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# ◊ WEXFORD WATCH ◊

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Issue 126

February-March 2004

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WEXFORD WATCH  
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EDITOR: SUNNY  
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## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

As winter settles into our lives, we always look forward to spring and summer. Make note of three of the social events that are held each year for Wexford Village residents. The Annual Easter egg hunt is held in Wexford Park on the Saturday before Easter. This year the event will occur on April 10th. Each year, we have over 125 children participate in the Easter egg hunt and games, and meet the Easter Bunny. The Wexford Garage Sale usually occurs during mid-May. Last year, we had nearly 50 households participate in the event. The Fourth of July Parade event will, of course, occur on July 4th in Wexford Park with a parade, games and food for approximately 300-400 children and adults. We invite your participation and especially your willingness to volunteer to assist with any of these events.

The greater portion of the Wexford Village annual budget is consumed by the greenway care. This year we are in the final year of a four year contract (\$22,000) which includes the following specifications and services.

- (1) The contract calls for 20 mowing during the growing season, with the grass being cut every 7 days initially, especially the rapid growing period during the spring. As the summer becomes drier, the frequency is decreased to every 10-12 days. Usually, the maximum acceptable length of the grass is 5 inches.
- (2) Install bark around all ornamental trees and light poles to minimize the need for labor intensive and costly hand trimming or possible damage to those items with mowers.
- (3) Spray herbicides for weed control around all tree rings, sidewalk cracks, and light poles three times a year for appearances and possible damage to sidewalks. Each October, herbicides and fertilizer are applied to all greenway areas (approximately 20 acres) via a separate contract. If you have any concern about any of these details or the performance of the contractor, please advise any member of the Wexford Board.

***Wexford Village Website: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>  
Submission to Wexford Watch: [wexfordwatch@yahoo.com](mailto: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,*

A new year has arrived and we finally are getting some snow accumulation. I would like to remind everyone that alternate side parking regulations are in effect throughout the City. Alternate side parking means that between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. you must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street on odd days and on the even numbered side of the street on even days. Also you are required to remove the snow from your city sidewalk by noon on the day following a snowfall. Failure to do so could result in a citation. Please contact me if you have questions or need help getting your street plowed or sanded.

On January 20, 2004 the Madison City Council approved the Mayor's Inclusionary Zoning ordinance on a 12 to 8 vote. This ordinance, which was developed to help provide affordable housing in Madison, will have a significant impact on the City in general, and in particular the peripheral aldermanic districts like the ninth. I opposed, and voted against this ordinance for several reasons:

(1) This ordinance will not provide affordable housing in all areas of the City. It will concentrate new affordable housing in the areas that have redevelopment and in undeveloped areas of the City. (2) The "incentives" to developers stipulated in this ordinance may not be sufficient to offset the actual cost of providing affordable dwelling units. (3) I am philosophically opposed to the City having the first option to purchase development parcels or dwelling units and taking them off of the property tax role. This could raise property taxes and potentially disrupt stable neighborhoods. (4) Owners of affordable housing units will be limited in the amount of equity that they would be able to realize when they sell their home. They would only be able to recover a fraction of the market value of their home. (5) There is an opinion among some housing providers that the portions of this ordinance that pertain to affordable rental units could constitute "rent control" and/or "taking" of property rights. (6) At the time of this newsletter the policies and protocols that will provide administrative guidance for this ordinance had not been adopted.

Even though I did not support this ordinance, and I voted against it, I will try to make it work now that has been adopted. If you would have questions regarding inclusionary zoning, or if you would like a copy of the ordinance and/or policies and procedures, please contact me.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter article, Governor Doyle negotiated a gambling compact extension with the Ho Chunk Nation. That extension includes a provision that would allow the DeJoep bingo hall in Madison to offer Class III (full casino) gambling, unless a county wide referendum supporting the effort to expand gambling at this facility is defeated. The Madison City Council approved a resolution asking Dane County to place this referendum before voters on February 17, 2004. I have joined many of my State, County, and City colleagues and given my support to No Dane Casino in opposition to this effort. I would like to express my reasons for opposing expanding gambling at the DeJoep bingo hall. Proponents of expanded gambling at De-



Joep say that the casino will bring in additional revenue. I believe this to be untrue.

