



WEXFORD WATCH



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WATCH
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**EDITOR
DAVID TOLMIE,
7434 SAWMILL RD.**

**SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
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TO
wexfordwatch@yahoo.com**

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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

Wexford Village is pleased to announce several social occasions for Wexford residents during the next couple of months. We hope to see many of you attend these events.

- ★ **The Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday April 15th at the Wexford Park. All children are invited to participate. *(See the flyer for full details)*
- ★ **A fund raiser wine tasting party** will be held on Saturday May 6th. The proceeds of this event will be directed to the Wexford Park Playground Improvement Group. Our appreciation is extended to this group, who have raised over \$10,000 from local, private, and city donations for the construction of playground equipment and other Wexford Park enhancements. *(See the flyer for full details)*
- ★ **The Wexford Annual Garage Sale** will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 12th and 13th from 8:00AM until 5:00PM. Anyone interested in participating in this event can register on the Wexford garage sale website: (<http://www.wexfordvillage.org/garageSale.htm>) or contact Don Michalski at michalsd@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu.
- ★ **The Earth Day Cleanup Day at Wexford Park** will occur on Saturday morning April 22nd. Volunteers are needed. *(See details on page 4)*

The new Wexford telephone directory should be published and distributed this April. Keep an eye out for your new directory.

The City of Madison is apparently proceeding with their plans to construct a traffic calming circle at the intersection of Westfield and Sawmill Road. While this structure will have some effect upon the speed of cars at that site, we also need to remember, that as local residents, we are the primary travelers on our local streets. We need to serve as our own model of compliance of abiding to the speed limit of 25-30 mph. This makes our streets a safer environment for us and our families.

Madison Metro is making plans for changes in the Madison Metro bus routes and schedules that will affect Wexford residents, specifically routes 8, 15, and 60 to name a few. These changes are currently scheduled to take effect September 3rd. For further information see the Metro's web site at: <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/metro/ServiceChangeProposals/ServiceChangeProposals2.html>, or call them at 266-4466.

The Madison Park Commission will have a public listening session regarding the Parks mowing policy and park meadow expansion project that will potentially have some effect on Wexford Park. *(See page 4 for details.)*

NOTE from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Greetings! Spring is just around the corner - - I sure hope! In the winter newsletter I talked about the challenges that youth gangs present to our community, and I outlined some of the steps that the county is taking to meet these challenges. We are making progress and I want to share news and ask for your participation.

The first recommendation in the “Dane County Youth Gang Prevention Task Force Proposed Community Response Plan” called for an “enhanced” Task Force to include broader community involvement.

I am happy to tell you that a co-chair “dream team” has graciously agreed to take leadership roles in this important work. The Task Force co-chairs being appointed by Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and myself will be Milt McPike and Luis Yudice.

Milt McPike recently retired as principal of East High School where he devoted 23 years to his students and the community. Luis Yudice recently retired from the Madison Police Department where he served the Madison community for 32 years. They are both terrific.

Please help us to broaden the discussion about gangs and the ways that they manifest in different parts of our county and to help to get the word out about this important work. Everyone has something to contribute to the solutions.

If you are interested in participating on the “enhanced” Task Force as a member, sub-committee member, or in some other way, or to receive an electronic version of the plan, please contact Ken Haynes in my office. He can be reached at (608) 266-3197 or haynes@co.dane.wi.us.

On another note, I need your help on another very important matter. Last year Dane County established a special fund to help deployed military personnel who are serving, or have served, on active duty in the Middle East. This assistance is also available to the families of these brave servicemen and servicewomen.

The special fund cannot speed up the safe return of loved ones stationed in the Middle East, but it can help to take the sting out of possibly mounting bills such as those connected to rent, mortgage, medical, dental, utilities, household and other emergencies. Please help to spread the word about this program. Our servicemen and servicewomen and their families deserve it.

Interested persons should call Eleanor Harris at the Dane County Veteran Service Office at (608) 266-4158 or email her at harris@co.dane.wi.us to make an appointment to fill out the application or bring in a completed application.

I'm sure we all join in wishing the safe return of all military members serving in the Middle East.

Library News

It's almost time for the Alicia Ashman Branch Library's semiannual used book sale. The pre-sale starts Thursday, May 18, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the Friends of the Alicia Ashman Library. You may join the Friends at the pre-sale – \$5.00/individual, \$10.00/ family. The public sale is on Friday, May 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (bag sale from 2:00 to 3:00 on Saturday). A bag of books is \$5.00.

To donate books, bring them to the library anytime between now and the sale. Please, no textbooks or magazines. We welcome your help with the book sale the week of May 15.

