

Village Views

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

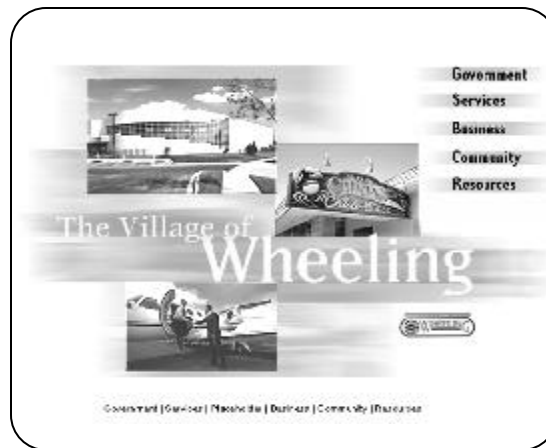
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000

Virtual Wheeling: Revamped Web Site Hits the Net

The Village of Wheeling has unwrapped its newly overhauled Web site at vi.wheeling.il.us. Many new features characterize the new site, including an electronic, searchable version of the Village Code.

The makeover of the site (formerly known as wheeling.il.org) was undertaken to provide an updated appearance and faster access than previously. It is anticipated that many of the forms currently used by various Village departments, such as building permits, will be available at the site's Reference Desk. Some of the forms may be completed and transmitted electronically, although those requiring original signatures still must be submitted in person or by traditional mail.

Much of the site will be categorized by Village department and activi-



www.vi.wheeling.il.us

ties. For example, the revamped section for the Community Development Department will include a broad range of features such as building permit procedure, common permits required, and the construction code list.

The section for the Economic Development Department provides comprehensive informa-

tion on Village demographics, available buildings and sites, incentive plans, building permit trends and principal employers, among others.

A new community section offers information on education opportunities, Wheeling Park District events, transportation, service groups and history.

The government section now furnishes information on commissions and their meeting times, trustee biographies, a Village organization chart and information on federal and state elected officials.

A search engine and site map make the site simple to access. A list-serve feature allows residents to automatically receive updates from the Village by email.



Century
**FLASH
BACK**

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WHEELING'S HISTORIC PAST

This photo, taken in 1929, shows Palwaukee Airport at Milwaukee Ave. and Palatine Rd., looking southeast. The white circle at left highlights the rural Strong School, which was built following the Civil War. The location is now part of Winnebago Woods Forest Preserve. (Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Museum.)





*No snow, no sleigh.
Santa and Mrs. Claus
arrive at Village Hall
on the float pictured
at right, as Rudolph
stays in the barn.*

Children's Smiles Brighten Third Annual Festival of Lights

One of Santa's admirers pays her respects to the seasonal hero in the photo at left.



Minding Your Mailbox

Mailboxes can fall victim to the snowplow. Nonetheless, the Village will repair or replace mailboxes and posts damaged by snow-removal operations, provided they are properly installed and in good condition before the snow flies.

Be sure the front of the mailbox is 6-12 inches from the back of the curb, and the bottom of the mailbox is 42 inches from the top of the curb back. The post, made of 4"x4" pressure-treated lumber or two-inch diameter steel or aluminum, should be embedded in a concrete-filled hole that is 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches deep.

Damaged posts will be replaced with a pressure-treated 4"x4" wooden post or two-inch diameter steel or aluminum post meeting Village standards. When decorator mailboxes are damaged beyond repair, the Village will reimburse the cost of materials (about \$30) only.

Briefs and Announcements

Child Safety Seat Inspections

Less than six percent of 136 child safety seats examined during a recent inspection at the Sani's Club-Wal-Mart parking lot were properly installed. The event, organized by the Wheeling Police Department, revealed that the figure was sharply lower than the national average of 20 percent. It was sponsored by the Village's Safe Communities Project, the Safe Kids organization and Stasek Chevrolet. The inspection followed a similar public-inspection day held at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, which was also conducted by the Wheeling Police Department.

