
◆ WEXFORD WATCH ◆

Issue 122

June –July 2003

WEXFORD WATCH
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

We wish to express our thanks to everyone that volunteers for various Wexford Village activities. This includes sector and block captains who assist in the distribution of the bimonthly editions of the Wexford Watch, various notices, and our directory, and those individuals who organize and help with the Easter Egg Hunt and the Fourth of July Parade. We are a community, and it is gratifying to see so many residents participate in the various social activities established within Wexford. This year's Easter Egg hunt had approximately 125-150 children participating, and although it only lasted perhaps an hour, it was a great way for residents to participate in a local social activity. This year's garage sale had about 50 participants, about twice the number of past years, and each year the Fourth of July Parade attracts 300-400 parents and children. Again, thanks for your interest and support.

Please continue to vote for the naming of Lot 400 on our website. The final three names are Menapia Park, Masacksic Green, and Wexford Prairie. The deadline for voting is June 15th.

Congratulations to Denise (Marx) Armstrong who won the Meritorious Service Award from the Madison Police Department during a recent award ceremony. Officer Armstrong, up to very recently, had been our police liaison officer and had made great strides to personalize the police department with west side residents.

Take a moment and take a walk and note the new look at Stricker's Pond. The Madison and Middleton Park Departments and private groups have been intensely working to make the shoreline a very attractive 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,

This has been a particularly colorful spring. Frequent rains have eased the threat of a continued drought. Many of us are planting our gardens and looking forward to summer. The daffodils and tulips have been more abundant, due in part to the fact that the rabbit population is lower than usual. The presence of coyotes on the west side of Madison has reduced the number of rabbits. I have heard, as have many of my neighbors, the coyotes calling to each other in the night. I would like to remind everyone to keep their pets inside at night (particularly cats and small dogs). There are five new alders on the Common Council. The Council and the new mayor will face many problems over the next two years. At this point, I expect that we will experience a moderate, but manageable cut in state revenue sharing to the city. I will work to scrutinize upcoming budgets to make sure that we are fiscally responsible, while maintaining high-priority services. I have heard that many of you feel that ninth district residents are not receiving adequate city services in return for the property taxes that we pay. I appreciate your feedback regarding the city budget, and I will keep you informed as to our deliberations. I have been re-appointed by the mayor to the Public Safety Review Board, and I will continue to work with police, fire, and EMS to protect the health, safety, and welfare of City residents. I have also been appointed to the Madison Board of Park Commissioners and will work to help provide park and recreation opportunities to all city residents.

As a cost saving measure, the mayor has instituted a hiring freeze for all city positions. He has also asked City Departments to cut their operational budgets by 1% for the next budget year. While these two measures do not seem like much, they will have a dramatic effect on the City of Madison and how we live. A hiring freeze and operational budget cut will reduce the services provided to residents and will have an impact on our quality of life. An across the board hiring freeze and budget cut would reduce police, fire, streets, parks, and other services that we count on. It is unlikely that we will actually see a cut in police and fire services, since we are currently understaffed in those areas. However, we could see a significant reduction in parks, streets, health, and other city provided services. I am concerned that ninth district citizens could be faced with additional cuts to services, while contributing a disproportionately high percentage of city property taxes. I will be monitoring these issues closely and would appreciate your feedback. What City services do you feel we could reduce while still maintaining our quality of life? Governor Doyle recently signed an agreement with the Ho Chunk Nation that could allow gambling at the De-Jope facility on the city's south-east side. Gambling at this facility could be allowed unless Dane County residents express disapproval through a referendum. Ten years ago, Dane county residents opposed expansion of gambling by a two to one margin. I will be supporting the effort to place this issue on a referendum so you can help decide the future of gambling in the City of Madison. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

