



WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 152

August - September 2008

**THE WEXFORD
WATCH**
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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

We wish to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers that assisted with the planning, games coordination, and serving of the food at the Wexford 4th of July parade and picnic. We also want to extend a thank you to the Madison Fire Department for providing us with a fire truck to lead the parade. Thanks to those who sat street side to cheer on the children as well. An estimated, 100-125 children participated in the parade. We also thank the parents and families that provided support and encouragement to our young residents.

The Wexford Village of Directors has received estimates and evaluations of repairing and resurfacing of our bike paths, and will begin work on them in August. We have budgeted approximately \$5000 for the past two years to begin work on this project. Our bike paths have an estimated life span of over 50 years, provided that we provide proper periodic maintenance. Input of concerns of the pathways by residents would be appreciated.

The blueprints for each home that has been kept in a document storage facility will be distributed to all residents within the next few weeks. We will use a distribution method that will assure a personal and confidential method of delivery. Please consult the Wexford website for complete updated information.

Kudos to Wexford!!! We have received a number of comments from various individuals in Madison that have viewed the Wexford Village Homeowners Association as a very energetic and effective organization. We were praised in advocating participation by members, democratic governance, and enforcement of covenants, great website, and utilization of other means of communication.

Vandalism remains an issue for our neighborhood. Although vandalism never makes sense, the event in June of uprooting most of the plants in Wexford Park is especially disturbing. Vigilance is always needed and the Wexford Neighborhood Watch always needs more eyes and ears.

Wexford Village will continue to explore alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides and herbicide for our greenways. Typically, those products are applied in late September. We would appreciate any concerns and comments from our residents on this issue.

Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Severe Weather Brings Neighborhoods Together

Record snows, record cold, record rains, and record lake levels. Whether it's 100-plus inches of snow this past winter or more than 10 inches of rain in just a couple days, Mother Nature has certainly challenged us physically and tested our psyches here in Dane County this year.

As neighbors and as communities we've met those challenges. You amaze me! From shoveling driveways of elderly neighbors to filling sandbags and pumping out basements, I've heard countless stories of neighbors helping neighbors. It hasn't been easy, but together we've been looking out for and helping one another.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a rare winter disaster declaration after a February blizzard. A few months later, FEMA was back here assisting those affected by June's flooding rains and rapidly rising lakes and rivers.

While we may not be able to prevent these record weather events, we can - - and do - - prepare for them. Dane County is set to construct a \$34-million, high-tech emergency radio system that will allow public safety providers like police, fire, emergency medical services, and even snow plow drivers to effectively communicate with another.

We also did something unique in Dane County this summer; in fact we're the first and only county in the state to do this. Dane County bought thousands of weather alert radios to help make our citizens better prepared for Mother Nature's nastiest.

Our first order of radios sold out so quickly we had to place a second order. Few are left. That means the county, partnering with dozens of different cities, villages, and towns sold over 11,000 weather radios at cost; a nearly 50% discount.

Due to its popularity, we'll continue this fabulous program next spring and summer.

We can tell our grandchildren we survived - - by helping each other - - the weather of '08!

4th of July Pictures



See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

So far this summer the crime in our neighborhood has been down a bit. We did have some vandalism done at the park, but so far it has only been the one incident. We have also had two cases of cars being broken into while in the driveway or garage. Our efforts have really been paying off, and we need to keep up the fantastic work.

As the weather starts to cool down a bit, we will most likely see increased activity in the park area. It seems to happen as the youth get restless before school starts. I'd like to begin to increase patrols, and make this fall a crime free one. Please consider taking your dog for a walk around the park and neighborhood after 10:00pm. It is so nice out at that time, and you both can enjoy it. It will help keep our neighborhood such a wonderful place to be.

I would also like to remind you to keep your garage doors closed at night. I have seen many of them open, and this has led to theft in the past. Also keep your doors and windows locked when away from home. Remember to keep an eye on your neighbor's homes as well, and report any suspicious activity immediately. It is also a good time to reacquaint yourself with all the people that live around you, stop by and get all their contact information. Tell them about the Watch program, and how to stay safe. If we all do this, we can make a huge difference.

We really need to have lots of people involved to make a large impact in the crime in our area. Wexford is a large place, and the more people we have involved, the more of a chance we have to put a stop to most of the crime. We need a good plan of action to prevent and minimize senseless crime in our area. Please join the watch group to help keep Wexford a wonderful and safe place to live. If you are interested in joining the Wexford Neighborhood Crime Watch program, please contact Dave Tolmie at 836-8784, or e-mail him at wexford_ncw@charter.net.

The Madison Police Department West Precinct has requested that residents fill out a survey on their website. This will help them better understand our concerns and what we perceive as the major problems in our area. You can find the survey at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/west.html>. Simply click on the "[Take the 2008 West District Community Survey](#)" to start.

The Madison Police Department (MPD) reminds us that when we witness suspicious activity to call dispatch immediately at 255-2345. If we don't call the police, they won't know what is happening in our area. We request that when you report an incident to the police that you also fill out an incident report on the Wexford Village website (<http://www.wexfordvillage.org/associationIncidentReport.htm>). This way we have a database of all incidents that happened in our area, and we can use this information for the neighborhood crime watch volunteers, as well as work with the MPD to solve these issues.

News from Architectural Review Committee:

- Due to the overwhelming demand for requests for plans of the properties within Wexford Village all plans currently in storage will be distributed to the appropriate properties.
- Select pathways within Wexford Village will have the cracks filled and sealed beginning in August. There may be some incidental damage to grass areas. Please be patient while the maintenance of the pathways is taking place and we will do all we can to minimize the impact to the grass areas.

See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.

Park News by Ken Schmidt

The park is getting great usage and there are many activities that are going on. Unfortunately in June, there was an act of vandalism to the flower beds. On June 20th in the early morning hours the flowers in the beds were all torn out. We were able to replant some of them, but many had to be repurchased and replanted. We have been working with the parks and police departments to try and prevent any more acts of vandalism from happening. Patrols have been increased and additional lighting has been installed. The park closes at 10 PM. Any kids in the park after that time will be subject to arrest. We continue to ask if anyone sees or hears activity in the park after 10PM that they call the police and report it. A special thanks to those that helped replant the flowers and also those who continue to assist with the weeding and watering.

On a happier note, the disc golf baskets have been installed in the park. There is one in the center of each ice rink. Another great way to enjoy the park, either practice shooting the disc into the baskets or make your own course in the park.

Looking to cool off a bit? How about volunteering to help flood the ice rinks this winter? A great way to get some fresh air, a little exercise, have fun and create enjoyment for many others. Hockey players and students are encouraged to volunteer.

Again thanks to all that volunteer to help and we are always in need of more volunteers to help make Wexford Park look great.

Wexford Junior Soccer League

All four and five year olds are welcome to join us for soccer at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this fall. We will meet from Tuesday September 2nd through Tuesday October 7th 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 and there is no cost to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Ruplinger at 836-9170.



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See the Wexford Village website for all your neighborhood information: <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>