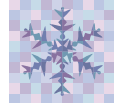


WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 149

January - March 2008

**THE WEXFORD
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**SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
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EACH ODD MONTH
TO**

dtolmie@charter.net or
wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The Wexford Village Annual Meeting was held on November 28th, 2007 at the Alicia Ashman Library. The attendance was fairly good, and we sincerely thank those of you who came. Our guest speakers included City alderman Paul Skidmore and Dane County sheriff, Dave Mahoney. Alder Skidmore gave a general presentation of issues that directly affect Wexford residents, most notably police and fire coverage and traffic issues. Sheriff Mahoney presented an overview of the role of the sheriff's office with its primary role with public safety and its relationship with the City Of Madison.

A review of the fiscal and physical status of Wexford Village was presented. The most notable fiscal event was the lawsuit involving a covenant issue that cost our organization over \$13,000.

The budget for fiscal year 2008 was presented with a projected balanced budget of \$54,150. There is no anticipated increase in dues for the next fiscal year. Wexford Village fees will remain at \$80 for each single household and \$40 for each duplex or condo. Over 80% of the Wexford annual costs are consumed by the maintenance of the greenways and bike paths with light repair/maintenance, electricity, grass care, and the recent addition of the storm sewer tax of about \$3400.

Wexford Village will be publishing a resident directory in the spring of 2008. This will be a bi-annual endeavor rather than the yearly event of the past. Each printing costs about \$2200 minus revenue from advertising. If you have any updates for the Wexford Directory, please make them on line at <http://www.wexfordvillage.org> or call one of the board members with your updates.

In the near future, information will be presented to Wexford Village residents about the PREP Program. PREP (People Responding to Emergencies Program) is a grass roots program coordinated by the UW Health Emergency Medical Services, the City of Madison Fire Department, and the Badger Chapter of the Red Cross. The main focus of the program is to make citizens aware of the need to be prepared for any local or regional emergencies (weather related, chemical incidents, etc), that may necessitate the self-reliance of families and neighborhoods for a potential period of 1- 3 days, before governmental or relief agencies would be able to assist. The focus is having stores of emergency supplies, identification, and providing for "pets, pills and purses". Further information may be accessed at: <http://www.prepmadison.org>

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Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Each year right before the holidays we set in county government lay out our vision and priorities for the year ahead. The 2008 annual Dane County budget carries out and reflects our values. serves as a blueprint for initiatives citizens have asked us to make a priority in the coming year.

I'm proud to say the 2008 Dane County budget I recently signed protects and invests more in public safety, vital human services, and precious land and water -- all without asking more of our hard-working families. In fact, many reading this will actually pay less in 2008 in county property taxes than they did a year ago.

How is Dane County able to continue to improve the public services citizens depend upon for a high quality of life without compromising our long record of fiscal responsibility?

Eleven years ago, I created a formula to keep down property taxes – making sure county government does not spend at a rate any greater than which our wonderful communities are growing combined with the rate of inflation. To both achieve this standard each year and to improve services, we must pursue new efficiencies every year. And there is a very big one right before us.

Acting on the recommendations of a county board audit of our criminal justice system, this budget ends the practice of shipping inmates to and housing them at other county jails across the state. Through the use of state of the art electronic monitoring the county will have greater public safety at less cost. By doable reform of court practices, we will save money in the time it takes to process cases.

The several million dollars we'll save by improving these practices allows us to add 12.5 new positions in the sheriff's department, including the addition of a new Traffic Safety Team to keep highways across Dane County safe.

This budget improves human services – more for the mentally ill and more for homeless – and opens doors of opportunity by more job training for parents in challenged neighborhoods and unique job-based alternatives to keep young people out of trouble.

We are also investing more into our lakes than ever before, doubling our investment in wetlands to reduce flooding and improve our water quality.

We have accomplished controlling spending and improving services by working together. This is the best way to make progress. We have more to do: more to implement in the criminal justice audit and more to improve our quality of life.

