
◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

Issue 129

August-September 2004

WEXFORD WATCH
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EDITOR: SUNNY
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

Thanks to the many volunteers and to the participants in the annual Wexford Village Fourth of July Festival. Although the weather was more appropriate for a football weekend, the children were enthusiastic and enjoyed themselves with the parade, games, and food. After all, the success of a picnic is measured by the consumption of food and almost all of the hot dogs and brownies were gone.

Check out the new landscaping at the Wexford sign at Sawmill and Gammon Road. Special thanks to Ben Emmel and Ken Schmidt for all of their hard work on this project. Perennials and annual plants are now part of the new landscape and they appear to be very appealing to residents and commuters.

There have been frequent inquiries about the cutting of the grass on the greenways this year. This has been an exceptionally wet and great growing season. Our contractor cuts the grass every 7-10 days, and we receive 20 cuttings for our basic contract. Any additional cuttings that we may request would cost an additional \$1000. Please refrain from placing yard waste from private lots onto Wexford green space areas. Besides being inappropriate, it impedes the lawn mowing service from fulfilling their tasks.

We would like feedback from Wexford residents regarding the use of the designated hockey rink areas in Wexford Park. Are these areas still being used during the winter, or should the Park district consider having those sand/gravel areas revert back to grassy areas. Please advise any board member about your concerns. We have not received any word from the City of Madison Parks Department on the replacement of the new tree plantings during the summer of 2003 in Wexford Park. Over 50 % of the trees have not survived the drought of last summer and this past winter.

***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,

It seems to me that the City Council has been busier than usual the past two months. In addition to dealing with typical city business such as planning development, public safety and public works, we adopted a new waste and recycling program, debated a contentious Sister City proposal, authorized the construction of new emergency sirens, and are in the process of discussing the construction of the first City owned and managed swimming pool.

The Common Council approved the construction of three new emergency sirens and the upgrading of one emergency siren in the City of Madison. I was a co-sponsor of this proposal. The approval included transferring \$75,000 from the contingency reserve to pay for the improvements. I have heard from many residents, that they have not heard the sirens, when they have been activated. In fact, I heard from several residents of the Junction Ridge and Blackhawk neighborhoods, who saw the recent tornado over their houses but did not hear a siren.

Recently the Goodman brothers pledged a donation of two million dollars to the City to construct a new swimming pool. This is a gracious offer that could help build the first municipal swimming pool in Madison. However, this is only the first step. There are many details to be worked out. There is a City Swimming Pool Committee that is meeting now to discuss these issues, and they would like to hear from you. They will be conducting a listening session at the West Police Precinct office on McKenna Blvd. at 6:00 p.m. on August 30, 2004. One of the nine potential swimming pool sites is in Wexford Park. I would appreciate your comments and opinions on this subject.

As always, traffic enforcement and traffic management is a major topic of discussion in the City of Madison and the Ninth District. I will be conducting a multi-neighborhood meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 25, 2004 at the Alicia Ashman Library on High Point Road to discuss local traffic issues. In attendance will be city staff from the Police Department and the Traffic Engineering Department. I am inviting any interested individuals to discuss transportation problems and potential solutions. If you cannot attend, please send me an e-mail or give me a call with your questions and/or concerns.

There are a number of City Committees, Commissions, and Boards that have vacancies. If you are interested in serving the City on one of these bodies, you can check the vacancy list on the City web-site. If you are curious to know what qualifications you need to serve, or what type of commitment is required, please contact me.

Recently, City Council members were informed by the Information Technology Department that our city e-mail system had been corrupted. If you have sent me an e-mail expecting a response, it may not have arrived at my computer, or my reply may not have arrived at your computer. Thanks to all of you who have called or e-mailed me with your comments or questions.

