

# WEXFORD WATCH

## WEXFORD VILLAGE HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

### Annual Meeting Recap

The Wexford Village Homes Association annual meeting was Tuesday, November 29, at High Point Church.

Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi, presented updates and information on several county programs and took questions from those in attendance. The topics covered included the Dane County Aging and Disability Resource Center, strategies to reduce phosphorus levels in area lakes, ideas for the future of the Alliant Energy Center, challenges in addressing the underlying causes of homelessness and plans for the future homeless day resource center in downtown Madison.

Matt Nelson, board president, discussed events affecting Wexford Village over the past year. Lights along the path between the Saukdale Condominiums and Wexford Village were in need of repair because of problems with underground wiring. Replacement of the buried electrical service was required and afforded the opportunity to install LED lamps, reposition lights and add lights to improve lighting in the darkest areas. The current contracts for mowing, fertilization, weed control, emerald ash borer treatment and snow removal were discussed.

Ken Schmidt, board member, presented information about the association's activities in Wexford Park and Wexford Prairie (a.k.a. lot 400). Park clean-up activities and a 'garlic mustard pull' were held in the Spring. The prairie restoration project in Wexford Prairie, championed by Ken Nordlund, is really looking good. Walking paths and prairie grasses were added in 2016. Weed control and the planting of additional prairie grasses are planned for 2017.

Paul Stang, board treasurer, presented the association's finances. Fiscal year 2016 was reviewed and the proposed budget for 2017 was presented. The City of Madison instituted an urban forestry charge in 2014, as part of water bills, as the primary revenue source for dealing with the emerald ash borer. Each of the 68 parcels owned by Wexford Village had been subject to this monthly fee of \$7.26. Thanks to Alder Clear, the Madison Common Council passed an exemption for 'private medians' (circle islands) in April, thus eliminating this fee for 35 of the 68 parcels. Even after exemptions, the urban forestry charge costs Wexford Village nearly \$2,900 annually. This is in addition to the storm water fees collected for all 68 parcels.

### Directory Update

The Wexford Village directory will be printed in January and distributed shortly thereafter. It has been several years since the last Wexford Village directory was published. The board thanks all Wexford residents for their patience and understanding.

Special thanks to Troy Dreyer and Dick Ihlenfeld for the many hours spent learning new software, updating the data base and formatting the directory in preparation for publication.

Troy Dreyer, board secretary, presented information regarding progress on printing and distributing a new Wexford Village directory. The delay in publication has been due primarily to the need to 'clean-up' the Wexford database. Now that the database is in good shape, the board will work on tailoring the structure to access the needed information. (e.g. in the case of rental property, the ability to differentiate between those living at the property vs. the property owner.)

### Annual Dues Increase

Starting in 2017, dues will be \$110 for each home and \$55 for each condominium unit. The last dues increase was 2009. The board makes every effort to keep costs down by negotiating with contractors, seeking multiple bids and taking advantage of discounts for early payments. The costs associated with maintaining our neighborhood continue to increase, with mowing, turf and tree

care, utilities and snow plowing accounting for over \$53,000 of our annual expenses. Light and path maintenance, social events, printing, mailings, miscellaneous items and unexpected infrastructure repairs make-up the balance. It is expected that our infrastructure will continue to require attention as it ages. A motion was made to increase annual dues to \$110 per home and \$55 per con-

dominium unit beginning in 2017. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. 81 lots in Wexford Village were represented by attendees and proxies. This sum is greater than 10% of the lots in Wexford Village and constitutes a quorum, as per the association's By-Laws. The motion was approved by a unanimous show-of-hands.

The Wexford Watch is electronic. To receive the electronic editions published throughout the year, in addition to other announcements, send your e-mail address to [wexfordwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:wexfordwatch@yahoo.com). Depending on neighborhood activity and special announcements, about 5-10 messages are sent annually.

