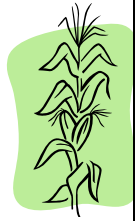




WEXFORD WATCH



Issue 147

September - October 2007

**THE WEXFORD
WATCH
IS FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**EDIFICATION AND
DOES NOT SPONSOR
ANY PERSON OR
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NOTED.**

EDITOR

**DAVID TOLMIE,
7434 SAWMILL RD.**

**SUBMISSIONS IN
WRITING BY THE
FIFTEENTH OF
EACH EVEN MONTH
TO**

wexfordwatch@yahoo.com

Wexford Board News by Don Michalski

One of the greater concerns of Wexford and Madison residents, in general, is the safety of our neighborhoods. With many recent incidents of vandalism, theft, underage drinking, and drug use, the Wexford Neighborhood Watch group has become more active and involved. Lighting in the Wexford Park has been repaired, and the addition of more lighting is being considered. See a more detailed article within this newsletter about a meeting with Mayor Cieslewicz on September 27th to discuss various safety and police coverage issues. We strongly encourage all Wexford residents to attend this meeting to demonstrate our great concern for keeping our neighborhood safe and secure.

The recent repaving and remodeling on Sawmill Road and Westfield has been completed. This was part of a plan by the City of Madison to enhance major bus routes in the City.

Residents along Longmeadow Road will be receiving another survey from the City to get a final consensus about the proposed traffic calming project. Presently, the project consists of placing five speed humps along various sections of Longmeadow. Although the initial petition taken in October 2005 strongly supported the concept, the new survey will wish to substantiate that proposal.

The traffic calming circle at Sawmill and Westfield has been re-landscaped by the City to replace the dead and damaged plantings. However, the future maintenance of the circle, including watering, weeding, and replacing damaged plants, will be the responsibility of Wexford Village. In order to keep this area looking nice, we are asking for volunteers to help with the upkeep of this circle. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members.

The Wexford Board will be sending letters to some Wexford residents, identifying some areas along the bike paths, where trees and brush is seriously encroaching into the pathways, which impedes pedestrians and bicyclists. Your kind attention to this would be greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers that helped with the parade, picnic and games for the Fourth of July celebration. The food, games, and especially the Middleton Ambulance tour were a big hit with the children.

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Note from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

We like being the first on important matters. Dane County is the first county in the state to utilize a new tool to get help to those in crisis faster. We took another step for public safety when our 911 Center launched Priority Fire Dispatch – a response system that makes sure emergencies are answered without putting in jeopardy the next urgent call for help.

This system makes sure we get the right equipment at the right place in the right way at the right time. It's more rigorous and efficient than our previous method of gathering and passing on information. This new system provides our 911 communicators with tested and proven scripts to get the best information from a caller in crisis to determine the level of response so the right amount of amazing responders are called to action, leaving other personnel and equipment ready for the next call.

This big improvement follows on the heels of other county initiatives including improvements that get ambulances to seriously sick or injured persons much more quickly and, in the case of people with heart problems, enable emergency rooms to receive key medical data before the patients arrive.

Like the Priority Medical Dispatch program we started in 2002, Priority Fire Dispatch also gets help quickly and directly to callers as communicators deliver safety and medical instructions over the telephone. The major difference is what gets said and how it gets said. The words are scripted. It is a protocol where you picture a flow chart and every case is handled in the same way, but with the flexibility to use questions geared toward different problems.

The fire system was launched at 7 a.m. on June 4, and took its first emergency call at 8:05 a.m. – a vehicle fire west of Verona.

With our partnerships with local governments and EMS providers across the county, we will keep pushing and providing the best public safety anywhere.

Library News

Check out what is happening at the Alicia Ashman Library.

-  **Preschool Players:** September 10th – 12th at 1:30pm → Watch your preschooler perform in fun, easy skits. Three rehearsals and a big evening performance at 7:00 on Wednesday night. Costumes provided. For children ages 4 and 5. Space is limited, so be sure to call two weeks in advance of the program to register your child for this event.
-  **Radio Active! presents two programs from the golden age of radio broadcasting:** September 22nd at 2:00pm → Experience the sights and sounds of a broadcast studio as Radio Active! presents two programs: The Adventures of Nero Wolfe "The Shakespeare Case" and Fibber McGee and Molly "Overdue Library Book". Sponsored by the Friends of the Alicia Ashman Branch Library this event is for adults and children aged 8 & up. Call 824-1780 beginning Tuesday, September 4th to register.
-  **Doughnuts with Dad:** Saturday October 13th at 10:00am → Saturday morning fun with stories, movies and snacks, especially for dads and their kids. Drop-ins welcome. Register if you would like an e-mail reminder.