If you would like your books picked up, are interested in volunteering or would like to become a Friend, please contact Jane Kessenich at 836-8429. We hope to see you at the Alicia Ashman Library, located on the corner of Old Sauk Road and High Point Road, on May 18, 19 and 20.

Some other events include:

- ★ Monday, April 10 at 7:00pm: **Jazz at the Library.** Madison Public Library and the Madison Jazz Society invite you to Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month. Live Music: Midtown Jazz.
- ★ Thursday evenings at 6:30pm: **Evening Family Story times.** For children ages 5 and under. Bring the family and enjoy an evening of stories, crafts, and book-based short films. Fun for everyone!

Open Monday through Friday: 9:00 - 9:00 and Saturday: 9:00 - 5:00

See the website for further details: <http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/about/ashman.html>

Residents Bulletin Board

- ★ **Bunco night anyone?** Bunco is a fun and easy dice game that requires no skill. Join us once a month to socialize, play and enjoy a night out with your fellow neighbors. Please contact Tanya Perri at 827-1282 or tperri@starkhomes.com if interested. To learn more about Bunco, please see the following website: <http://www.buncofun.com/>
- ★ **High Point Pool Stock:** Anyone interested in getting together in mid May to discuss getting their pool stock back from the High Point Pool, please call and leave me your name and number. I know I have spoke to several families in the past about this situation. Thanks Andy Garcia 836-8998

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, April 15 th	Wexford Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 22 nd	Earth Day Park Clean Up
Tuesday, April 25 th	Wexford Junior Soccer League Begins
Saturday, May 6 th	Wine Tasting Fund Raiser for the Wexford Park
Friday & Saturday, May 12 th and 13 th	Wexford Garage Sale

Be sure to check out the Wexford website for events, information, and pictures from neighborhood festivities. You can find this site at: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>

Park News

- ★ **Wexford Park News:** I want to thank everyone that volunteered to work on the ice skating rink this winter. Unfortunately the weather was not the best for making ice and many of you never got a chance to participate. So I know that you will be twice as eager to volunteer next year. Thanks again.
- ★ **New Parks Mowing Plan for 2006:** The Parks Division will have to cut actual operational services by about \$700,000. The only service reduction approved in the 2006 budget is the reduction of mowing. This will affect Wexford Park. The areas around the trees will be turned into meadow area (no cut area).

Landscape Management and Citizen Participation: There are some choices to be made for park meadows: Where should they be? Tall grass or short? Grassy or add prairie flowers? Control invasives with complete mowing or selected removals? Add trees for a future forest? Add spring bulbs? Many of our existing parklands are managed with the guidance and assistance of neighborhood organizations and individual volunteers. Their assistance often gives them the opportunity to do it the way they prefer, rather than the only way the Parks Division can afford. We welcome the ideas and volunteer efforts of neighborhoods to help us expand and improve the park meadows program.

A public listening session is scheduled for the Park Commission meeting to hear public comments and determine the mowing policies and park meadow expansion areas for 2006 and beyond. This will be at the Park Commission meeting of **April 19, 2006**. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center with the Listening Session scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

- ★ **Earth Day - April 22nd:** Wexford village will again this year be participating in the City of Madison's annual city wide park clean up day. So mark your calendars for **Saturday – April 22nd**. We will start at 9:00 AM and refreshments will be provided. Activities that we will be doing this year are: Trash pick-up in the park, edge around trees for mulching later, rake gravel by the playground, pull garlic mustard and cleanup in the woods. Contact Ken Schmidt for more info or if you have other park concerns. 831-3089

Family Events

- ★ **The Wexford Area Baseball League** is now forming its t-ball and coach-pitch teams for the 2006 summer season. The T-Ball league concentrates on learning the basic skills of baseball. It is for children entering kindergarten or first grade in the fall of 2006. The Coach Pitch league is a more skilled game, played without a tee and either a parent or a coach pitches the ball. This league is for children entering second or third grade in the fall of 2006. Games are played at either Wexford Park or Walnut Grove Park. The season starts the week of June 12th and continues for 8 weeks. The fee is \$15. Registration deadline is April 10th. Registration materials will be handed out in mid-March at the following schools: John Muir, Crestwood, Glen Stephens, Queen of Peace and High Point. If you do not receive a registration form or if you have any questions, please contact Anne Franken at afranken@charter.net.
- ★ **Wexford Junior Soccer League** - All four and five year olds are welcome to join us for soccer at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this spring. We will meet from Tuesday April 25th through Tuesday May 30th from 6:00 - 6:45 pm (six sessions). All skill levels are welcome; the goal of this league is to have fun! Have your child bring a water bottle, no other equipment is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Ruplinger at 836-9170.