

Village Views

Wheeling, Illinois

January ~ February ~ 2005

Village Board approves redevelopment agreement for Westin Northshore project

After more than nine months of brainstorming and planning, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a redevelopment agreement with Mid-America Investment and Development and the Harp Group to build the Westin North Shore Hotel complex at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road. The complex is slated to occupy the 21.5 acres that currently consists of the former Wedgewood Riding Center, a vacant lot, the former Wonder Bread outlet and the former AAA Auto Sales Center.

The redevelopment agreement contains several guarantees for the Village. If construction does not begin, the land will become property of the Village and, while there is no formal mention of the Westin brand in the agreement, it does guarantee a four-or five-star hotel. The only potential deal breaker relates to the discovery of unexpected environmental hazards.

Mid-America's Michael Firsell is confident his development team can build the 400-plus room and hotel and surrounding complex and expects final land acquisitions to be complete by February 1. Weather permitting, land clearing will begin this winter with construction beginning sometime between March and May.



Construction on the Westin Northshore is scheduled to begin next spring. Hugo's Frog Bar and a Claim Jumper Restaurant are among the accompanying retail developments that will make-up the complex.



*On behalf of the Village President,
Clerk, Board of Trustees and Staff, we
wish you and yours a healthy, happy
and safe holiday season and a
prosperous new year.*



The New Dawns from Wheeling High School serenaded a festive crowd at the Village's annual 'Lighting of the Lights' recently.

Wheeling Police, high school drivers education instructors team up to promote safe driving

In an effort to ensure new drivers are prepared for the challenges of operating a vehicle alone, the Wheeling Police Department has teamed up with the Wheeling High School drivers education instructors to promote safe and responsible driving.

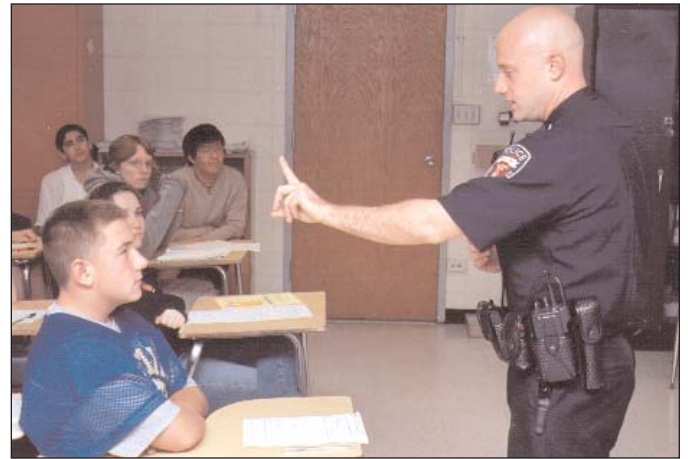
According to the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety, motor vehicle crashes result in the most deaths in people who are 16 to 20-years-old. That said, both the instructors at WHS and the officers who assist them, are determined to put a dent in those statistics.

“We hire the best staff and ensure we only teach the most up-to-date curriculum available,” said Tom Schwab, drivers education instructor. “The lessons we teach the students will be some of the most valuable learned during their years at Wheeling High. Unlike traditional school subjects, the results of not doing your homework here could result in injuries or death.”

For the last several years, Wheeling Police representatives have been conducting a safety awareness program on the last day of class. “This has been a very valuable partnership because it gives us an opportunity to come in talk with the students in a relaxed atmosphere,” said Sgt. Peter Panagakis, Crime Prevention Unit. “The students open up to us and ask some great questions that they may not have had the opportunity to do so if we were not there.”

The program covers topics such as most common traffic offenses by a juvenile [speeding, failure to yield, etc.], traffic accidents, seat belt laws, DUI laws and zero tolerance, how to handle oneself during a traffic stop and other safety-oriented lessons.

“Our physical participation with the drivers education program has afforded us the opportunity to hammer home the responsibility one must accept to operate a motor vehicle. Hopefully, our combined efforts [with WHS staff] have prevented a few fender benders or speeding tickets,” Panagakis added.



Officer Rich Herdus Jr. demonstrates one of the techniques an officer uses when determining a driver’s sobriety level. Wheeling Police officials have been conducting a safety awareness program on the final day of Wheeling High School Driver’s Education classes.