"Results such as these illustrate the need for more such events and the necessity to certify even more technicians," said Corporal Michael

Rompala, who holds an inspection certification from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Community Drive Collects 39 Units of Blood

The November 10 Wheeling Community Blood Drive collected 39 units of blood for LifeSource, the blood center. It is estimated the 39 units will help 127 people in need of blood. The Wheeling Board of Health has extended its thanks to Hackney's, Don Roth's, Va-Pa-Ghetti's Pizzeria, Crawdaddy Bayou, Bob Chimn's Crab House and Market Square restaurants for their donations. Gift certificates and coupons are used to thank blood donors for their participation.

It's That Snow Plowing Time of the Year

When the snow starts to fall, the Public Works Department activates its Snow and Ice Removal Plan. Exactly what happens under the plan depends on the amount of precipitation that has fallen, what's predicted to fall, the temperature, the expected duration of the storm, and moisture content.

Both plowing and salt-spreading operations help control winter road hazards, with Village crews spreading more salt at intersections and around curves. The effectiveness of salt depends on traffic volume, pavement type (concrete or asphalt), shade patterns and temperature. Salt is less effective when the temperature dips to 25 degrees (F) and may have no effect at all in very cold temperatures.

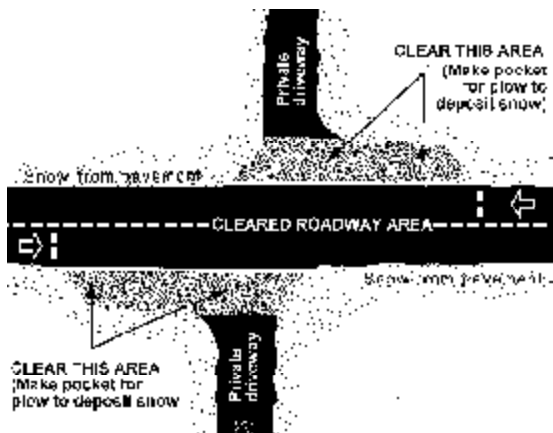
Not all roads within the Village are maintained by the Public Works Department. Questions about certain highways should be directed to the agencies responsible:

- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) 847-705-4222—Dundee Rd (Rte. 68), Elmhurst Rd (Rte. 83), Milwaukee Ave (Rtes 21/45), McHenry Rd (Rte. 83), Palatine Rd, Wolf Rd, Aptakisic Rd

- Cook County Highway Department, 847-827-1164—Lake Cook Rd, Wheeling Rd (south of Palatine Rd), Schoenbeck Rd, Hintz Rd, Camp McDonald Rd, Buffalo Grove Rd, Old Buffalo Grove Rd, Weiland Rd

Snow Reminders

- Please do not shovel or plow snow and ice



onto any Village street or public sidewalk. Fire hydrants also must be kept unobstructed for safety.

- Be sure to remind children playing in snow to keep well away from streets, which may be plowed at any time.
- Parking bans go into effect when snow reaches a depth of two inches and until plowing is finished.
- Removing snow and ice from sidewalks is the responsibility of every owner, occupant or anyone in charge of a building.

"Please do not shovel or plow snow and ice onto any Village street or public sidewalk."

When the Mercury Falls, Guard Your Pipes

Falling winter temperatures are potentially hazardous to your home's plumbing. Pipes located on outside walls and those in basements and crawl spaces are especially vulnerable. If they freeze, they can burst and lead to extensive damage and expensive repairs.

The Department of Public Works offers these suggestions to keep pipes intact and water running.

- Water meters—Wrap indoor water meters located in unheated areas, such as a crawl space, with foam insulation or heat tape. Check your meter periodically to ensure it doesn't have cracks or leaks.

If you have an outdoor meter pit, make sure the lid isn't broken or missing. The top of the meter pit lid should be level with the ground to prevent cold from penetrating on the side. Install a layer of insulation just below the meter pit lid.

Check to make sure the shut-off valves to your water meter are working properly so you can shut off the water in case a pipe bursts. Mark the valves with a prominent tag and be sure everyone in the house knows where the valves are and how to operate them in an emergency.