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

Due to the continued vandalism and crime in our neighborhood, the Wexford Village Neighborhood Watch group is hosting a neighborhood wide meeting with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz at the Alicia Ashman Library on September 27th at 7:00pm. All residents are strongly encouraged to attend to discuss our crime concerns with the Mayor. Also in attendance will be Paul Skidmore and a representative from the Madison Police Department. Some of the topics we would like to discuss involve adding more lighting to the park to discourage activity after the park closes at 10:00pm, clearing out some of the brush to open up the woods for better viewing, and ways to reduce underage drinking and drug use at the park. Please bring your ideas and voice your opinions at this meeting. The more people that attend, the more likely we will see action.

Wexford Park was featured on NBC15 Crime Tracker in July. This story covered the “party pit” in the woods, the vandalism at the park and neighborhood, and the issue of drugs and alcohol use in the park. As a result of this story, the “party pit” in the woods was filled in by the City within a few days of the airing of the story. Our sincere thanks go out to John Stofflet and NBC15 for such a nice job on this story.

There continues to be vandalism at our park. In July paint was poured on the playground equipment, watering hoses were cut, and many bottles smashed all over the basketball court. Drugs and alcohol have also been found in the park along the paths in the woods, and along the path going up Apple Hill Circle. Please discuss the issue of drugs with your children to better protect them in the case that they find some hidden in the park and think it is candy. Please contact the Police immediately if you find any drugs or suspicious packages found at the park.

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.

Neighborhood Bulletin Board

- ❖ **Bicycle found!** Late Saturday evening July 28th I found a Roadmaster bicycle on the walking path. I can be called at 827-9463 to claim the bike.
- ❖ **CAUTION!** Please tell your children to be careful and wear their shoes at the park. Razor blades, glass, and other sharp objects have been found near and around the playground equipment.

Mark your Calendars

Tuesday's September 4 th – October 9 th 6:00pm	Wexford Junior Soccer League
Thursday September 27 th 7:00pm at the Alicia Ashman Library	Wexford Village Crime Watch meeting with the Mayor. PLEASE ATTEND!!

Park News by Ken Schmidt

Things have been very active in the park even with the hot weather. Due to the hot and dry weather Sue Hunt and I have watered all the trees in the park twice in July. We're hoping to prevent any additional tree loses in the park. The parks dept should be replacing those trees that have died. One unfortunate event did happen in the park on Saturday night, July 21st. Someone cut several of the hoses that we were using to water the trees. Two of them were the large commercial hoses that are used to flood the ice rinks. This resulted in substantial cost to the Parks Dept and Wexford Village. If you have any information about this or see any suspicious activities in the park at night, please call the police department. A new bright light has been installed in the park shelter which greatly helps light it up at night.

The flower gardens in the park are looking very nice due to the continuous weeding being done by Emily Rueckert. I also want to thank the anonymous person that earlier this summer has been pulling the garlic mustard out of the woods, filling up many garbage bags full. This is an on going battle, but every bit helps. I'm continuing to work with the Parks Dept on park issues. The ice rinks should be re-graded yet this fall so they are level and much easier to maintain this winter. Also hoping to get the volleyball court dug out and new sand installed.

The walking trail across from the woods behind Apple Hill circle is being cleaned up and re-landscaped. Thanks also to the neighbors there for their help with the watering and care of the new plantings and also for the additional planting that they are furnishing to make this a nice natural setting in Wexford.

Thanks again to everyone that has helped out in the park, woods and green spaces. It's a large area, but a great open area to have in Wexford. We're always in need of more volunteers.

Junior Soccer League (9/4 – 10/9)

Wexford Junior Soccer League - All four and five year olds are welcome to join us for soccer at Wexford Park on Tuesdays this fall. We will meet from Tuesday Sept. 4th through Tuesday Oct. 9th from 6:00 - 6:45 pm (six sessions). All skill levels are welcome; the goal of this league is to have fun! Have your child bring a water bottle, no other equipment is necessary and there is no cost to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Ruplinger at 836-9170.



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