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

Phone: 829-3425 ***Paul Skidmore***



Wexford News:

- ***Recycling Fluorescent Lamps***

Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs have been banned from the Dane County Landfill. That means that the City of Madison can no longer collect your old fluorescent lamps in the trash. This is because it contains mercury, one of the most hazardous substances in our homes. Please take your old fluorescents back to any retailer that sells fluorescent lamps. The retailers will take your old fluorescent lamp can get it recycled for you. Some retailers will take back your old fluorescents at no charge; others may charge a fee to cover their costs. You can find out where to recycle old fluorescent lamps by visiting the Streets Division's web site www.cityofmadison.com/streets or by calling 267-2626. Thermostats containing mercury are also banned from landfills. When you replace a thermostat, make sure you take the old thermostat back to the retailer where you purchased it. Note that the digital thermostat does not contain mercury and will do a better job in controlling temperature. Madison residents can also take mercury thermostats to Clean Sweep at 2602 Fish Hatchery Rd. For information on Clean Sweep call 294-5366 or visit their web site at www.danecountycleansweep.com.

- ***Note from Dane County Executive on Budget Priority***

Our previous efforts have earned Dane County a AAA bond rating, the highest measure of strong fiscal management. However, there are three significant financial pressures on us for 2005 which include State's financial deficit, the growth of County's existing funding commitments, and overall moderate economic growth. Here's some of what we did this year. We eliminated 40 vacant positions to reduce base budget expenses by about \$2 million and instituted a yearlong hiring freeze for most County positions. We merged departments (for example, merging Public Works and Highways generated \$100,000 in savings), and leased, instead of purchasing, squad cars, reducing costs by \$200,000. Together with other efforts, I present my budget to the County Board by October 1. Your input on the budget is vital. I invite you to comment on *your* priorities during upcoming budget public hearings. Please contact me at 266-4114, by e-mail at falk@co.dane.wi.us, or mail at 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 421, Madison, WI 53703.

Ashman Library News:

- The Summer Library Program Finale will be held on Thursday, August 5, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Olin Park Shelter (1156 Olin-Turville Court). Plan now to attend this extravaganza that will include performers and line-dance lessons!
- Our next Anime Club meeting will be held on Friday, August 6, when we'll screen the movie "Infinite Ryvius." (This movie is rated for kids aged 13 or older.)
- All teens are invited to our next meeting of the Teen Fantasy Book Club; on Tuesday, August 17, we'll be discussing the book *Once Upon a Marigold* by Jean Ferris.
- Our new schedule of storytimes and other kids' programs for autumn has not yet been announced; please call us at 824-1780 to ask about any of our current or future programs!

More News:

- *Thanks to Volunteers*

A big thank-you goes to all the volunteers for organizing and helping with the July 4th parade and activities! Parade photos are available at www.wexfordvillage.org. If you are interested in helping upcoming Wexford events or being a Board member, please contact Don Michalski (836-1659).

- *Junior Soccer League*

Wexford Junior Soccer League—All four and five year olds are welcome to join us at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this fall. We will meet from Tuesday August 31st through Tuesday October 5th 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.

- *Madison Public Listening Schedule for a Pool*

Wexford Park is one of the nine potential sites for a pool that will be donated by the Goodman brothers. A public listening is scheduled on Monday, August 30, 2004 at West Side Precinct, 1710 McKenna Blvd. Residents are welcome to voice their opinions and concerns.

- *Food for Thought Festival*

Saturday, September 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd—Come and celebrate the delicious food produced here in Wisconsin. Professional chefs and winners of the Food for Thought recipe contest will demonstrate their recipes. Free entertainment and activities for kids will include veggie jewelry making and a chance to take a chicken for a walk. For information about the festival or the recipe contest, please see the REAP website, www.reapfoodgroup.com, or contact Sarah King at 231-6701.

- *Spartan Light of Life Walk*

The event is organized by Justin, a Memorial High senior, and Tyler Dahmen, who want to make a difference in the battle against cancer. During the past two years they have raised over \$10,000 for the Leukemia Society and American Cancer Society. This event is a 2-mile walk around Mansfield Stadium track at Memorial on October 13 at 6:30 p.m. The Spartan Cancer Walk is open to all Memorial students, families, friends, and community members who want to help fight this battle. There will be a DJ playing music and snacks and lemonade to make it an enjoyable evening. It seems every single one of us is related to or touched by someone fighting cancer. It is hoped that through your support and others like you, this event helps eliminate this disease. Registration forms will be available in the offices at Memorial High School or you can send your donation to 201 S. Gammon Road, Madison, WI 53717. For more information regarding the walk, please call Justin at 836-7929.

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