(1) A No Dane CasiNO expert identified that a majority of the money spent at the casino would not be "new" money from outside the community, but money already spent within the community. This local money currently could be spent on rent, food, clothing, etc. (2) Money spent on gambling, and other activities at the casino would not be subject to state or county sales tax. While there could be an influx of spending at the casino, this would not result in more tax money for Dane County, but rather a transfer of spending from a different area, and likely less sales tax revenue for Dane County and the State. (3) Expansion of gambling at the DeJoep facility would necessitate the provision of additional public services, at public cost. (4) Anti-gambling experts claim that compulsive gambling increases (almost doubles) when a casino moves into the community. This would necessitate the need for additional social services in Dane County. (5) I feel that gambling is morally wrong. My personal opinion is that gambling, like smoking or drinking, is addictive behavior.

There are several important issues that will be coming before the Madison City Council in the coming months that you should be aware of. Alder Holtzman has introduced an ordinance chance that would further restrict smoking in restaurants, bars, hotels, bowling alleys, and other areas that currently allow limited smoking. There is a proposal to eliminate the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer. There is also likely to be a proposal to expand public transit in the City of Madison. I will keep you informed

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](mailto:district9@council.ci.madison.wi.us)

Phone: 829-3425

***Paul Skidmore***

### *Ashman Library News:*

#### 1. For Kids

*Book Baby Storytimes* (ages 0-18 months) Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., February 4 through March 24

*Toddler Time* (ages 18-35 months) Mondays, 9:30 a.m., February 2 through March 22

*Preschool Storytimes* (ages 3-5 years) Thursdays, 9:30 a.m., January 15 through April 1

*Evening Family Storytimes* Wednesdays, 7 p.m., April 8 through May 13

*American Girl Party Saturday*, February 28, 2 p.m.

To reserve your space, please call us at 824-1780 to sign up!

#### 2. For Adults

Our *Ashman Anime Club* continues on Friday, February 6, with a showing of "The Big O II: Paradigm Lost," at 7 p.m.!

Our new *Hindi Film Series* will kick off on Saturday, Feb. 14, with a showing of "Dil Chahta Hai" at 1 p.m. Discussion will follow!

For more information or to register, please call us at 824-1780.

**Short Messages from Mayor Dave's Office** (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/>)

1. **Inclusionary Zoning:** Inclusionary zoning is a complex ordinance with a very simple goal: making sure people can afford to buy and rent homes throughout the city of Madison. As a result, roughly 200-300 new homes will be built each year for families making between \$25,000-\$55,000 a year.
2. **Minimum Wage Initiative:** One of the next big issues that will come before the council is a proposal I am sponsoring with Ald. Austin King to raise Madison's minimum wage to \$7.75.
3. **Regional Cooperation:** Right now there are two major initiatives before us that emphasize what can happen when different jurisdictions of government work together: Public Health Department unification between the city and county, and a new replacement for the Regional Planning Commission.
4. **Mayor's Community Advisory Committee:** Last fall, I appointed a Mayor's Community Advisory Committee. The group split into two subcommittees to make recommendations on two of my key policy areas: economic development and affordable housing.
5. **Allied Drive Neighborhood:** Last fall I conducted a series of meetings with Allied Drive residents. I'm following up by preparing a vision plan to address some of the issues and concerns.

*More News:*

**1. Meet the Neighbors**

Craig Wilson, a Wexford resident, has been a kite flyer and builder since 1983. One of his main interests in kiting is using his large kites to lift radio controlled camera equipment obtaining unique aerial views. Craig's expertise with his kites and cameras has taken him and his family to kite festivals in France, Germany, South Africa, Canada, and many locations around the United States. Inspired by what he saw at those festivals he helped to create the country's largest kite festival right here in Madison called KITES ON ICE. The pictures shown here are those of Craig's family and Craig and his kite, taken at a kite festival in France.



2. **Helpful Recycling Info:** Fluorescent lights – PKK Lighting, 7182 Hwy 14, Middleton 836-7821. Carpet padding – Future Foam, 2210 Parview Rd, Middleton 831-4433. Reynolds Urethane Recycling in Middleton. Junk mail–Madison Recycling Ctr at Fish Hatchery.
3. **Wexford Babysitting Co-Op:** Are you in need of babysitters occasionally? Would you like to get to know other families with children in the neighborhood? The Wexford Babysitting Co-op could be your answer; parents provide sitting for each other. 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.
4. **Lost and Found:** Our daughter found a money clip with some money in it on December 26th close to the intersection of Redmound Circle and Sawmill Road. We have approached the neighbors and put up signs but have not been able to locate the owner of the money clip and cash. Call Mary G. Bartzen at (608) 831-4549 for more information.
5. **Joining the neighborhood Highpoint Swimming Club:** Please call Lori at 831-1416.