



Village Views



Wheeling Illinois

November ~ December ~ 2004

Wheeling President highlights 2004, anticipates continued progress in 2005



Before we become engulfed with holiday activities and turn our calendars to 2005, I wanted to revisit a few moments that stood out that contributed to 2004 being an outstanding year for our Village.



Our Village continued to grow as additional retail and residential developments came to fruition. Astor Place is near completion and our newest residential developments, Prairie Park and the single family home division on Schoenbeck Road are taking

shape. In fact, the homes on Schoenbeck sold out before the first foundation was poured proving that more families are finding that we truly are a 'Community of Choice.' Northstar Plaza assumed its place along Milwaukee Ave.



enhancing what is commonly known as Restaurant Row and our prosperous industrial population welcomed a new neighbor in MC Steel, which is currently under construction. Undoubtedly, the biggest and most exciting news was unveiled in March as

the announcement was made that the Westin Northshore was seeking to call Wheeling home.

Planning for the 440-plus room hotel, banquet and entertainment plaza are on schedule and we could see a ground breaking late this year, weather permitting. This new development will not only create jobs, but have an immense economic impact on the entire surrounding area.

The Metra Station Area Planning Study Project Committee, comprised of elected and appointed Village officials, Village staff, Park District representatives and local business leaders, worked diligently with consultants, the Regional Transit Authority, PACE and Metra on a land-use study around the Metra Station in creating a plan that will develop a true downtown area while utilizing our public transportation resource.

With development and redevelopment projects changing the face of Wheeling, we strived to increase the services we provide for you, the residents. Our police department increased its presence in the community with the opening of the Neighborhood Resource Center at 99 Wolf Road. A multi-housing crime free program and youth police academy were created to enhance the communication and cooperation efforts between police officers and residents. The fire department received the Residential Fire Safety Institute's Life Safety Achievement Award and Fire Chief Keith MacIssac received the Northern Illinois Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and the Illinois Fire Prevention Association Wayne Leucht Memorial Award for

Continued on Page 6



The Wheeling Special Events Commission invites the residents of Wheeling to kick off this year's holiday season with the 8th annual 'Lighting of the Lights Celebration' at 6 p.m. November 21 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The New Dawns from Wheeling High School will perform seasonal selections, a certain couple from the North Pole will drop by and revelers can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies provided by Market Square Restaurant. The event culminates with the official lighting of the Village with more than 75,000 lights being turned on in the village at the same time. Lights at Village Hall, Friendship Park Fountain, and along Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue will be lit simultaneously officially ushering in the holidays. Individuals are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Village's Toys for Tots annual campaign.

Westin-Northshore Hotel project on schedule

According to the Builders of the Westin North Shore hotel, most of the preliminary project studies are complete and businesses have already committed to being part of the project.

Michael Firsel, principal of Mid-America Investment and Development Company and Peter Dumon, Harp Group, addressed the Village Board at a late September meeting to update and trustees and residents regarding progress.

"We currently have three restaurants that want to locate in the hotel and convention center complex with one expected to generate between \$10 million and \$12 million in annual sales," said Firsel. Firsel could not divulge the name of the restaurants as no formal lease agreements had been signed.

Dumon informed the Board that the hotel will consist



of 441 rooms and stand at 18 stories when complete and that layout details such as executive and presidential suite designs were ongoing.

Residents could see demolition and site grading of the site at the intersection of Milwaukee and Lake Cook by late fall, early winter, weather permitting. Developers maintain that a 2006 grand opening is still a reachable goal.

Lights, Camera, Action; Wheeling goes Hollywood

Individuals who want to take a closer look at Wheeling can now do so without driving to the northwest suburbs thanks to a promotional video the Village recently launched on its website, www.vi.wheeling.il.us. The video, which features a welcome from President Greg Klatecki and highlights economic development, parks and recreation/education and shopping and dining was a collaborative effort between CGI

Communications and the Village's Public Relations Department.

"It's an extremely creative and innovative way to promote our Village," said James Lang, Public Relations Coordinator. "It was a little challenging being that CGI [Communications] is based in Rochester, New York, but the end product speaks for itself and I am proud to have been a part of the team that produced the inaugural streaming video presentation."