Neighborhood Bulletin Board

- ❖ **Concerned about not having crosswalks at the intersection of Westfield Rd. and Sawmill Rd.?** Send your comments to the Mayor and City Traffic departments to voice your opinions. (608) 266-4611 or E-mail: mayor@cityofmadison.com.
- ❖ A reminder to all residents that the city of Madison requires that you remove all snow and ice from your sidewalks within 24 hours of the last snowfall. Your sidewalks also include the curb cuts, and the plow row at the end of the curb cuts. In addition, fire hydrants need to be cleared out as well. The fine for violations is over \$100. It is also a wonderful idea to help out by cleaning out areas for the bus stops so our children and residents have a safe place to enter and exit the busses. Violators can be reported at <http://www.cityofmadison.com>.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

The next meeting will be held on January 30th at 7:00pm at the Alicia Ashman Library. We will discuss plans for this spring, ideas for how to combat graffiti in our neighborhood, as well as patrols. I hope to have Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen in attendance as well. All are welcome to attend.

There has been little activity since it has snowed and gotten colder. We need to ensure that we still keep our eyes and ears open to suspicious activities, and report all such activities to the police. It has been noted that several cars have been parked on the path near the ice rinks. Driving and parking on the bike paths in the park is illegal.

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.

For information on home security and the crime watch program, please see the following website from the Madison Police Department: <http://www.madisonpolice.com/crimepre.html>.

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.

Library News

Check out what is happening at the Alicia Ashman Library. There is plenty for all ages, just stop by, give them a call, or check out the website listed below for all the events for all ages. Some events need pre-registration.

📖 Monday January 21st: Library is closed all day.

📖 **Refocusing and Rebalancing for Your Bonus Years:** Saturday January 26th 10:00am – 12:00pm. Jan Fulwiler, Ph.D., psychologist and retirement coach, will present "Refocusing and Rebalancing for Your Bonus Years" as part of the Grand Opening of THE NEXT CHAPTER collection at the Alicia Ashman Branch of Madison Public Library. THE NEXT CHAPTER collection, created with a gift to the library from Bob and Carroll Heideman and RSVP, is a one-stop shop where retirees or persons approaching retirement can find the information they need to take charge of their future and create a life they love living.

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

Mark your Calendars

Wednesday January 30 th 7:00pm at the Alicia Ashman Library	Wexford Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting
Saturday March 22 nd 9:30am at Wexford Park	Wexford Village Easter Egg Hunt.

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

Park News by Ken Schmidt

The ice rinks were graded this fall and are now level. At the time that I am writing this both ice rinks are open and in great shape for skating. Over the Christmas break there have been many people using them and some pickup hockey games going late at night until the lights go off. It is a big job to maintain them and volunteers are needed. The snow needs to be cleared off the rinks after each storm and they need to be sprayed each night to keep the ice in good shape. Please contact myself or Dave Tolmie (836-8784) if you can help.

I just want to again thank everyone that has volunteered this past year to help maintain the park, greenways and the circles. Your extra donations to the park and greenway fund with your dues payments is greatly appreciated also and helps plant the flower gardens in the park and around the villages signs and also helps fund other improvements. Thanks again for your help and donations in helping make Wexford a great place to live.



Make a Difference!

Do you have a formal dress or accessories that you would like to donate? The Junior League of Madison is hosting its annual event, All Dressed Up, on March 8th. This event offers high school women the opportunity to obtain prom dresses and accompanying accessories at no cost to them. Many of these women would otherwise not be able to attend due to the high costs associated with prom. We are looking for dresses, shoes, jewelry, purses, shawls, and any other related accessories. If you have a donation, you can bring it to any Klinke Cleaners from February 4th-16th. You can also bring your donations to Katie Reuhl, 1238 North Westfield Road. If you have any questions, please call Katie at 836-4908.

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