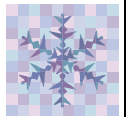


WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 148

November - December 2007

THE WEXFORD WATCH

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

EDITOR

DAVID TOLMIE,
7434 SAWMILL RD.

SUBMISSIONS IN WRITING BY THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH EVEN MONTH TO

wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Board News |
| 2 | Note from Dane County Exec.
Library News |
| 3 | Neighborhood Watch Bulletin Board |
| 4 | Park News |

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The Wexford Village Homeowners Association annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28th at 7:00^{PM} until 8:45^{PM} at the Alicia Ashman Library, Community Room. Dave Mahoney, Dane County sheriff and Wexford resident, will be the keynote speaker, and will be responding to questions, especially to City-County relations. Also, the physical and fiscal status of Wexford will be presented. As always, the Wexford Village Board of Directors is always looking for interested residents who would like to join the board.

The Wexford Neighborhood Watch Group had a meeting on September 27th with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, West Precinct Police Captain Jay Lengfeld, District 9 Alderman, Paul Skidmore, and Jim Morgan, director of the Madison Parks Department. Over 60 Individuals attended, with many issues discussed of vital concern to residents, especially vandalism and other crimes within Wexford. A more complete report is within this issue.

Thanks to all of the individuals, who have contributed to the park fund. Each year, we receive approximately \$1500 to \$2000 in donations that has, in the past, been used for physical acquisitions, e.g., trees, plantings, playground equipment, etc. This year, much of those donations have been spent on payment for a UW student, who has done major work in the Wexford path behind Applehill Circle. Included in this project has been clearing of brush and non-native plants, and landscaping with new plantings and mulch. He also provided continued care of the flower gardens in Wexford Park, at Sawmill and Westfield, and the mulching of trails within Wexford Park.

We have received assurance that the Madison Park District will install two light fixtures, one already installed by the shelter, which should significantly illuminate the Wexford Park shelter area and path going through the woods. Hopefully, this will result in minimizing mischievous and destructive activity in that area after sunset.

Traffic Engineering held a hearing on October 23rd discussing the placement of traffic lights at approximately 80 intersections within Madison. Based upon their criteria, the Old Sauk and Westfield Road intersection is ranked 6th in the priority list, with Gammon Road and Longmeadow being 21st. A final decision will be made in late November or December.

A big thank you goes out to Randy Ruplinger and volunteers who helped with the Junior Soccer League this fall. It is always a huge success.

Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

My 2008 Dane County budget reflects the concerns voiced during many hours of public hearings and from letters by hundreds of citizens who strongly encouraged me to do what I could to protect our incredible human services programs which are life's ladders for so many.

I am extremely pleased to report my 2008 budget continues the array of important services and adds even more dollars to help more of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Dollars for employment services for those with mental illnesses and physical disabilities; for children who have been sexually abused; for parents of teens struggling with alcohol and other drug abuse problems; for case management services for senior citizens; for \$100,000 in jobs for young people to prevent gang involvement; and, for 12.5 additional staff for the Dane County Sheriff's office are part of my budget.


Adding dollars for public safety and safe neighborhoods, balanced with dollars for human services and holding the line on property taxes are the goals of my 2008 budget.


By implementing cost-saving efficiencies detailed in a recent independent audit of our county's criminal justice system, I redirected some county dollars into more human services and more public safety. We'll double our traffic safety team to reduce tragic accidents and fatalities. But I didn't forget about taxpayers. I'm holding the county to my self-created tax limit. The average Madison home's value is \$246,062 and the county property tax increase on that home under my budget will be \$1.37.


I also am funding a \$500,000 expansion of the Early Childhood Initiative -- the program I began for struggling young families in the Allied Drive neighborhood of Madison -- into two other county neighborhoods.

Library News

Check out what is happening at the Alicia Ashman Library.

 **Used Book Sale**, Friends of Alicia Ashman Branch Library, Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15-17, at the Library. Pre-sale Thursday, 5:00-8:00 p.m., Friends only -- join the Friends there -- \$5.00/individual, \$10.00/ family. Public sale Friday, 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Bag sale -- 2:00-3:00 Saturday - \$5 a bag. Donate books at the library, but please, no textbooks or magazines. For pickup or to join Friends, contact Jane Kessenich at 836-8429.

 **Nifty Thrifty Gifty** -- Saturday November 24th from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Create jazzy and memorable holiday gifts for the special people in your life. For ages 7 & up. Call beginning 11/10 to register.

 **Gingerbread Cookie Fun:** Saturday December 8th at 3:00pm -- 4:30pm -- Run fast, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man! Catch stories, games and more at this fast-paced family program. Participants can take home their own decorated (sugar) cookie. Children ages 6 and under must have an adult helper. Call 824-1780 to register beginning 11/24.

Please note that the Library will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, December 24th, 25th, and 31st.

