

Village Views

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

Dance to the Big Band Orchestra Feb. 10

Larry Bembem will hit the downbeat for his Big Band Orchestra at Chevy Chase Country Club on February 10, signaling the start of a mid-winter romantic interlude that culminates with the celebration of Valentine's Day.

This is the second year for the gala, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. A buffet dinner will be served from 7:45-9:00 p.m.

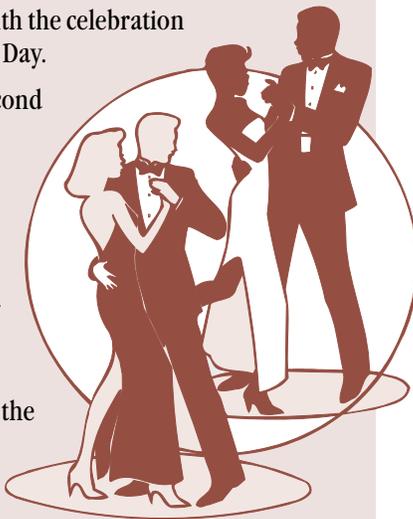
Organized by the Wheeling Special Events

Committee to raise funds for the annual 4th of July fireworks display, the dance will be held in Chevy Chase's Main Ballroom.

Tickets for the event are on sale for \$35 per person until February 1. They may be purchased at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd., and at Corus Bank, 125 N. McHenry Rd., with cash or check. Discover Card is also accepted at Village Hall only. A service charge applies to credit-card transactions.

To order, mail your payment along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Trustee Judy Abruscato, 125 W. Wayne Place. Checks should be made payable to Village of Wheeling.

For more information, call Trustee Abruscato at 847-541-8783.



Operation Snowplow Swings into Action

The forecast was for 12 inches of snow, and the storm lived up to its billing. When the snow began to fall in mid-December, the Wheeling Public Works Department was armed and ready.

With 700 tons of salt in storage, the department deployed 40 pieces of equipment as part of its snow-removal plan ("Operation Snowplow"). Crews plowed 65 street miles – the number of streets from end to end. Adding the number of lanes on dual highways, the department plowed 200 lane miles.

Public Works crews are responsible for clearing primary streets in the Village, including Wheeling Rd. from Dundee Rd. to Palatine Rd.; Wolf Rd.

from Manchester Dr. south to Palatine; and Northgate Pkwy. from Lake-Cook Rd. to Dundee.

The Village also clears about 20 miles of sidewalks on routes leading to schools, the Pavilion Senior Center, the Metra station, and the Dundee Rd. pedestrian overpass. All other sidewalks are the responsibility of home- and business owners.

The State of Illinois plows Dundee Rd.; Rte. 83; Wolf Rd. north of Manchester Dr.; McHenry Rd.; and Palatine Rd. Cook County handles Hintz Rd.; Lake-Cook; Schoenbeck Rd.; Wheeling Rd. south of Palatine; Weiland Rd.; Old Buffalo Grove Rd.; and Camp McDonald Rd.

Wheeling Blaze Called 'Accidental'

Call the Fire Department before attempting to extinguish a fire yourself. That's the lesson to be learned following a million-dollar fire which destroyed a Wheeling manufacturing company in early December. Investigators have determined the cause of the blaze was accidental.

Although the Fire Marshal has not identified the exact source of the blaze, there is no evidence of foul play. Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac pointed to the fire as an example of the

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“It (Wheeling) was a small town with a couple of little grocery stores. About 500 or 600 people lived here. What a change!”

The Changing Face of Wheeling

Anyone who has been away from Wheeling for a while would be surprised at the difference a few years make. Where there was once a faded auto-repair shop, there are new stores and restaurants. A park is being created where a gasoline station once stood.

Where there were once cornfields and farms, there is a Wal-Mart and Sam's Club complex – soon to be joined by one of Dayton-Hudson's Target stores. For that matter, where native people once camped, there are now modern highways, a railroad and an airport.

Since Joseph Filkins built the first house in 1835 on what had been Potawatomi Indian land, the face of Wheeling has undergone waves of change. The arrival of German farmers in the 1840s signaled the beginning of Wheeling's farm tradition. Such names as Forke, Horcher, Koeppen, Schneider and Vogt became local fixtures, and portions of Horcher Farms remain operating today.

German Immigrants Came First

Lorraine Haben has lived in Wheeling for all of her 75 years. Her father, Hans Schmidt, immigrated to Wheeling from Germany in 1923. Unable to speak English when he arrived, Schmidt became Village President less than 15 years later.

