
◆ WEXFORD WATCH ◆

Issue 128

June 2004-July 2004

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Table of Contents

<i>Board News</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Alder News</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Wexford News</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>More News</i>	<i>4</i>

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The major expense for the annual operation of Wexford Village is the maintenance of the greenways and bike paths. Approximately 75% of our total budget (\$38,000 of the \$50,000) is directed to greenway care.

This past year, we have assumed an additional financial burden, due to the City of Madison's storm sewer assessment which has added about \$2,600 to our annual expenditures. This is based upon our 20 acres of green space, and is taxed at a similar rate as individual homeowners which is paid with individual semi annual water and sewer assessments.

Along with our 20 acres of green space, our Association has six miles of bike path and 120 light poles, which carries a significant fiscal responsibility. The Wexford Village Board will soon be assessing the physical status of these bike paths. Several years ago, there was an estimate that it would cost about \$12 per linear foot to replace the paths. Although the bike paths are in no imminent danger of deterioration, we will need to evaluate the status of the paths and sincerely solicit comments on this issue from Wexford residents.

Garlic mustard has been identified as a nuisance weed that has invaded many forested areas in our area. We wish to give special thanks to Benjamin Emmel (Eagle Scout project) and friends for organizing and completing a garlic mustard eradication in Wexford Prairie (Lot 400) during mid-May. Due to the complexities of the various activities with the operation of Wexford Village, the board of directors have endorsed a plan to develop a formal policy and procedure manual that would clearly identify all operations of our association. This task should be completed by the fall of 2004. Please watch for future announcements for the Annual Wexford Village Fourth of July Parade and Festival which is held in Wexford Park.

***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. 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 DeJope 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.

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:

- ***July 4th Parade***

We are seeking volunteers for Wexford Village Fourth of July Parade. Please call Don Michalski at 836-1659. The parade will start from Woodmont Circle at 10 AM.

- ***Wexford Park Cleanup Volunteers***

Seeking a group of volunteers together sometime this summer (June) to do some work in the woods. There is a lot of garlic mustard growing in there and the trails need to be cleaned up and finish the spreading of the wood chips on them. Please contact Ken Schmidt (831-3089).

- ***Covenant Reminder***

1. As summer approaches, many residents may remodel their homes and/or landscape their yards. The Board would like to remind residents that in some cases the remodeling and landscaping will need the approval of the Architectural Review Committee, including the case that if the fence is taller than 3 feet. Please contact Board members of the Architectural Review Committee for detailed information. In addition, the landscaping should be restricted to the home owner's property and should not be on the greenway area which is the property of Wexford Village.

2. The homeowners are encouraged to trim any trees or bushes that have over-grown and lean over to the sidewalk or greenway paths.

3. The Wexford Park is owned and managed by the City of Madison and it is not a dog park. This means that the dogs are only allowed on the sidewalk but not inside the park.

- ***Message from the Westside Precinct police officer Scott Favour***

It is noticed that there are a lot of open garages at night. There have been some thefts lately from open garages in the westside neighborhood. Please be alert of this. Also, as summer is coming, the officer will be stepping up patrols in the park. If people get wind of other underage drinking hotspots, please pass on to Officer Scott Favour at Westside Precinct, 288-6176. Also, the speeders Hotline is 266-4324.

Ashman Library News:

- The Summer Library Program will begin at the Alicia Ashman branch library on June 11. Come in and register to read and win prizes all summer long! Registration for our later summer kids' programs will begin on June 21.

Please call us at 824-0139 to reserve a spot in any of the following:

Book Baby (0-18 months): Wednesdays July 7 through August 11, 9:30 a.m.

Toddler Time (18 months to 3 years): Mondays July 12 through August 16, 9:30 a.m., or Wednesdays July 7 through August 11, 10:30 a.m.

- **Book Sale Announcement**

The library book sale is on June 3—5 this year. Hopefully we will get the message out on Wexford Watch earlier next year. Thank you for those who have volunteered in the sale and donated your books.

More News:

- *Thanks to Volunteers*

A big thank-you goes to Don Michalski for coordinating the successful garage sale as well as to all the volunteers who helped the Easter Egg Hunt. We also thank Ben Emmel, who organized a group to pull garlic mustard a few weeks ago in the woods on Lot 400 (Wexford Prairie)—picking 42 garbage bags!

- *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.

- *Wexford Babysitting Co-op*

We are looking for a few new families to join the Wexford Babysitting Co-op. We, the parents, use and provide reliable babysitting as we trade "time" with other parents. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to get to know other children in the neighborhood. Please call for more information, Sue Hunt at 831-3133.

- *Help Prevent Child Abuse by Volunteering*

The Parental Stress Center, 2120 Fordem Ave, is a child abuse prevention and treatment center. The agency is currently seeking volunteers for several areas including staff for the 24 hours Parent Stressline, group co-facilitation, and child care providers. Parent Stressline volunteers receive intense training and then provide Stressline telephone support from their home. This is an excellent opportunity to make a difference to families in our area. Please contact Shira at 241-4888 x 13 (shirap@parentalstresscenter.org).

- *Book Sale at the West Madison Senior Coalition*

The Westside Senior Center's annual book sale will be held from June 12 to 19. The sale hours on weekdays are 11am to 7 pm, Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sunday from 12 to 4 pm. The Center is located at 602 Sawyer Terr., behind Hilldale Mall, just beyond the post office. There is a large selection of books on all subjects. Donations will be accepted through June 10. Please call 238-0196 for further information.

- *Native landscaping conference in Madison by Madison Wild Ones and UW-Madison Arboretum on August 7-8. For more information: www.gowild-madison.org, 608-259-1824 or 608-265-5214.*