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

On September 27th the Wexford Village Neighborhood Crime Watch group hosted a meeting with the Mayor, Police Captain, Alderman, and Superintendent of the City Parks Department. The meeting was a huge success due in part to the overwhelming attendance and concern expressed by the residents.

Captain Jay Lengfeld talked about the steady crime rate in our area, and that the West Precinct simply does not have enough police officers to cover the 80,000+ residents in this precinct. It was nice to see that crime is not on the rise in our area; however it is not going down either. He stressed that all crime should be reported to the police. Captain Lengfeld feels that a lot of crime goes under reported, and this is a real disservice to the residents in the area. The number of officers assigned to an area partially depends on the number of issues, so not reporting crime or suspicious activities tells the police department that they need fewer officers in that location. If you see suspicious activity in our neighborhood, please contact the police department at 255-2345 or 911 for an emergency.

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz talked about his new budget, and that he has included the addition of 30 new officers for next year. He also talked about adding some park rangers to some of the city parks to help patrol them and reduce crime in some of the cities larger parks. He was very receptive to all questions, and asked the Parks Department to ensure that Wexford Park got signs for hours of operation at all major entrances. He also backed the park's plan to put in new lighting in Wexford park.

Jim Morgan, Superintendent of the Parks Department, said that they were in the process of doing a study on where to best place two light poles in Wexford park to light up the shelter and entrances to the woods. This will help the police and residents see activity going on in the park after hours (after 10:00pm). As of October 26th, the first light had been installed and is operating well. It lights up the shelter area very nicely. The second light will go in the woods along the path about halfway down near the bend.

Paul Skidmore, Alderman for district 9, stressed the importance of working together as neighbors to help curb the issues in our neighborhood. He mentioned that he is working with the neighborhood watch group to help coordinate activities between the city, police, and residents. He also mentioned that if we ever felt that we were not receiving the services that we feel we should, to contact him and he will look into the issues for us.

Dave Tolmie, organizer of this event, extends a huge thank you to the very informative key speakers and all the residents who attended this meeting. Thanks to all who expressed their valuable concerns. If we don't speak up, we will never be heard, and acting as a cohesive neighborhood will take us a long way. We got a lot of what we asked for, but much work is still needed.

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.

Neighborhood Bulletin Board

- ❖ **FOUND**: Shopping bag on Harvest Hill Rd. containing women's clothing. Call 831-6603 to claim.
- ❖ **STOLEN**: On October 25th, a scarecrow was stolen from our front porch on Harvest Hill Rd, if anyone knows where it might be, please contact Michelle at (608) 334-1218
- ❖ **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.

Park News by Ken Schmidt

We have been very busy this past month working on the wooded area of the park. The trails thru the woods have been widened and mulched. About 100 cubic yards of bark mulch was spread on the trails. This was all wheeled and spread by hand. A great amount of the invasive buckthorn trees have been removed along the trails. I would encourage everyone to take a walk through the woods and see the improvements. Our goal is to make the woods a safer area by opening it up more and by getting rid of the buckthorn that shades everything to encourage more native plants to start growing.

The bike/walking path through the park/woods has been replaced and improved for better drainage. The ice rinks should have been graded by now so they are level and will be much easier to maintain in the winter. A new roof has been put on the shelter to replace what was vandalized and additional lighting has been added.

I want to again thank everyone that has volunteered to help in the park. I want to also thank all of those that have made an extra contribution to the park fund when you paid your dues. That money has allowed us this past year to clean up and re-landscape the walking path across from the woods on Westfield Road, provide a portable toilet in the park for the summer, since the parks department no longer provides that service, hire a couple college students to help with the landscaping, mulching and pruning, and purchase jerseys and equipments for Wexford youth soccer league. Those funds also purchase the flowers and supplies for the park and by the two Wexford signs.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the park please let me know. Two that have been mentioned so far are a backstop for the tennis courts and a disc golf practice area. In addition, if you would like to help raise funds for these improvements, please let me know.

Farley's House Of Pianos LLC

- Private Piano & Voice Lessons farleypianos.com
- New Adult Group Piano
- All Ages & Levels

6522 Seybold Rd.
271.2626



Editor's Notes

I am always looking for suggestions on how to improve this newsletter, and add content that is useful to residents. Please feel free to contact me for suggestions or comments. dtolmie@charter.net or 836-8784.

One suggestion was to put in the contact information for all board members; I will do this in the next issue due to elections in November.



NEW YOGA STUDIO!

A WAY OF LIFE
YOGA & BODY WORKS, LLC
6510 Grand Teton Plaza, Ste 102

Yoga for Athletes / Lunch Hour Yoga
Pilates Flow / Mindful Yoga / Ball Fusion
Core Yoga / Yoga Stretch / and more....

Come for your **FREE CLASS!**
www.awayoflifeyoga.com
347-9390

SNOW PLOWING

If you are still looking for a reliable snow removal service at a fair price, give me a call.

Residential or Commercial

Free estimates!

MC Meinholz, LLC – 712-2588