## Circle Etiquette

The circle islands are owned and maintained by Wexford Village Homes Association. When clearing leaves and brush from your property, please do not place it on the circles. It kills the grass and makes mowing difficult. Toys and other outdoor equipment should not be left on circles.

Please contact a member of the board if you would like to give your circle a little tender loving care. The association can provide mulch, plantings and coordinate plans with the mowing crews.

## See Something that Needs Attention?

A light pole not working, a tree fallen down on Wexford property, a safety issue, or a violation of Covenants? Please report it by contacting either Matt Nelson (Board President) at [mknelson89@uwalumni.com](mailto:mknelson89@uwalumni.com) or Dick Ihlenfeld (Board Vice-President) at [rwi@chorus.net](mailto:rwi@chorus.net).

## Demographic Datasheets

Please be sure to update and return the demographic datasheet when paying your 2017 dues. A lot of time and effort has gone into updating the Wexford Village database and we would like to keep it as accurate and up to date as possible.

## Board Meetings

The Wexford Village Homes Association board meets at 7 pm the first Tuesday of every month (except December and July) in the High Point Church. Any resident of Wexford Village is welcome to attend.

## Wexford Park Playground Replacement

The City of Madison will be replacing the existing playground in Wexford Park in 2017. Wexford Park currently functions as a community-level park within the Madison Parks system and will receive both 2-5 age range and 5-12 age range equipment. The net climber will stay and the new playground equipment will generally sit where the existing equipment is located in the park; the removal of one stressed ash tree will permit some pieces to sit closer to the net climber. The equipment budget will cover the replacement of stand-alone play items such as the merry-go-round and parallel bars.

A workshop meeting with the parks department and interested Wexford residents was held on December 15th to discuss project location, timeframe, budget, general equipment selection and surfacing. Those in attendance voted to select

equipment manufacturers, color scheme and play surface after presentations from a parks department representative.

A second meeting is scheduled to review final proposals from the selected manufacturers. Attendees will be asked to vote to select the final design for each play structure. Replacement is anticipated in July of 2017.

### Wexford Playground Meeting Equipment Vote!

6:00 pm, Thursday, January 19th  
Alicia Ashman Library  
733 North High Point Road

More information:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/wexford-park-playground-replacement-contract-2017-playground-replacements-group-2>

## Wexford 'Shout-Outs'

**Special thanks to the following Wexford residents for their contributions in 2016:**

Ken Nordlund, Jean Nordlund and Paul Harris for their work in developing the prairie area in the Wexford Prairie green-space between Longmeadow Road and Middleton Street.

Stephanie Farnia for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.

Richard Ihlenfeld for organizing the Wexford garage sale and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic.

Monica Bear and Lisa Hofmeister for once again championing the End of Summer Picnic.

Rob Behrens for all of his help cleaning-up and updating the Wexford Village website.

Ron and Emily Rueckert for tending to the flowers in the N. Westfield/Sawmill traffic circle.

Ken Schmidt for the countless hours spent caring for the flowers in the park and at the entrance signs and for keeping the trails open though the woods.

Greg Delwiche and Ken Schmidt for getting the ice rinks set-up and ready for all to enjoy. (Wexford ice rinks were the first to open in Madison this winter!)

Special thanks to Madison Fire Department Ladder #2 and Madison Police Department for leading our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

## Path Maintenance and Tree Trimming

Many of the walking paths in Wexford Village are due for maintenance in 2017. The board plans to hire a contractor to fill the wider cracks with a hot tar mixture and apply a seal-coat to the asphalt. Spot repairs to areas where the asphalt has deteriorated will be done at this time. The purpose of the maintenance is to prevent encroachment from weeds and minimize damage from the freeze-thaw cycle. Please contact a member of the board if you see an area that needs attention.

If your property is adjacent to green space or a path, please take a moment to take notice of any trees or shrubs that may be hanging over your property line. Overhanging branches can be dangerous to those using the paths. Please keep them trimmed-back. Ground level plantings in areas where property lines come right up to the path also require attention. Please don't let your plantings encroach over the paths.