The video is accessible to anyone with internet access and is powered by e-LocalLink Internet TV. Visitors to the Village's website can click on the streaming video icon on the homepage and be immediately taken to the production. The streaming video program automatically detects the visitor's computer and internet connection speeds and launches the video accordingly.

"It's fairly easy to access, even for individuals who might not use a computer that often," Lang added. "The video will change on a monthly basis as new chapters are added and/or updated as the Village continues to grow and evolve."

The cost of the video was completely subsidized by the sale of promotional banners featuring Wheeling businesses and organizations. Installation of the new

was complete by the start of September.

"I am ecstatic with the video and the promotional capabilities are endless, especially as we add chapters throughout the year," said Klatecki. "It's just another example of how Wheeling is trying to continually improve and be more proactive in marketing ourselves...we have a lot to be proud of."



Visitors to the Village of Wheeling website, www.vi.wheeling.il.us, can see now watch a streaming video of our village. The video features a welcome from President Klatecki and highlights economic development, parks and recreation/education and shopping and dining.

Wheeling Fire Department offers holiday safety tips

With changes in the weather, shorter amounts of daylight, and family gatherings, each of us is faced with a season of fun, excitement, and unfortunately hidden dangers. By taking a few simple precautions, winter can remain a season of wonder for you and your family.

Have your furnace or home heating boiler professionally serviced before the hardest part of winter occurs. You will minimize the risk of it failing at the worst possible time, reduce the risk of fire, and prevent the release of potentially lethal Carbon Monoxide (CO) into your home.

Have your fireplace or wood burning stove professionally cleaned and inspected. Over time, creosote (non-burned tree sap and ash) collects along the inside walls of the chimney. This results in reduced ventilation, high temperatures within the chimney, and eventually, the creosote will ignite. An uncontrolled fire within the chimney can cause destruction and/or damage of the chimney, as well as the potential for fire, smoke, and Carbon Monoxide (CO) to enter your home. Make sure your fireplace has a set of properly sealing screens or doors, in order to maintain sparks within the fireplace. Never dispose of holiday wrappings and/or boxes in a fireplace or wood burning stove. Ashes must be allowed to cool for a minimum of 48 hours, before disposing of them in your garbage.

Candles, matches, and lighters should be placed out of the reach of children. In homes with pets such as cats and dogs, candles should only be placed in areas where they are not likely to be knocked over. Candles should not be left unattended. Blow them out, when you leave the room. Use of candles on Christmas trees (particularly live trees) should be avoided.

Forget the diamonds! Nothing says, "I care about you" more than a smoke detector, fire extinguisher, and/or a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector. Each home should have a functioning smoke detector in each bedroom, hallway, stairway, family/living room, and basement. A multi-purpose fire extinguisher should be kept in the kitchen, garage, and basement. Each level of your home should have a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector equipped with a digital read-out. Take the time to read the instruction manual that came with each item and show other members of your home how they work, as well as what actions they should take in the event of an actual emergency.

Give your existing smoke detectors a holiday gift - a new battery! A properly working smoke detector increases the chances of you and your family surviving a fire in your home by 50%.

Put together a "family disaster plan" that will keep your family going for a minimum of three days. Have non-perishable food that can be prepared and opened without electricity or requiring cooking. lights and lanterns, in lieu of candles should the electricity go out.

Keep a supply of bottled water on hand, four bottles per day per person in your home. Use battery powered flashlights and lanterns, in lieu of candles should the electricity go out. Start the season with fresh batteries and be sure to keep an extra supply on hand. For more information on developing a "family disaster plan" go to: www.fema.gov/pdf/library/yfdp.pdf.

When removing snow from your driveway, pace yourself. Make sure to keep yourself hydrated - have a big glass of water before you going outside and again when you come back inside. Do not reach into stuck snow blower blades, even if you think the unit is shut-off. Do not wear loose, hanging clothing (ex. scarf) when working around a snow blower to avoid it being caught up into the machine. Refuel snow blowers outside of your garage and only when the engine has had time to cool down. When using snow blowers, keep children and pets away from the blowing snow to avoid being hit by chunks of ice, chipped concrete, and/or rocks. Do not push, shovel, plow, or blow snow into the street - it is illegal and creates hazards to motorists. Be sure to also clear off your sidewalk to assure a "slip free" path for children to get to and from school or to and from the school bus.

