day will include free afternoon activities, presentations and a Red Cross Blood Drive. Ticketed events will include a professional Magic Show from Wisconsin Dells and evening dinner, program, and dance. Call David Tetzlaff for the details at (608)238-7787.

3. *Fundraising for the Cherokee Drama Department*
 - Mark your calendar for April 30, 2004. From 6:00 – 9:00 P.M., Barnes & Noble, will donate a percentage of sales to the Cherokee Drama Department. Come and be entertained by some of the 7th & 8th graders from Ms. Hamann’s drama classes. They will be performing short monologues from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

4. *Wexford Junior Soccer League*
 - All four and five year olds are welcome to join us at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this spring. We will meet from Tuesday April 27th through Tuesday June 1st from 6:00 - 6:45 pm (six sessions). Have your child bring a water bottle, no other equipment is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Ruplinger at 836-9170.

5. *Son Games 2004 Vacation Bible School (contact Julie Jensen 833-5030)*
 - Please join the fun at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, 110 N. Gammon Road, ! Son Games 2004 is a fun and exciting place where children learn to apply Biblical teaching to their lives. We want to share this exciting event with children and parents in our neighborhood. Son Games 2004 begins June 21st, 2004 and continues through June 25th from 9 a.m. until noon each day.

6. *Madison Audubon Society Art Fair on May 1st*
 - Please check out the website for the details. <http://www.madisonaudubon.org/audubon/artfair/>

7. *Gathering*
 - Do you have a child starting kindergarten this fall at Glenn Stephens? Interested families will be getting together this summer at the Stephens playground, to meet other children who will be starting kindergarten, as well as getting the kids used to being at the school. If you are interested, please email tkwiegand@charter.net, and let us know your preferences of getting together: weekday or weekend, am or pm, weekly or monthly.

8. *Neighborhood Swimming at the High Point Swim Club—901 High Point Rd.*

The HPSC is a non-profit, recreational organization dedicated to neighborhood families who enjoy outdoor swimming and relaxation. HPSC offers a wide range of activities. The HPSC season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For membership information, please call 831-8486 or visit our website www.highpointswimclub.com.