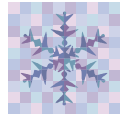


# WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 143

December 2006 - January 2007

**THE WEXFORD  
WATCH  
IS FOR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
EDIFICATION AND  
DOES NOT SPONSOR  
ANY PERSON OR  
ACTIVITY LISTED  
HEREIN, UNLESS SO  
NOTED.**

**EDITOR  
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**SUBMISSIONS IN  
WRITING BY THE  
FIFTEENTH OF  
EACH ODD MONTH  
TO  
[wexfordwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:wexfordwatch@yahoo.com)**

## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

This years Home Owner's Association meeting brought together the Wexford board and about 25 residents. We had two key speakers to start off the meeting, Vic Wahl, and Paul Skidmore. We extend a special thanks to them for their valuable information, as well as to the residents who came out to the meeting in such poor weather conditions.

Vic Wahl, operations officer from the West Madison precinct, spoke about the police coverage in our area, and how the precinct is stretched very thin to cover our neighborhood. He noted that the number of burglaries within our area increased from 6 in 2005 to 21 during 2006. Although troubling, along with several reported cases on vandalism, it remains very difficult for the police department to pursue and prosecute these cases, due to lack of evidence and man power. A Neighborhood Watch program could be effective, and Dave Tolmie is looking to starting one in the near future. Please remember to report any and all suspicious activities to the police department. If at all possible get detailed descriptions of the person/people involved, and a license number to assist the police in putting an end to the increased crime in our neighborhood.

Paul Skidmore, Madison Alder, also noted that the police department has been budgeted for an additional 10 officers for next year, far short of the 50-60 officers that is suggested. Paul also provided news about a new fire station that will be built on the West side of Madison in 2009, which will give our area much better fire and paramedic coverage.

A summary of physical changes within Wexford were also noted:

1. The playground equipment at Wexford Park, a \$20,000 plus project, was successfully installed by the city, thanks to the efforts of several Wexford residents.
2. The traffic calming circle at the intersection of Westfield and Sawmill was completed in late summer. The main concern of residents is how to negotiate around the circle. Officer Vic Wahl stated that since there is no posted sign directing traffic around the circle, it is legal to make a left turn cutting to the left side of the circle or go the long way around the circle. It is important to watch for approaching cars, and pedestrians crossing the street. Please remember safety is the main issue at all times.

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Approval was given to raise the Wexford home owner's dues by \$5.00 bringing them to \$80 for individual homes, \$40 for condos for fiscal year 2007. It was noted that about 80%, about \$40,000 of our budget, is directly related to the care and maintenance of our approximately 13 acres of greenways, paths and lights. Our organization needs to escrow some funds each year for future expenses related to the paths and poles. With our physical assets and liabilities of approximately \$300,000, we need to provide and protect present and future Wexford residents by assuring financial support for our greenways.

We will probably be sending a short questionnaire to Wexford residents regarding your opinions on the 4-5 most important issues and concerns affecting our Association.

## A Very Big Thank You!



A very special thank you goes out to Trish Bear-Watts for all the time and effort she puts into the amazing Wexford website. If you have not checked it out yet, please make it a point to do so. It is full of very useful information, pictures of Wexford events, an electronic version of the Wexford Watch, board meeting minutes, and so much more. Thanks for all your hard work Trish!

See <http://www.wexfordvillage.org>.

## Library News

The library will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the holidays. You can still use the library when we're closed: place holds in [LINKcat](#), return items to our bookdrops, or use our 24/7 online reference service, [AskAway](#).

- 📖 **A Peck on the Cheek** (Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm). (*Comedy -- Tamil and Sinhala -- 136 minutes*) Part of the [Best of the Fests Film Series](#). Call 824-1780 to register.
- 📖 **Tiny Paper Boxes** (Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00pm). **Got holiday cards from friends and family? Use them to create tiny folder paper boxes. Call 824-1780 beginning Wednesday, December 20 to register.**
- 📖 **Animation Workshop** (Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 4:30pm). Create an original animated video to take home. Ages 10 & up. 3 1/2 hours. Register by 12/22 to hold your spot! Call 824-1780 beginning Friday, December 1 to register.
- 📖 **Donuts with Dad** (Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am). Saturday morning fun with stories, movie and snacks, especially for dads and their kids. Call 824-1780 to register.
- 📖 **Hot Off the Press!** (Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm). A book club for teens, featuring a selection of brand new and not-yet-published books. Come to the library, pick out a book to read, then come to the program and tell other teens about it.
- 📖 **Rip-n-Stitch** (Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm). Sewing projects for teens! Have a sweater that shrank in the dryer? A favorite t-shirt that is falling apart? Bring them to the library and learn how to make them into something new and cool. Fabric provided. A new project will be featured each month. Call 824-1780 beginning Friday, January 12 to register.