- Eliminate drafts—All crawl-space vents and doors should be closed, and broken or cracked basement windows should be repaired. Make sure that basement doors and windows form a tight seal when closed to keep out cold air.

- Insulate pipes—Insulating pipes in unheated areas of your home, including the crawl space, is inexpensive insurance against ruptured pipes. You can find good pipe-wrapping materials at hardware or building-supply stores.

- Leave faucet running—If you've experienced frozen pipes in the past when temperatures stayed near zero, keep a trickle of water running continuously from a cold-water tap. This will ensure that the water keeps flowing and the pipes don't burst. Keeping sink vanity or cabinet doors open will let warm air circulate around pipes located against outside walls.

New Brochure to Tout Wheeling Benefits

The Economic Development Department is readying a new promotional brochure to promote the advantages of locating a business and living in Wheeling. It will replace a five-year-old packet that had become outdated.

Chock full of information about economics, demographics and other data, the brochure will be aimed primarily at businesses seeking to situate in the Village. However, it has been designed to be flexible enough to provide appropriate information for anyone with questions about Wheeling.

Built around a pocketed cover, the brochure will contain the Village's 1999 Fact Book, also produced by the Economic Development Department. The Fact Book contains such information as education, public recreation, utilities, transportation, and community-wide services and assistance.

While the brochure's primary focus is business, it can be customized to include materials from the Chamber of Commerce, Village departments and other pertinent information. It will also be used to orient new and prospective residents.

Citizens Police Academy Scheduled for February

The first Citizens' Police Academy of the new millennium will open Wednesday, February 2. The 10-week course will give residents and those employed within the Village a firsthand look at police operations ranging from traffic stops and court procedures to evidence collection and crime prevention.

The academy is intended to educate citizens about the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system and increase understanding about the tasks performed by police officers. The instructors are police officers and other personnel, who teach in their areas of expertise.

The academy is open to anyone over 21 years of age who works or lives in the Village. Applicants are required to submit to a criminal background check before being accepted into the program. Applications are available at the Police Department, 255 W. Dundee Rd., or on the Village's Web site (www.vi.wheeling.il.us).

Economic Development Commission Includes Market Study, Brochure

Wheeling's new Economic Development Commission has had a busy and productive first year of activity, Chair John R. Flanagan reported.

The Commission started with a market study to assess the Village's competitive position and recommend opportunities for development. "It has improved our understanding of the marketplace. We have a better idea of what businesses are looking for and which of our properties provide the best opportunities for development," Flanagan said. The study was presented to the Village Board in October.

A new Village brochure, (see adjacent story) completed in December, targets the attraction and retention of businesses. It was created to dovetail effectively with the Village's redesigned Web site as a source of information about Wheeling's development opportunities.

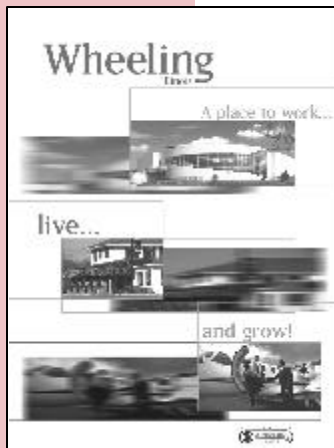
"We have many outstanding development opportunities in Wheeling," Flanagan said. "The Commission's challenge now is to provide the resources that will enable the Economic Development Department to market the Village effectively and aggressively. The market study, brochure and enhanced Web site give the Department some important tools."

Development of the Milwaukee corridor TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district has been one of the Economic Development Department's major concerns. TIF is an instrument to promote economic development of high-priority areas through financing of public improvements and provision of economic incentives.

Designate Additional TIF Districts

The Economic Development Commission believes Wheeling should designate additional TIF districts along Milwaukee Avenue, according to Flanagan. The market study recommends some alternative sites for consideration.

