



WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 142

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**THE WEXFORD
WATCH
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**SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
EACH ODD MONTH
TO**
wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

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Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

The traffic calming circle has been constructed at the intersection of Sawmill Road and Westfield Road; despite concerns by Wexford residents and the Madison Metro about its "placement and size", it now becomes part of our neighborhood. Also, we all need to learn about "traffic circle etiquette". If there are any serious concerns about safety, please contact our alderperson or Wexford board members.

The intersection of Old Sauk Road and Westfield is fourth on the City's list for the installation of a traffic signal. Several Wexford residents attended the city hearing on September 26th, to reiterate the importance of maintaining that intersection on the priority list for light installation. The intersection of Longmeadow and Gammon is number 18 on the list, not a high priority at this time.

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Paul Skidmore, members of the Wexford Playground Committee, and many Wexford residents, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Space Net project on September 26th. Funding from the Wexford Village Park Fund, matching funds from the City of Madison, corporate, and private donations made the \$20,000 project a success. Our deepest thanks go out to all who made this possible, and made such wonderful improvements to our park.

The ATC project to extend electric transmission lines across the city of Madison will have an impact upon Wexford residents, since one of the proposed paths will be along the Highway 12 bypass adjacent to our neighborhood. Any concerns about this issue should be addressed to designated regulatory and community groups.

Mark your calendars! The Annual Wexford Village Homeowners Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29th at 7PM at the Alicia Ashman Library. We hope to see many of you there. More details will be sent in early November.

Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Greetings! I have just written my 10th annual Dane County budget on your behalf. This is the most important duty I perform for you. Let there be no doubt. This year's 652-page spending plan worth \$450 million was penned to mirror your priorities. Taking care of Dane County's waters and lands, maintaining services for our most vulnerable and those fighting for a better life, and keeping our neighborhoods safe. These are your concerns and the ones I've been fighting for the last 9 years. This year's proposed budget is no exception.

I'm proposing \$1.5 million be used to create the Land and Water Legacy Fund – our next step to protect our resources. We know what we do with our lands directly affects our water. This fund will support stream bank and wetlands restorations and storm sewer improvements.

I've added \$500,000 for our fantastic community-based organizations dedicated to helping children and preventing alcohol and other drug addiction problems. I also added \$1.3 million in services for those living with developmental disabilities, for those with mental illnesses and other needs. I've also earmarked \$200,000 to keep the Youth Restitution Program, and \$28 million for a new Badger Prairie Nursing Home for our most frail citizens and improvements at the Job Center to assist those seeking employment.

The budget also includes additional Sheriff detectives for domestic abuse and gang-related cases, a crime victim-witness specialist for the District Attorney office and a first-in-state Priority Dispatch system for fires to make sure the right equipment gets to the emergency.

You also have had my unwavering commitment to use your property tax dollars as efficiently and effectively as possible. You'll notice this year's budget includes a cut in county staff by 15 positions and the sale of some county property – all done to hold taxes.

This year's property tax increase is proposed to be 4.85 percent – nearly half the increase the state levy limit law allowed. Under my plan, the property tax increase on an average Madison home worth \$239,449 would be \$15.79.

My budget should be through the County Board and back to me for final action in November.

Thanks for the honor of serving you, and I hope you have an enjoyable autumn.

A Very Big Thank You!

- ★ A very special and sincere thank you goes out to Randy Ruplinger and his wonderful volunteers for their organization and efforts in bringing the youth together for the Wexford Junior Soccer League. Once again it was a huge success.
- ★ A huge thanks goes out to Ken Schmidt and volunteers that kept our park so beautiful this year. Your efforts and hard work are enjoyed by the entire community and friends. This is a park to truly be proud of.

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>

Neighborhood Bulletin Board

School funding referendum

The Madison school board voted unanimously to support the 3 part building and finance plan on the November 7, 2006 ballot. The plan includes building a new school, financing a new cafeteria and internal remodeling to Leopold Elementary, and refinancing existing debt to free some pressure on the district's operating budget. For the average priced Madison home, \$239,400, the cost will be \$29.21. From 1996 to 2006 the *school property taxes* on the average-priced home have increased less than **1%**, while that house has increased 80% in value.

Since 2002-03, elementary enrollment throughout the district has increased and is projected to continue to increase. The Memorial/West Attendance Area Task Force determined that a new school and more space at Leopold is the most efficient and least expensive long-term solution to the growth in student population.


Other district owned space or available classroom space was determined to be


- 1) far from the areas of growth (requiring expensive bus rides of over 45 minutes);
- 2) Too small to accommodate West side projected growth. Space on the East side will also be needed for predicted increases in enrollments in the East and LaFollette areas;
- 3) Fully used for other important functions.

The district and board are committed to maintaining neighborhood schools in all areas of the community, both new and more established. The schools serve as anchors, building community within neighborhoods. Success of the referendum will maintain the strength of the schools and the community and will ensure that all parts of the community are served equally.

If the referendum should fail, the board has approved a plan which involves boundary changes in the Memorial area and then programmatic changes such as reduction/elimination of SAGE or putting specials "on a cart." (details: www.mmsd.org click on 2006 Referendum)

Library News

 **Scribbler's Café** (Friday November 3rd: 7:00pm): for teen writers, readers and poets. Do you write poetry? How about short stories? Maybe you just love to read great poetry and stories by other authors? Or maybe you just like to sit and listen to other people reading interesting things while you sip a hot drink and nibble a sweet treat... Whichever of these things is your cup of tea (or coffee or hot chocolate) come to the Scribbler's Cafe. Bring a poem (or short story) to share with the group and bring a friend!

 **Donuts with Dad** (Saturday, November 4th at 10:00am). A Saturday morning storytime especially for dads (an uncles and grandpas...) and their kids. Come listen to some stories, watch a short movie and munch on donuts, coffee and orange juice. Call 824-1780 to register two weeks in advance.

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

Park News

- I want to thank everyone that volunteered in the park this past summer to help make it a beautiful place for all to enjoy. With the Parks Departments budget cuts we need to rely more on volunteers to help maintain the park.
- I also want to thank the group of Edgewood High School students that worked on bark mulching the trails in the woods as part of their community volunteer day. They completed all the trails on the west side of the center pathway. There is still a lot of bark mulch left for the remaining trails. Hopefully we can get some people to pitch in a little this fall yet and complete the job.
- A big thank you goes out to the playground committee that did a great job in getting all the new playground equipment for the park.
- **Ice Skating Rink:** The Parks Department is planning on grading the rinks this fall. This should be a big help in keeping the rinks flooded. Dave Tolmie will be the new Ice Rink Coordinator this year. Look for Dave to be contacting you in November if you signed up to help out with the ice rink. It is fun, rewarding, and a great way to spend more time outdoors with family and friends. Let's make this a community effort that we all can enjoy. If you are interested in helping out this year, please contact Dave Tolmie at 836-8784.



Special Note

The last week of September a bat that tested positive for rabies was found lying in the grass at Wexford Park. A call was placed to Animal Control to pick it up because it was lying in the green space very close to the space net. An officer from Animal Control said that only about 3-5% of tested bats test positive for rabies, but that because bats are communal animals the fact that this one had rabies does make it more likely that other bats in that vicinity may have rabies as well. Therefore, if you see a bat lying on the ground or flying around during the daytime keep your distance. Also be sure to keep an eye on your pets. The CDC website has extensive information on this topic if you have any questions. See their web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov>



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