Have children play in the snow in your backyard or close to the house in the front yard. Do not let them play in the snow mounds by the parkway, street, or driveway. There is always the potential for children to fall off these mounds and into the path of on-coming traffic. When driving down snow-covered streets, always be prepared for children that may step out from around snow mounds into the street.

No parking is allowed on any Village of Wheeling street for eight hours after a snowfall of two inches or more. This allows the Public Works Department to plow all of the streets and keep access open to your home, in case of an emergency. Help us to help you by moving your car out of the way.

Use holiday lights that are only in good condition (no missing bulbs, broken wires, and/or damaged plugs) and are approved by an independent testing firm such as, Underwriters Laboratory (U.L.). Only replace damaged or burnt out bulbs with bulbs specifically designed for that purpose. Unplug holiday lights when you leave the room and/or home for an extended period. You will not only save energy and money, you will minimize the potential for a holiday fire. Do not overload electrical outlets or place extension cords under rugs or furniture.

If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1 (by using a hard-wired telephone or cellular telephone) immediately. Speak slowly and give the dispatcher the nature of your emergency, your address, and a call back telephone number. Meet the Police Department and/or Fire Department out in front of your home, if possible.

Do not drink and drive. Celebrate the holidays responsibly and welcome in a safe, New Year in 2005!

Did You Know?

Certain things are guaranteed in the Chicagoland area.....shopping is magnificent, dining and entertainment is abundant and the Cubs?.....well, you know the rest. Another guarantee is that Wheeling will receive a snow-fall sometime this winter that necessitates either salting, plowing or both. As soon as the first northern blast of winter heads our way, members of our Public Works crews put on their warmest hats and gloves and get to work. Here are some guidelines regarding our procedures for clearing the inevitable white stuff.

The Public Works Department is responsible for clearing 65 miles of Village streets as quickly and safely as possible after the snow stops. Here are some ways you can help them:

1. Don't park on the street or in public parking lots after a 2-inch or more snowfall; you could be ticketed and towed away.

2. When you shovel your driveway, put the snow on the right side of your drive as you face the street...then the plows won't push as much snow back into your driveway.
3. Don't shovel or blow snow into the street.
4. If a contractor plows your driveway, the snow must be stored on your property, not your neighbor's.
5. Maintain a safe distance (100-feet or more) when traveling behind a snow plowing or salting truck.

The Village is not responsible for the majority of the major roadways utilized throughout the Village. The following streets are IDOT's responsibility to clear:

Dundee Road, Milwaukee Ave., Palatine Road, Aptakisic Road, Elmhurst Road, McHenry Road, Wolf Road (Manchester N. to Milwaukee Ave. & S. of Marquardt)

The following streets are Cook County's responsibility to clear:

Lake Cook Road, Schoenbeck Road, Camp McDonald Road, Old Buffalo Grove Road, Wheeling Road (S. of Palatine), Hintz Road, Buffalo Grove Road, Weiland Road (83 to Lake Cook)

The Village utilizes 38 trucks and pieces of equipment to plow and salt. Should a Village-owned piece of equipment damage your property, mailbox etc., please contact the Public Works Department at 847-459-2624.

Additional snow removal information is available on our website, www.vi.wheeling.il.us.



Officer Scott Laverd accepts an \$1,800 check from a Target Stores representative during the opening of the Super Target Store in Mundelein. According to Sgt. Pete Panagakis, Crime Prevention Unit, the grant will go towards installation of new lighting systems and general upkeep of the bikes. Also pictured are Officers John Abbio and Dorann Swanson. The grant comes on the heels of an extremely successful Biker and Pedestrian Safety Week that was spearheaded by the Bike Patrol Unit and Wheeling Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force.

As the holiday months rush at us like the toy train lapping the tree, it is important to remember that while the holidays are joyous for most, they are also difficult for many. That said, as you count down shopping days and hang lights imitating the Griswold home in 'Christmas Vacation,' the Village would like to ask your support of two programs that would help less fortunate individuals have a brighter holiday.