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

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Wexford Village News

- There are still vandalisms to the light poles along the green way in our village. Please do report the vandalisms to the police immediately if you spot any of them. The Wexford Village spends thousand of dollars each year to repair the light post due to vandalism and these are all your money!
- It is time for the spring cleaning! The brush collection schedule can be found from the city website (<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/>). Usually for the Wednesday garbage collection neighborhood, the brush and yard waste will be collected during the third week of each month.
- **Name Lot 400 Contest - VOTE NOW!** We are changing the voting date for the Lot 400 to June 15th. Lot 400 is the large parcel of land between Longmeadow, Gammon Road and Middleton Streets. It is a large green space with walking paths and lights. It is owned by Wexford Homeowner's Association. Recent improvements to this green space include park benches and prairie flowers. We are having a contest to name Lot 400 something more appropriate and fitting of the area. We took entries until May 6th. At the May board meeting, the entries were narrowed down to 3. Now it is up to you, members of the neighborhood. Voting will be closed June 15th and a winner and Lot 400 will be named. The person who submitted the winning entry will receive a gift certificate to our local Nitty Gritty Restaurant. Please go to the website: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/lot400contest.htm>

News by Alicia Ashman Library:

For Kids

1. The Madison Public Library Summer Reading Program will kick off on Friday, June 6. Stop in sign up for the program, your chance to win prizes for reading, and to hear about the rest of our upcoming summer library events for kids!
2. Starting the week of June 9th, we'll start our full summer schedule of Preschool Storytimes and other weekly events for kids. Call us at 824-1780 for details and to register!

For Adults

The Ashman Anime Club screens the finest new Anime films! Join us on Friday, June 6, for a showing of the movie "Escaflowne;" or Friday, June 20, for "Wings of Honneamise." Don't forget to check out our new collection of graphic novels while you're here.

For Everyone

The Alicia Ashman Branch Library is open on Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call us at 824-1780 with any questions, to register for our programs, or to suggest programming ideas.

More News:

- **Recruiting:**

The Wexford Village Board of Directors are currently recruiting volunteers to serve in both the Architectural Committee and organizing the social events include Easter Egg Hunt, Garage Sale, and July 4th parade. Anyone who is interested in helping his community, please contact Don Michalski or any board member.

- **July 4th parade:**

The parade will be starting from the corner of Sawmill Rd and Woodmont Circle at 10 a.m. Please join the parade with the residents from our village!

- **Thanks to Easter volunteers**

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this event a success! Merideth Mount, Ivy Jackus, Kris Halverson, Margie Tolmie, Yolanda Torres, Les Voichick, Lori Kelly, Fran Vizek, Mary Michalski, Don Michalski, Jessica Ruplinger, Patricia Baer-Watts, Marc Watts, Jerry Watts, Sandy Abplanalp, Margie Tolmie, Gina Jezuit, Sara Strong, Linda & Kayla Flakne, Jane & Ken Mount.

- **Wexford Park Cleanup** (*message from Board Member Ken Schmidt*)

On Saturday April 26 we held the annual park cleanup day in conjunction with Earth Day. We had about 20 people coming to help with the event. Sorry that I can not list everyone's name to thank you since not everyone signed the sign-up sheet and I do not want to miss anyone. A lot of trash was collected from the park and the woods. We also started bark mulching the trails through the woods. A special thank to Jerry Watts for providing a bobcat to help remove some dead trees from the paths and for also delivering much of the bark to the trails. There was only enough bark to complete about half of the trails. A few people expressed a desire to complete the project if more bark could be delivered. I have contacted the Madison Parks Department and they will be delivering additional bark. When you see the pile of bark at the upper entrance to the woods, please feel free to grab your wheelbarrow and shovel and help with the completion of this project. Also thanks to the Atlantic Bread Company for providing gourmet coffee for the event and to Trish Watts for getting juice and donuts for all to enjoy. Please remember that soon the flower gardens in the park and around the two Wexford signs will need to be planted and maintained.

- Do you know who planted the flowers around the sign at Sawmill-Gammon? The La Petite Academy kids! They also water the flowers everyday! Check out the Wexford website for their cute pictures during the planting event.
- Call Jessica and Randy Ruplinger 836-9170 for Wexford Junior Soccer League. Pictures and additional info at <http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationEventsSoccer003.htm>. Coaches are: Randy Ruplinger, Tim Liebau, George Kelly.
- House-sitting, baby-sitting, pet-sitting, mowing ... services can be found in the Directory. Addition provider for babysitting: Anna Sarch at 831-1168.
- May 1 -Glasses found: brown +2.75 tortoiseshell reading glasses on corner of Harvest Hill and N. Westfield Rd. Call 836-3338.