Other Economic Development Commission activities include advocating construction of a second track for the Wisconsin Central railway tracks. With only one track, Metra cannot bring trains to Wheeling from Chicago in the morning as commuters travel into the city. "Double-tracking would



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Commission's Busy Year Culture, Web Site Redesign

enhance Wheeling's attractiveness to businesses drawing on Chicago's labor pool," Flanagan said.

Wheeling's many strengths as a site for economic development include its famous Restaurant Row, Palwaukee Airport and its proximity to O'Hare Airport and to major highway arteries I-294 and Route 53. In addition, the Village boasts a good infrastructure and a solid manufacturing base that provides job stability, according to William D. Whittier, Director of Economic Development.

Development
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Manufacturing Major Employer

Manufacturing accounts for 49 percent of employment for Wheeling residents, compared to only 19 percent in Cook County as a whole, according to statistics from the Illinois Department of Employment Security quoted in the Village Fact Book prepared by the Economic Development Department. The Fact Book also pegs Wheeling's July 1999 unemployment rate at 3.3 percent, compared to 4.5 percent for metropolitan Chicago and 4.7 percent for Illinois. The Fact Book shows how Wheeling's share of the total property tax rate declined from 15.6 percent in 1988 to 9.0 percent in 1997.

"We have a very diversified middle-class economy here. Sometimes developers and businesses don't appreciate Wheeling's unique strengths. We are taking a proactive approach to the marketplace," said Whittier.

Important developments during the year included Solo Cup Co.'s doubling of the size of its Wheeling factory, increasing employment to 200 from 100. Wheeling has 62 companies that employ 100 or more people, led by Tenneco Packaging, which employs 600 in three plant locations.

The addition of Tuscan restaurant and plans to create a culinary school called The French Culinary Experience will add to the reputation of Restaurant Row, where legendary chef Jean Banchet made news with his return to Le Francais in mid-1999.

Welcome New Business, New Business Owners

The Village of Wheeling welcomes the following new businesses:

New Businesses

North American Jet, Inc.—Kenneth Ross, President, 1011 S. Wolf Rd., 808-0812, fixed-base operator, charter & maintenance services

Express Title & Payday Loans Inc.—Roman Sidelnikov, 251 E. Dundee Rd. #N/E, 215-4850, short-term loans

Unidex Group Inc.—Jong H. Kim, 797 Glenn Ave., 215-0300, distributor of packaging goods

XDX Innovative Refrigeration—David Wightman, 830 Seton Ctr., 279-2388, refrigeration equipment manufacturing

Nagano International Corporation—Yoshitaka Nagano, President, 150 Chaddock Dr., 537-0011, distributor of automotive metal fittings

VJ Industrial—Paul Janusz, 500 Harvester Ct., #1, 520-4462, CNC machining, customer shower accessories, trophies

CorpNet Communications—Dima Kott, 307 S. Milwaukee Ave., #113, 532-7502, network sales

Slseek Hair Beauty Salon—Coulam Khan, 850 S. Wheeling Rd., 293-2195

All-Tex Industries—Steven Greenberg, 270 Larkin Dr., #B, 459-2000, distributor of fasteners/itens

R&O Laundry Inc. doing business as Dirty Duds—Laurence Rudnick and Rodger O'Connell, 741-745 Dundee Rd., 808-9222

New owner

Jeffrey Lanes—Christine Latzke, 125 N. Wolf Rd., 537-5370

Zapateria Leon—Ignacia Rodriguez, 1950 S. Wolf Rd., 465-0574

New location

Walgreens—10 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"(IDOT) redesigned the intersection to accommodate three lanes and permit more vehicles to pass through...this was the most effective approach to facilitate the large volumes of vehicles..."

Speak Out: Answers to Our Most Frequently Asked Questions

What's on your mind? Each issue of Village Views contains a "Speak Out" form giving residents a vehicle to ask questions and obtain answers. The Village Manager or appropriate department heads personally respond to all questions and comments.

The following represent some of the questions and answers received in recent months. They are presented as having general interest to the community at large.

Q Why was the additional third lane installed on Dundee Rd. immediately west of Milwaukee Ave.? Motorists sometimes use it as a fast lane to beat other traffic.