The Village is once again partnering with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to ensure that every child 'has a little Christmas.' Individuals are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys in the front lobby of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road beginning November 1 and running through mid-December. Over the past 13 years, the Toys for Tots program has distributed an average of 9.9 million toys to 4.6 million needy children annually.



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

Senior Services

The Wheeling SeniorNet Learning Center located at 199 N. Strong is starting something new. Due to strong demand, walk in registration will be accepted at the center beginning on December 6th, and continue to January 8, 2005. There will be volunteers available two days per week from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon to help you fill out the appropriate forms. The dates when the volunteers will be available will be determined as we get closer to December. SeniorNet classes generally are held for 2 hours a week for 8 weeks and are geared for those 50 years and older. A variety of courses are offered. National SeniorNet membership is required. You can get a membership for only \$40.00. Class fees are \$45.00 with a modest charge for class materials. Fees are due at registration. We are also looking for volunteers to teach and coach. If you are interest in volunteering please call the SeniorNet Hotline at 847-459-2666 X4131.

White Eagle Polish Polka Festival

Dance, sing, eat, drink and enjoy the hits of Chicago's favorite polka band, 'The Ampolaires,' from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, November 4 at the White Eagle Banquet Hall in Niles. Cost is \$35.

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Make clans to attend the Pavilion's Thanksgiving Luncheon Celebration beginning at noon, Thursday, November 18. Fabulous entertainment and a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings will be offered. Cost is \$9 for members, \$14 for non-members and registration deadline is Friday, November 12.

Depression Support Group

In an effort to combat the effects depression has on the senior community, the Pavilion Senior Center hosts its inaugural depression support group, 'Freedom, Forgiveness and Fellowship,' from 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, November 12. The group will continue to meet the second Friday of the month following this initial meeting. This group will be ongoing for older adults who suffer from depression, feel sad or unhappy at times in their lives.

Helpful resources, medical updates and guest speakers will be featured.

For more information, contact Jan Christiansen, Social Worker, at 847-459-2670.

Health Watch

Improving Your Quality of Life

*(Information courtesy of the
Village of Wheeling Health Department)*

Holiday Food Safety Tips



The holidays are fast approaching, and with them comes the anticipation of eating our favorite holiday foods.

To safely prepare and serve your holiday foods, follow these tips:

Most eggnog recipes are made and served using raw eggs. As consumers, we know that whole raw eggs carry Salmonella. To reduce the risk of getting sick from raw eggs, prepare your eggnog recipes with a pasteurized egg product instead.

When preparing your holiday turkey, never thaw it at room temperature. Thaw it under refrigeration (approximately 24 hours per 5 pounds). Stuff the turkey loosely on the day you will be cooking it. Cook the turkey to an internal temperature of 180 degrees F in the thigh. The center of the stuffing should reach 165 degrees F. Juices should be clear. Refrigerate all leftovers within two hours of cooking. Reheat leftovers to a temperature of 165 degrees F before serving.

Many of us give and receive mail order foods as holiday gifts. Some types of hard salami and dried meats do not require refrigeration. However most other meat, poultry and cheese products do require refrigeration and will state so on the label. These items must arrive as cold as if refrigerated in order to be safe. Before ordering such items, ask questions about how and when the product will be shipped and whether a cold pack will be included to assure the product will be received cold. If you receive a package containing items requiring refrigeration, check the item upon receipt to see if it is cold. If it is not, call the mail order company to arrange for a replacement that will arrive cold or request a refund.

Village hosts community blood drive as holidays promise busy season @ blood centers

The Village of Wheeling hosts a community blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m. November 10, 2004 at the Fire Station on Dundee Road adjacent to the Village Hall.

Shortly before the July drive, I spoke with a friend that told me “You know how important I feel blood donation is, but it really hit home a little over a year ago when my wife needed 5 transfusions and more than 12 pints over the course of our daughters birth. Then, our daughter needed it off and on during her 6 month stay in the hospital. Thanks to those who donated, both are doing well today.” His experience truly reinforces the belief that when you donate blood today it may be the gift of life for someone tomorrow.

Donors must be at least 17-years-old, but 16-year-

olds may donate with written parental consent if they weigh at least 110 pounds.

