



# WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 145

May - June 2007

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

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**SUBMISSIONS IN  
WRITING BY THE  
FIFTEENTH OF  
EACH EVEN MONTH  
TO**  
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## *Wexford Board News by Don Michalski*

The trial of the Wexford Village Home Owner's Association versus a Wexford Village resident was held on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2007. On March 19<sup>th</sup> 2007, a decision was issued by the Circuit Court Branch 9 with the Wexford Village Home Owners Association and the resident regarding the construction of a fence over the covenant limit of three feet.

The judge indicated that the resident may retain the four foot fence, which had been constructed in 2005, "as long as it surrounds a private swimming pool". The judgment indicated that part of this decision was based on the fact that the City of Madison does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a swimming pool. At the time of the trial, the pool was only surrounded by a fence on three sides, in contrast to the City of Madison Ordinances which indicates that a private pool must be surrounded on all four sides. It should also be noted that the pool is only five and a half feet in diameter and three feet in depth. The total to Wexford Village for the legal defense for this case was about \$13,000.

A Neighborhood Watch meeting was held at the Alicia Ashman Library on Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff from the Madison Police Dept. (MPD) met with approximately 25 residents and discussed home security, how to be a good witness, and how a neighborhood can come together to take a stand against crime. Dave Tolmie has volunteered to be the liaison for this project with the MPD.

It should also be noted that the Wexford Park shelter was severely vandalized on the night of April 21<sup>st</sup>. With the upcoming warm seasons, we kindly and respectfully request all Wexford residents who witness or are aware of any type of mischief or destructive behavior in our neighborhood, to please report it to the Madison Police Department.

This year's Easter egg hunt at the park was once again a huge success. We thank all who participated in the chilly event. Special thanks go out to all who volunteered their time to organize and assist with the festivities.

Sincere appreciation goes out to all 20-25 individuals who participated in the Earth Day clean up at the park. The activities in Wexford Park and behind Apple Hill Circle included: trash, brush, and stump removal, mulching of trails, and pulling of garlic mustard weed. These efforts go a long way to keeping our park and neighborhood beautiful. Let's try not to limit such efforts to just one day a year.

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## *Wexford Park Playground Committee Nominated for United Way of Dane County Community Volunteer Award*

Members from the Wexford Park Playground Committee attended the United Way Community Volunteers Awards ceremony. The committee was nominated by Laura Whitmore of the Madison Parks Department for their work on the two-year playground improvement project. The ceremony was held at the Concourse Hotel on April 26 and was mc'ed by Becky Hillier of WMTV Channel 15 and First Lady Jessica Doyle. The committee was honored to be nominated and found the efforts and dedication of the many volunteers from around Dane County to be truly inspiring.



Pictured:

Wexford residents Jennifer Giesler, Sue Hunt, Chris Gomez Schmidt, Jeanne Duffy, and Ken Schmidt along with Laura Whitmore from the Madison Parks Department. Not Pictured: Sarah Underwood



## Neighborhood Bulletin Board

- ❖ Several complaints have been received about people not cleaning up after their dogs. It is a violation of city ordinance not to do so, as well as being inconsiderate to residents. Please remember to clean up after your dogs, whether it is in the park, your yard, or especially a neighbor's yard. Also please keep your dogs on a leash to help protect your dog from passing cars and curious children.
- ❖ Please take care when riding bicycles and scooters on sidewalks. Pedestrians have the right of way, and it is best to call out that you are coming, and which side you intend to pass them on. This way accidents and/or injuries may be avoided.

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

# Neighborhood Crime Watch

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Wexford Village was invited to attend a meeting about home/condo security, how to be a good witness, and how to reduce crime in our neighborhood. Police Officer Mary Anne Thurber gave a wonderful presentation on these topics, as well as discussed what is involved in setting up a neighborhood watch program. There were about 25 Wexford residents in attendance as well as Police Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen from the West side precinct. Unfortunately Cindy had to be called out on duty during the meeting, so we did not have a chance to talk with her.

The main outcome of the meeting was that to improve our neighborhood's crime situation, we need to be more vigilant in keeping our eyes and ears open to our surroundings. A very good idea that is both simple and easy, is to contact all your neighbors that you can see from your home, obtain their contact information, and call them when you see something or someone that does not appear to belong there. It may be nothing, but it might be someone attempting to break in, or vandalize property. A simple call is easy to make.

The most important thing we need to keep in mind is that if we witness suspicious activity to call the police immediately. 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 Madison Police Dept. to solve these issues.

For wonderful 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](mailto:wexford_ncw@charter.net).

# Library News

Check out what is happening at the Alicia Ashman Library.

- ❖ **Who Stole the Cookies?: June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.** Cookies have mysteriously disappeared from the library cookie jar. Can you find them? Make a badge, fingerprint some suspects, and follow the clues. For families with children ages 3-7. Call 824-1780 beginning 6/11 to register.
- ❖ **Summer Lunch Bunch: June 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM.** Bring a sack lunch to one of our Summer Lunch Bunch locations and the librarians will do the rest. This is an ongoing program featuring fun, food and stories for kids in grades K-5. Librarians will read aloud from *Bunnicula: A Rabbit-tale of Mystery* by Deborah Howe while kids munch! Call 824-1780 beginning 6/12 to register!
- ❖ **Live Clue: June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Was it Mr. Plum by the Reference Desk with a pencil or Colonel Mustard by the picture books with a book end? Follow the clues and solve the mystery at the library! For children going into grades 6-9. Call 824-1780 beginning 6/13 to register.

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>.

## Park News by Ken Schmidt

- A big thank you to all those that helped with the park clean up day. A lot of trimming and cleaning was accomplished. We also got a start on pulling the garlic mustard. This needs to be pulled before the end of May or it will seed. This is not a one day event though. There needs to be continued work done throughout the summer both in the park, the cul-de-sacs and Wexford Prairie (lot 400).
- This past week I was honored to be invited to the United Way 2007 Community Volunteers Award luncheon at the Concourse. The Wexford Park Playground Committee was honored for their work in making all the additional playground equipment plus the space net in the park become a reality. I know that it gets a lot of use and many children are very excited to have such a great place to play. Thank you for undertaking such a great task and making it happen. I also heard many other stories about the great volunteer efforts that others do to help their neighbors and community. I hope that we can also see more of this volunteer caring happen here to help make Wexford a great and safe place to live.
- We are trying to get a handle on the vandalism that has been happening in the park. The park closes at 10 PM. If you see anything happening in the park after that time, please call the police department right away to report it.

## Mark your Calendars

Tuesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm	Wexford Junior Soccer League Begins (Meets each Tuesday evening)
Monday May 7 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm	Wexford Crime Watch Meeting at the library
Friday and Saturday May 10-11	Wexford Garage Sale
Friday June 15th	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
Saturday June 30th	Rhythm and Booms at Warner Park
Wednesday July 4th	Wexford Village 4 <sup>th</sup> of July parade. Decorate your bikes, bodies, and strollers, and you even have time to make a float!

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>



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