A As part of the widening of Milwaukee Ave., the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

redesigned the intersection to accommodate three lanes and permit more vehicles to pass through the intersection during each green phase of the traffic signals. Unfortunately, there are only two lanes to the east and west, meaning traffic must merge from three lanes to two. While this is not the ideal situation, IDOT determined this was the most effective approach to facilitate the large volumes of vehicles that use the intersection. After the roadway was opened, the Village encouraged additional signage and lane marking to clarify the merge.

Q Is it legal for our condominium association to forbid us to park our commercial van in our driveway? They also tell us we cannot park our van in the street, only in the driveway.

A The Wheeling Municipal Code bans parking on public streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and parking commercial vehicles in a residential district. The code also defines overnight parking restrictions within planned, multifamily developments. These ordinances apply to the entire Village, in addition to any rules in place for your condominium association.

Q Why don't landlords provide recycling facilities for their tenants?

A The current waste-hauling contract provides for recycling but does not require it. Multifamily recycling is addressed, but it is implemented by the building management. We will work with your building management to develop a recycling program if requested. It may also be helpful for you to direct your request to the management of your apartment complex.

Q Who maintains the shoulders of Old McHenry Rd. between Lexington and Elmhurst?

A As a state highway (Rte. 83), this area is the responsibility of the Illinois Department of Transportation. The Wheeling Public Works Department notifies IDOT about any problems that may arise. IDOT then schedules any required maintenance.

Q What can be done to stop trains from blasting their horns after 10 p.m.?

You Are Invited

"Dancing to the Future" presented by the Wheeling Special Events Committee

Dance to the music of

Larry Bemben's Big Band Orchestra

February 13, 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.,
Chevy Chase Country Club, Main Ballroom
A buffet will feature a festive selection of appetizers
starting at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$30 per person and will be on sale at Village Hall
November 1 - February 1. To order, mail your payment along with
a self-addressed stamped envelope to

Trustee Judy Abruscato, P.O. 893 F, Wheeling.

Checks should be made payable to Village of Wheeling Special
Events Committee. Tickets also may be purchased in person at
Village Hall with cash, check or Discover Card. A service
charge applies to credit card transactions.
For more information call Trustee Abruscato

847-541-8783.

Community Calendar

Residents are invited to attend public meetings of the following Village boards and commissions . Most meet in the Village Hall Council Chambers (unless otherwise noted).

Village Board – Mondays , 7:30 p.m.

Plan Commission – Second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 7 p.m.

Board of Health – Fourth Tuesday, every other month, 7 p.m.

Human Rights Commission – Third Tuesday of the month, Village Hall lunch room, 7:15 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.

Senior Citizens Commission – Third Monday of the month, Pavilion Senior Center, 10 a.m.

Fire and Police Commission – Third Tuesday of the month, Fire Department Conference Room, 7 p.m.

Palwaukee Airport Commission – Third Wednesday of the month, Committee of the Whole meeting, 7 p.m., regular meeting, 8 p.m., Airport offices, 1020 South Plant Rd.

Economic Development Commission– First Tuesday of each month, 8 a.m. , Village Hall lunch room.

Board of Ethics – Third Thursday of the month in January, April, July and October, 7 p.m. , south half of Village Hall lunch room.

Special Events Committee – Second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. , Village Hall lunch room.

December 31 —
Village offices closed for New Year's holiday.

February 1 —
Last day to purchase tickets at Village Hall for "Dancing to the Future." Call 541-8783

February 2—
Citizens Police Academy 10-week course begins. Call 459-2632.

February 13 —
"Dancing to the Future," Chevy Chase Country Club, 8 p.m.

February 21 —
Village offices closed for Presidents Day.

February 14 —
Happy Valentine's Day!

Dance to the music of Larry Bemben's Big Band Orchestra at "Dancing to the Future," February 13, 7:30 p.m. - 11:30p.m., Chevy Chase Country Club, Main Ballroom.