Waste Management will collect Christmas trees for recycling the first two weeks in January. Trees will be picked up on your regularly scheduled yard waste pickup days. In order to be recycled, lights and tinsel must be removed. If you utilize a bag to remove the tree from your house, please remove the tree from the bag before placing it curbside.

Police Department hosts community beat meetings

The Wheeling Police Department will begin hosting community beat meetings in January. The meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. and be held in Council Chambers, 255 W. Dundee Road. Community Beat Meetings are an opportunity for residents and Wheeling business owners to meet with Wheeling police officers and solve problems together. Citizen concerns will be addressed and methods to resolve these issues will be discussed in a positive manner. All members of the community are invited to participate in these open meetings.

The following is a schedule for each beat.

Beat 1 (east of the railroad tracks and north of Dundee Road)

1st Wednesday of each month;

Beat 2 (east of the railroad tracks, between Dundee Road and Hintz Road)

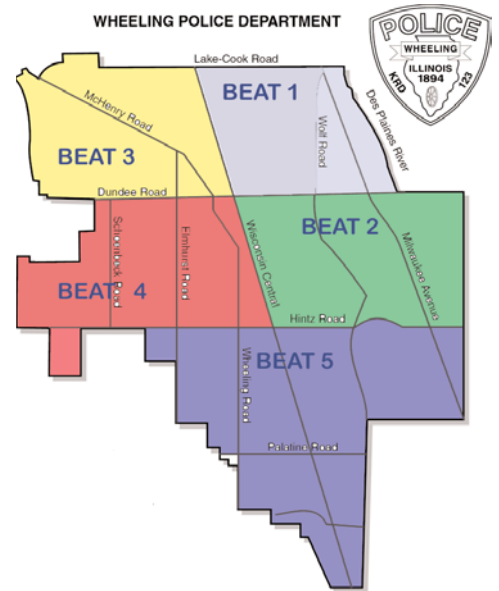
2nd Wednesday of each month;

Beat 3 (west of the railroad tracks and north of Dundee Road)

3rd Wednesday of each month;

Beat 4 (west of the railroad tracks, between Dundee Road and Hintz Road, and west of Schoenbeck south of Hintz) - 4th Wednesday of each month;

Beat 5 (south of Hintz Road and east of Sherwood) - 2nd Tuesday of each month.



If residents have a concern that needs to be discussed at a beat meeting, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit of the Wheeling Police Department at (847) 459-2679 to ensure your topic is placed on the agenda. This also gives us time to investigate your concern and gather information which may help resolve the problem in a timely manner.



Ellen Butor Way

The Village of Wheeling unveiled 'Ellen Butor Way' during a ceremony December 3, 2004 at the Dundee Road entrance to One Milwaukee Place. The honorary street memorialized Ellen Butor, a former plan commissioner who was instrumental in the planning and building of the condominium development at the corner of Dundee and Milwaukee.

? ? ? ? Did You Know



The Wheeling Police Department would like to remind both pedestrians and motorists that there are now two railroad tracks in operation across Dundee Road. Trains will be running on either track in either direction, quite possibly crossing Dundee Road at the same time. Pedestrians need to be diligent when crossing tracks to make sure the first train has cleared the crossing before starting across the tracks. Quite possibly another train could be approaching on an adjacent track.

Motorists also need to be cautious when crossing the tracks. Make sure the first train has cleared and the crossing protection devices have ceased operation.

Operation Lifesaver, a nationwide organization that teaches railroad crossing safety reminds all motorists and pedestrians to “Look, Listen and Live” when crossing railroad tracks.

In an effort to remind the public of the dangers of railroad crossings, the Village of Wheeling Police Department and Public Works Department recently installed warning signs on Dundee Road at the sidewalk crossings of the railroad tracks reminding pedestrians to watch for trains in both directions on either track.



THIS PARK IS DEDICATED TO
THE LARK FAMILY
IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR
MANY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING

Lark Park

Work was recently completed on the Village’s newest ‘pocket park’ along Milwaukee Avenue. The park, dedicated to the Lark Family, memorializes Lorraine and her son Scott. Lorraine was an advocate for the Village in many capacities including serving as Village Clerk and Scott worked in the Public Works Department for more than 25 years and was the Water Division Supervisor when he passed away suddenly this past year.



