

WEXFORD WATCH

Issue 151 June - July 2008

THE WEXFORD WATCH
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SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
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TO
dtolmie@charter.net or
wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

For many years, each Wexford home has had the blueprints for the home stored in a secured central location. However, many of the documents are outdated and many residents are not even aware of their existence. The Wexford Village Board of Directors has decided that we will notify all residents of these documents/blueprints and they will be made available for everyone for personal possession in the very near future.

A letter will be sent to individual homeowners in specified areas around Wexford, where it has been identified that there has been significant encroachment of tree, shrubs and brush into the greenway paths. If you receive one of these letters, we request that you abide by the guidelines. We are doing this because of safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians. Also, please do not place your personal brush on Wexford property. This significantly impedes the mowing contractor.

We will be making an assessment of the physical status of the greenway paths. Potential contractors will provide an evaluation of the need to repair significant cracks in the pathways and resurfacing the approximately six miles of Wexford pathways. These pathways are projected to have decades of use, but we need to provide regular maintenance. It should also be noted that the pathways are for bicyclists and pedestrians only. Mopeds and other motorized vehicles are strictly prohibited on the pathways.

We request any individuals that live on the more than 30 circles within Wexford to report any concerns about the care of the circles. If your circle needs significant landscaping attention, in addition to the regular mowing, please contact a member of the Wexford Board.

The Wexford Board of Directors is looking for an additional 1-2 members, especially an individual that would be willing to perform the social/ welcoming committee role. Also anyone who would be interested in helping out with the Wexford Watch, please contact Dave Tolmie at 836-8784 dtolmie@charter.net.



The Fourth of July parade and picnic will be held at 10AM of that day, but we are in desperate need of volunteers to help with the event. If you are willing to assist, please contact Mary or Don Michalski at 836-1659 or at michalsd@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu.

Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Dane County 911 Center Offers Top Technology

The Dane County 9-1-1 Center provides the vital public safety service citizens depend upon. A dedicated team of professionals handle over 600,000 calls a year to help people when they need it.

Over the past 10 years we have increased spending on 9-1-1 by more than the rest of county government. Every year the 9-1-1 Center budget has been a priority to me and the county board. We've increased the annual budget from \$3.4 million to \$5.4 million a year. Since 2002, we have added eight positions to the 9-1-1 Center; we're now adding two more. In that same time period, we have budgeted \$7.6 million for big ticket improvements to 9-1-1. We have the best technology available.

In addition, another \$34 million will be spent within three years. Most of these funds, the second largest expenditure of capital funds in the county's history, will purchase a specially-designed radio system to allow emergency responders to easily communicate with one another, whether incidents involve police, fire, emergency medical services, or even snow plows – a powerful, lesson learned after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.


We've adopted many of the good changes recommended by a 2004 consultant's review of the 9-1-1 Center. New dispatchers and staff have been hired and we're on schedule for additional hires. New training and quality assurance programs have been added to make sure people get the best service possible when they dial 9-1-1.


We've also gone above and beyond what the plans calls for by adding the best state of the art dispatching equipment available to make sure those with medical or fire emergencies get the most qualified responders and needed equipment. We're the first county in the state to do this.

The County Board and I spend more money every year on the 9-1-1 Center so that it can offer reliable, expanded, and improved services. We will continue to prioritize this very important service.

Library News

Check out what is happening at the Alicia Ashman Library.

 **Bug Factory** -- Tuesday June 17th at 2:00pm: Want to start a bug collection? Make your own creepy crawly creatures using everyday household ingredients! For children in grades K-5. Registration is required and begins 6/3.

 **Snakes Alive** – Tuesday June 24th at 2:00pm: Join Tom Kessenich, well-known Wisconsin herpetologist with over thirty years of experience, as he enthusiastically shares fascinating snake facts. Observe snakes from Tom's own collection and learn about the importance and value of these frequently feared reptiles. A snake-tacular time for all ages.

There are so many wonderful things going on at the library this summer. Please stop by or go online to check it out. Lots to do for all ages!

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

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

Neighborhood Crime Watch

We have seen a pick up in crime in our neighborhood this spring, most notably behind the Highpoint Christian Church. Several residents noticed large numbers of teenage kids going in and out of the storm drains by the ponds. The kids had been spray painting in the tunnels, and most likely were responsible for tagging the businesses near the library. There was also witness to the selling of drugs behind the church as well. The kids would purchase them from people in a car, and then take them to the storm drains. Fortunately we have very good witnesses, and the police were involved early in the game. An investigation had been started in this area, when some kids decided to light two trees on fire near the storm drain entrance. The kids had been photographed by residents, and were quickly identified and apprehended by the police. The city is working on closing up the storm drains so people can no longer enter the pipes for such activity. Wexford Village extends a huge thank you to those who were such good witnesses, and had the mind to take pictures.

Other activity in our neighborhood includes breaking into vehicles on Sawmill Road, activity in the park after 10:00pm, and some graffiti. I strongly urge you to keep your eyes and ears open for such activities. We have already made a difference, let's keep up the good work.

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:

The Wexford Village Home Owners Association has been storing plans for all homes in Wexford Village at a cost of \$400.00 per year plus an additional cost to access plans. Depending on the number of requests the total annual cost can reach \$1,000.00. In order to cut some spending from our annual budget the Wexford Village Board has proposed to stop storing these documents as of 12/31/2008. Given there is a fee each time we access plans we would like to distribute the plans at the 4th of July celebration and the annual meeting in November 2008. If you are interested in receiving plans for your property please contact a member of the Architectural Review Committee. (Matt Thomas 827-7930 or Darrell Fleming 831-8538)

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

Park News by Ken Schmidt

A big thank you to those of you who helped clean up the park for our Earth Day clean up. We got a lot of the woods cleared of trash, brush, and invasive weeds. A lot more still needs to be done, but it was a great start. Please feel free to help keep our park and woods cleared out all the time.

Warmer weather has finally arrived and the flower gardens in the park have been planted. I am always looking for help with weeding and watering. We will be putting two disc golf baskets in the park this summer. They will be placed in the center of the ice rinks and will be able to be removed for the winter. We are currently working with the parks department to get them ordered and installed. We would like to get some volunteers together and work on doing some cleaning up in the woods. There are a lot of invasive species, grape vines and unwanted brush that needs to be removed.

Wexford Babysitting Co-op

Did you know that Wexford neighborhood has an active Babysitting Co-op to help you with your childcare needs? Would you like to go to those doctor appointments unescorted? Have you dreamt of helping out in your older child's class without a shadow? Would you like to take your spouse to dinner and a show some Friday night?

The Wexford Babysitting Co-op is a group of neighborhood families who exchange childcare with each other. The co-op is simple, easy and free. We have parents who work both in and out of the home and there are no restrictions on days or times that the co-op can be utilized.

To learn more about this great asset to our neighborhood, visit our link at www.Wexfordvillage.org or contact Chris Schmidt 831-3637, Sue Hunt 831-3133, or Lisa Bauer 836-0967.

Advertise in the Watch

Care to advertise in this newsletter? Just send your advertisement or questions to Dave Tolmie at wexfordwatch@yahoo.com, or call him at 836-8784


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