A The village of Wheeling has explored the possibility of regulating the sounding of train whistles in our community. While it appears that the Village could regulate the use of train whistles, doing so would incur significant potential liability should an accident occur at a grade crossing where train whistles are not sounded. As a result, the Village has chosen not to attempt to regulate the use of train whistles. The Wisconsin Central will be contacted regarding your complaint. In the past, the railroad has endeavored to eliminate unnecessary use of train whistles. However, because of the inherent danger associated with grade crossings, the train whistle must be sounded to some extent, even at night.

SPEAK OUT

Communicate with Wheeling elected officials and administrators. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive response. Please complete this form, detach and return to: Village Manager, Village of Wheeling, 255 W Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Comment _____

Meet the Zoning Board of Appeals

Some of the most intense debates that occur in the Village center on zoning questions. When they arise, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) steps in to interpret and enforce the Wheeling Zoning Code, which was established in 1964 to guide effective land use for the entire community.

As an advisory body to the Board of Trustees, the ZBA hears requests for variations from the Zoning Code and resolves issues involving land-use disputes. The board also recommends changes to the code.

"Once the ZBA makes a decision, it suggests what action, if any, might be taken by the Board of Trustees," says Mike Klitzke, who acts as the Village's Zoning Administrator. "Based on input from the ZBA, the Trustees can make an informed decision.

Despite the passions that sometimes surround zoning questions, Klitzke says, "the facts are what are important when decisions affect the entire community."

ZBA members serve three-year terms on a rotating basis.

ZBA Members

George Hieber
George Hernandez
Ray Lang
John McKeachan
Stu Shapiro
David Fijalkowski

Thermal Cameras Pressed Into Service

The Wheeling Fire Department has begun using two recently purchased thermal imaging cameras. They use infrared heat-seeking technology to locate people in smoke-filled buildings, identify fire hot spots and detect potential fire sources otherwise hidden from view.

Purchased with citizen contributions and funds appropriated by the Board of Trustees, the two cameras are kept in the lead trucks in the

Department's two fire stations. The cameras will be deployed with two-person teams in the event of a fire in which people are believed to be trapped.

"Flashlights are almost useless in a fire that contains a lot of particles," said Lieutenant Richard Wydra. "In those situations, we have to enter a smoke-filled room and locate possible victims by feel. It's time-consuming and dangerous."

The cameras will reduce search time and more efficiently locate people, especially children who often hide in closets to escape flames. The cameras disclose the presence of people by detecting differences in body temperature from the surroundings. The cameras are sufficiently sensitive to identify where a person has been standing from the "hot spots" left by their feet.

While the cameras function primarily as life-saving tools in the event of a fire, they are also useful in fire prevention. They can identify such invisible fire hazards as the "ballast" used to drive fluorescent light fixtures. Faulty ballast generates heat and can be virtually undetectable by feel or direct observation.



Lt. Richard Wydra aims one of the Village's two thermal-imaging cameras at a gas-stove burner. What he sees in the viewfinder reveals any heat source and even provides a readout of the source's temperature.

VILLAGE OF WHEELING

255 WEST DUNDEE ROAD ● WHEELING, IL 60090
 847/459-2600 ● TDD 847/459-2987
 WEB SITE: WWW.VI.WHEELING.IL.US

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| Fire/Police/Paramedics | 911 |
| Non-emergency Fire | 459-2662 |
| Non-emergency Police | 459-2632 |
| Community Development | 459-2620 |
| Economic Development | 459-2978 |
| Pavilion Senior Center | 459-2670 |
| Public Works | 459-2624 |
| Water Billing | 459-2607 |
| Village President: Greg Klatecki | 459-2988 |
| Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson | 541-8692 |
| Village Manager: Craig Anderson | 459-2617 |

Trustees

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| Judy Abruscato | 541-8783 | Trevor Lehmann | 541-6700 |
| Robert Heer | 541-4274 | William Spangenberg | 520-1019 |
| Patrick Horcher | 419-1956 | Wayne Wisinski | 394-3432 |

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Local Postal Patron
 Wheeling, IL 60090