Pavilion
Senior Center
199 N. First St.
847-459-2670

The Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling announces the following program that will be offered to area senior citizens. Anyone 55-years or older is welcome to join the activities or volunteer services to assist or share talents with others.

AARP Defensive Driving Classes

An AARP volunteer will be at the Pavilion to instruct a defensive driving class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday January 5th and 12th. Upon completion of the class, you will be able to contact your insurance carrier for a discount on the liability portion of your car insurance. There is a \$10 fee and reservations are strongly recommended.

Senior Tax Assistance

AARP volunteers will be on-hand to assist seniors with income tax filing from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays (February 2 to April 13). Appointments must be made and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Returns will be prepared for seniors who have low to moderate income not exceeded \$60,000 annually. Circuit Breaker forms and Senior Tax Exemption forms may be brought at the same time if you have received them in the mail. There is no fee for this service.

Lunch & Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

We'll be traveling to Lake Geneva for some warm and toasty fun from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, February 3. Join us for a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the beautiful woods of Lake Geneva followed by lunch at the Red Geranium. There is a \$40 fee and reservations are recommended.

Call the Pavilion Senior Center for ongoing activities and services.

The Wheeling Board of Health would like to thank everyone who participated in the Wheeling Community Blood Drive on November 10, 2004. There were 40 units of blood collected from the 42 individuals that attended the blood drive. We are very pleased with these results and look to continue to improve the turn out to these events.

The Wheeling Board of Health would also like to thank Hackney's in Wheeling, Don Roth's, Wa Pa Ghetti's Pizza and Bob Chinn's CrabHouse Restaurant for their donations to blood drive. Their support is greatly appreciated by everyone involved with the Wheeling Community Blood Drive.

Tis the Season!



Wheeling's finest did their best S. Clause impersonations as they served as personal shopping guides for 25 deserving youths at the Wheeling Wal-Mart December 11. Using grants from the Police and Fire Benevolency Funds and Wal-Mart, each child received \$100 to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves and their families.

THANK YOU!

Quiet on the set; Village staff, WHS electronic media students produce additional programming for Channel 17

Oprah and Leno move over, there's a new show coming to TV sets in the near future. The Village of Wheeling's public access cable channel is going primetime thanks to a unique partnership with Wheeling High School. Wheeling High School's electronic media classes began working on a variety of public safety announcements and a video magazine show highlighting various aspects of the Village in November and will continue writing, filming and editing the original programming after holiday break.

Currently, Channel 17 is primarily used for broadcasting Village meetings and a continuous scroll of local events and happenings. According to James Lang, Public Relations Coordinator, this partnership will dramatically enhance the current program schedule.

"It has been a goal of mine to create a show for Channel 17 that would be less formal than a Board meeting and give our viewers a different look at their Village," Lang said. "When I learned that the high school had an electronic media department with some extremely talented students I decided to at least explore the possibility of creating a production team."

Lang, who has hosted cable shows for previous communities during his career, was admittedly skeptical in that the success of the show would be largely on the shoulders of high school students and not television professionals.

"I was willing to explore the possibility of working together, but didn't know what to expect in terms of production, camera and editing ability from the students," he said. "However, the electronic media instructors, Jeff Bott and Mike Geist, not only assured me their students were talented, but they showed me samples of their work that proved it."

The students currently produce, write, film and edit morning announcements for WCAT along with other projects covering various school-related activities. The production of PSA's and a show for the Village's cable channel will provide 'real-life' experience and insight into producing a variety of shows.

"Wheeling High School is very proud to take part in the partnership with the Village," said Geist. "Our department continually strives to include opportunities for students to engage in 'real world' experiences. This type of partnership is extremely unique and allows our students opportunities far beyond any high school media experience I have witnessed."



Settling Solution

Jerry Edwards adjusts a tombstone within its limestone screening foundation at Wheeling Cemetery. Public Works officials recently met with representatives from Gast Monuments to devise the most efficient strategy for repairing/resetting monuments that had either eroded due to age or damaged due to past incidents of vandalism. Public Works employees were able to reset some of the broken stones using a limestone screening technique before the ground froze. Village officials will monitor the effectiveness of the technique throughout the winter months and continue the repair process in the spring.