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

# Neighborhood Bulletin Board

## ➤ Make a Difference in a Child's Life!

The Preschools and Schools of Hope Projects seek volunteers to improve literacy and math skills in children ages 3 to 11. Volunteer opportunities exist in numerous sites in Madison, Fitchburg, Sun Prairie and Verona. No previous experience is necessary - we provide training and ongoing support.

For more information on preschool opportunities, please call 441-1508 or email [preschoolsofhope@rsvpdane.org](mailto:preschoolsofhope@rsvpdane.org)

For more information on elementary school opportunities, please call 441-7895 or email [schoolsofhope@rsvpdane.org](mailto:schoolsofhope@rsvpdane.org)

- Now that it is starting to snow, please remember that you are responsible for clearing the snow and ice from your sidewalks, curb cuts, and to clear a path to any fire hydrants on your property. The city can fine you if this has not been done within 24 hours of a snow fall. Even though it is not a requirement to shovel a path to the curb for bus stops, it is a very helpful thing to do for the children catching school buses, and other residents catching the Madison Metro.
- Dave Tolmie is once again looking for a few residents to join him in the 2007 Polar Plunge. He is looking to form a team to help raise money for the Wisconsin Special Olympics. If you would be interested in joining Dave, please call him at 836-8784 or e-mail him at [dtolmie@charter.net](mailto:dtolmie@charter.net). It is for a wonderful cause and a lot of fun too!
- Dane County is offering 50% cost share grants for rain garden plants or seed. The application deadline is December 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to: <http://www.danewaters.com/business/PlantDane.aspx>
- Are you a poet, have recipes you want to share, or ideas on family events for fun? If so, then send them to the Wexford Watch. There are times when we are looking for that something extra to put in issues, and this is a great way to do it. We'd love to hear from the young and not so young alike. Please send your comments, thoughts, and ideas to [wexfordwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:wexfordwatch@yahoo.com).

## Special Note

The Wexford neighborhood has recently been plagued with burglaries and vandalism. There has been a large increase in such events. Some include: car tire slashing, car window smashing, items taken from open garages, and homes being broken into. We as residents can help put a stop to this type of activity by reporting any suspicious activity to the police. We can also help protect ourselves by keeping our vehicle windows closed, and doors locked when we park them in the street or our own driveways. Keeping our garage doors shut, and doors to the house locked will also certainly help. Furthermore, letting neighbors know when you will be away on vacation, and having them keep an eye on your home may help too.

Since the Madison Police are stretched so thin, we can do our part to make our neighborhood a safe one. If we can keep our eyes open and report suspicious activity, we can help put a stop to this problem. If you are aware of individuals that have participated in these crimes, you can always make an anonymous report to the police department.

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

Now that it is getting colder, it is once again time to start thinking about ice skating. This year Dave Tolmie will be making up the schedule for volunteers to work on the ice rink at Wexford Park. Please call Dave at 836-8784 if you're interested in helping out. You can also contact him at [dtolmie@charter.net](mailto:dtolmie@charter.net).

## Arboretum Event Information

This is a good time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season with a quiet walk at the Arboretum. Be sure to visit the reception area of the Visitor Center for a warm cup of hot chocolate after your hike or ski trip.

If you dress properly you can enjoy a hike and pleasant surprises along the trails or in the gardens. Since evening comes early, you might encounter the crepuscular (active at twilight or just before sunrise) animals such as whitetail deer. If there is snowfall, look for tracks of raccoon, fox and mink. A good spot to see tracks is near Teal Pond. In the conifers around the pond you can look for pine siskins, crossbills and purple finches.

It is even a time for a sign of spring: the hooting of great horned owls means it's mating time. The owls will lay eggs in January. Please do not use artificial means to call to them. We don't want them to think that some other owl has nested here.

Longenecker Gardens will still have a colorful display of fruit in the crabapple collection. Robins and cedar waxwings can be found feasting there.

Events are open to the public, and tours take place regardless of weather unless the naturalist decides it would be unsafe. Call 608-263-7888 if in doubt. Unless otherwise noted, tours begin at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Visit our Web site at <http://www.uwarboretum.org>.

A few of the wonderful events you can find in the next couple of months are as follows:

- ★ December 21 – Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m. -- Arboretum Walk: "Solstice." Join us for sunset on the shortest day of the year.
- ★ December 31 – Sunday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. -- Annual New Year's Eve Arboretum Walk. The Visitor Center will be open from 6:15 -8:30 p.m. The walks begin at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this traditional event to welcome the New Year in a quiet, peaceful way.
- ★ January 7 - Sunday, 1-3 p.m. -- Arboretum Walk: "Winter Water." In the winter, springs provide water for wildlife, while inhabitants of frozen ponds have made special adaptations to stay alive. Learn what happens in and around ponds, wetlands and springs this time of year.
- ★ January 13 - Saturday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. -- Arboretum Earth Partnership for Families: "Sky Stories." This partnership with the UW-Madison's Space Place includes events in the morning at their location on South Park Street (call 262-4779 for more information). Later in the day, come to the Arboretum for a combination of story and science -- telescopes outside, tales told inside. Dress warmly for stargazing!