A donor’s regular rhythm pulse must be between 50 and 100 beats per minute and not exceed a temperature of 99.5 degrees F. His or her blood pressure must be - upper number 90-180 mm Hg - lower number 50 – 100 mm Hg and not have donated within the last 56 days.

Please plan on coming to our drive to donate. Appointments are greatly appreciated and aid us in anticipated the number of people that will attend so that we can properly staff the event. It also helps us to try and prevent too many people from showing up at the same time. If you are coming, but are not able to set an appointment, please call so that you can find out when the hours with the shorter waits will be. For appointments or to let me know that you will walk-in, please call me, Mike Boyle, at (847) 459-2621 or e-mail me at mboyle@vi.wheeling.il.us.

President reflects on 2004, lauds progressive efforts of Village

Continued from Page 1

for his efforts in increasing the use and knowledge of the life and property-saving benefits of fire sprinklers.

The finance department made huge strides in enhancing customer service efforts by switching from quarterly water billing to bi-monthly, completing a water study that will ensure proper funding of water and sewer systems and implementing a bill paying program that accepts credit cards. In addition, the Government Finance Officers Association recognized the department with its 17th straight Outstanding Budget Presentation Award.

Our public works and engineering departments worked throughout the year on projects such as the South transmission main phase II-B, the 2004 street resurfacing program, the 2004 street light improvement program, new entryway signage and the new uniform fence along Dundee Road. The public works department showed the type of individuals they are by banding together with residents and other volunteers when flood waters threatened portions of our Village. We all watched the flood waters rise and our PW staff worked countless hours in a massive effort to minimize damages. Fortunately, the flood waters never raised as high as predicted and damage was limited to a few homeowners who were cared for by members of the Volunteer Disaster Association, Red Cross and housed by the Park District - truly a magnificent display of neighbor-helping-neighbor.

Yes, 2004 was a benchmark year for development and growth in Wheeling, but we can’t rest on our laurels. Together, we’ve worked to improve every aspect of our Village, from education to recreation, and 2005 promises more opportunities for excellence. On behalf of the Village Clerk, Board of Trustees and the staff, have a happy and prosperous holiday season and healthy new year.



Village offices will close at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 24 and remain closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving. Offices are also closed Friday, December 24 for Christmas and Friday, December 31 for New Years.

We wish you and yours a happy & safe holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

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.

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

Special Events Commission -
2nd Wednesday each month, 7:30 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunchroom

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Wheeling police sponsor new 'safe housing' program

The Wheeling Police Department's inaugural Crime Free Multi-Housing class received their graduation certificates recently after completing the eight-hour course. The course is designed to align rental property owners, managers and leasing staff with the police and fire departments in an effort to keep illegal activities out of rental properties.

"It was extremely important to get the first group through the program so we could get word out to other rental properties in town," said Sgt. Pet Panagakis, Crime Prevention Unit Supervisor. "Our first group of individuals was engaging and inquisitive and really enthusiastic about making their corner of the Village safer."

The program is a three-tiered certification process that involves an 8-hour training course, visual inspection of the property to assess physical security and general appearance of the property and the hosting of a safety social that involves property management, residents and police personnel. The success of the program is based entirely on reducing criminal activity at participating properties.

"Although the training program was great, I was more impressed with the police department's earnestness in building an ongoing partnership with us, even after the course was completed," said Susan Porter, Foxboro Property Manager. "I would highly recommend every property manager in Wheeling take advantage of the resource provided by our police department."

Throughout the certification process, the instructors focus on topics such as understanding crime prevention, common sense self defense, community rules regarding leases, combating crime problems, dealing with non-compliance and partnering with local police and fire personnel.

"The implementation of the procedures taught during the class is obviously important step towards achieving our goal of decreased crime," Panagakis said. "We encourage the managers to create a Crime Free Lease Addendum which cites specific actions that will be taken by management should a resident, or somebody under a resident's control, is involved in illegal or dangerous activity on or near the rental property. This step is important in that crime prevention measures are in place from the first day a potential resident walks in to sign a lease."

For more information regarding the resource center or any program sponsored by the Wheeling Police Department, call 847-459-2679.

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

PRSR-STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 053
WHEELING, IL

CARRIER ROUTE PRE-SORT

Local Postal Patron
Wheeling, IL 60090