The ground may be frozen during these coming winter months but the same may not hold true for ground water, your sump pump may continue to run. Sump pump discharge is not typically a problem during the Spring, Summer and Fall months. The discharge will either run off to collection by a storm sewer system or percolate into the ground. However during Winter water cannot percolate into the ground and if it doesn't reach a storm sewer the result is icing. It is incumbent on the property owner to ensure that sump pump discharge is not directed at an adjoining property or public right-of-way. If you have any questions regarding sump pump discharge, please contact the Engineering Department at 459-2985.

Speak ouT

This is your opportunity to communicate with Wheeling elected officials and administrators.

Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and will receive a response if desired. Please complete this form, detach and return to:

Village Manager
Village of Wheeling
255 W. Dundee Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

(Inquiries and responses may be used for publication in future issues of 'Village Views.')

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Residents are invited to attend public meetings of Village Boards and Commissions.

Most meet in the Village Hall Councilroom unless otherwise noted here.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Village Board -
Every Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Plan Commission -
2nd & 4th Thursdays
of the month, 7 p.m.

Board of Health -
4th Tuesday, every other
month, 7 p.m.

Human Rights Commission -
1st Tuesday of the month,
7:15 p.m., south half of
Village Hall lunchroom.

Senior Citizens Commission -
3rd Monday of the month,
10 a.m., south half of Village
Hall lunchroom

Fire and Police Commission -
3rd Wednesday of the Month,
2 p.m., Fire Department
Training Room

Palwaukee Airport Commission -
3rd Wednesday each month,
Committee of the Whole, 7 p.m.;
Regular meeting, 8 p.m., Airport
Offices, 1020 S. Plant Road.

**Economic Development
Commission -**
1st Tuesday of the month, 7:30 a.m.,
south half of Village Hall
lunchroom



PAWS for thanks

The Wheeling Police Department's K-9 Unit was the recent recipient of a \$1,000 donation from the Wheeling Sam's Club to be used towards the acquisition of new equipment and enhanced training. Sgt. Michael Porzycki and Sabre are well-known fixtures in the community and thank Sam's Club for their generous donation.

Village enacts scooter ban

A lack of state regulation as well as the growing potential for accidents prompted the Village of Wheeling to restrict the use of motorized skateboards and scooters within Village boundaries. The scooters, which have increased substantially in popularity with teenagers, are not classified as a license-required vehicle by the state and therefore not regulated by traffic laws.

"The Village has banned the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) and dirt bikes on Village streets for several years, but the new scooters were not addressed specifically," said Corporal Joe Schaff, Traffic Unit Supervisor. "Essentially, the scooters became an issue during the last 12 to 15 months due to their increased popularity."

If an individual is caught riding a motorized skateboard or scooter, the device could be confiscated and a ticket could be issued. As this is a traffic offense, the offender would be required to appear in court and/or pay any associated fines. These devices can only be operated on private property with the owner's consent.

"Adding motorized skateboards and scooters to the list of restricted vehicles in the Village was for the safety of the operators," said John Popadowski, Police Chief. "Roadways like Dundee and Milwaukee are heavily traveled and the addition of a small, unregulated vehicle with a youthful operator just had too much potential for danger."

Wheeling is not alone in restricting the scooters as Rolling Meadows and Cook County recently enacted restrictions on scooters, pocket bikes and motorized skateboards.



Electric scooters like this model have been banned from Wheeling's streets.

Village of Wheeling

255 W. Dundee Road ~ Wheeling, IL 60090

847-459-2600 ~ TDD 847-459-2987

www.vi.wheeling.il.us

Fire/Police/Paramedics

Non-emergency Fire	847-459-2662
Non-emergency Police	847-459-2632
Community Development	847-459-2620
Economic Development	847-459-2978
Pavilion Senior Center	847-459-2670
Public Works	847-459-2624
Water Billing	847-459-2607
Code Enforcement Hotline	847-459-CODE
Palwaukee Municipal Airport Noise Hotline	847-537-2580, ext. 159
Village President: Greg Klatecki	847-459-2988
Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson	847-541-8692
Village Manager: Wallace Douthwaite	847-459-2617

Trustees

Judy Abruscato: 847-541-8783	Michael Horcher: 847-541-3276
Dean Argiris: 847-845-6990	Patrick Horcher: 847-331-4234
Robert Heer: 847-541-4274	Trevor Lehmann: 847-484-2424

911

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