“I was sent home from school because I couldn't speak English,” Haben recalls. “We

were German and we spoke German. I had a wonderful teacher who came to our house at night and taught the whole family.”

Gone are the days when there were two Wheelings – one west of the railroad tracks, the other to the east. One was a farm town. The other was a boisterous way station along the way from Chicago to Milwaukee.

“It was all farms,” Bernhardt Koeppen recalls. The former Wheeling fire chief, thoughts spinning back three-quarters of a century, continues: “And my dad told us never to go on ‘that side’ of town.

Became Industrial Hub

“As far as changes in business and industry? Big changes. It just wasn't there. It was a small town with a couple of little grocery stores. About 500 or 600 people lived here. What a change!” Koeppen chuckles.

What a change, indeed. Wheeling has become the second-largest industrial hub in the northwest Chicago area. More than 900 businesses and manufacturing industries call Wheeling home. And those businesses have local, regional, national and international ties.

For example, Valspar Corp.'s paints and finishes, Solo Cups Corp.'s plastic cups, consumer packaging from Pactiv (formerly Tenneco Packaging), Orval Kent (fresh salads), and hundreds of others ship their products around the world or across the country. The White Eagle Rawhide Co., based in Wheeling, is the world's largest manufacturer of tambourines. And Hidden Valley Ranch dressings are nestled inside the Village.

Nonetheless, both business and residential growth was slow for many years, with just 916 residents in the Village in 1950. Six years later, after the opening of the Dunhurst subdivision, 2426 people were counted. The completion of the Meadowbrook subdivision in 1956 led to a doubling of the population in just one year. It

Bazaar Helps Senior Center



Senior Citizens Services Director Nancy Janssen (l.) exchanges the goods with longtime resident Lorraine Haben during Pavilion Senior Center's annual Holiday Bazaar. Janssen estimated more than 400 people attended the one-day event, which generated in excess of \$2400 to help fund Center activities.



was the so-called “first wave” of Chicagoans leaving the city for greener home sites.

Sheila Schultz was part of that wave. “It was a jolt to the people who were here then, seeing the farms turned into tract homes,” recalls the former Village president. “But the subdivisions weren’t connected, and people identified with their subdivisions, not as residents of a community.”

Demand for Housing Heavy

No wonder. There wasn’t much “there” there. Some residents bought groceries in neighboring Arlington Heights. Others worshiped at churches in Buffalo Grove. Randhurst hadn’t been born, and shopping often meant a trip to Golf Mill in Niles. Nonetheless, people kept moving into town, and demand for housing was heavy.

During a 10-year period, starting in 1970, U.S. Census figures reveal that the makeup of housing in the Village changed from two-thirds single family houses and one-third multiple dwellings to 50 percent multiple and 49 percent single. The number of multiple housing units in the Village skyrocketed by 125 percent in a decade. The building boom, in turn, fueled the population.

But it was all prelude to the events of the 1980s. Water – Lake Michigan water – was on many minds. Traditional well water had turned sour; it tasted bad and smelled worse. In 1985 Wheeling and surrounding communities joined to shoulder the expense of constructing a \$40 million pipeline from Lake Michigan to Wheeling.

A Watershed Year

It turned out to be a watershed year in more ways than one. The Village became the poster child for many innovative projects – some of which evolved into landmark legal cases (which will be detailed in the next issue of *Village Views*.)

Wheeling and Prospect Heights developed a partnership to buy and operate Palwaukee Airport from the Priester family. Janet D’Argo was Village Clerk then. She remembers a seemingly endless round of meetings and negotiations. “I sat at the contract table, where we had to sign the documents, and it

Festival of Lights Shines



‘All I want for Christmas...’

Santa sees double as young dreams float in the air.

The Pavilionaires from Pavilion Senior Center provide the musical backdrop for Santa’s annual debut.



seemed like it would never end. Each week there was a new pile.”

Palwaukee Municipal Airport has become the 20th busiest general-aviation airport in the country, and the fourth busiest in Illinois. An average of 200,000 takeoffs and landings occur at Palwaukee annually. The airport was recently rated highest among four municipal airports across the country in terms of its acceptance by the community.

“Palwaukee is a tremendous asset, not just to Wheeling but to the entire region,” says Fred Stewart, who manages the airport. “It represents a \$160 million contribution to the local economy.”

(Next issue: the Village advances into a post-modern community.)

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New Law Helps Families Make Quality of Life Decisions

When long-term illness or the debilitating effects of aging strike, patients and family members often must make difficult decisions. One of those decisions pertains to the quality of the last days of life. A new Illinois law, which goes into effect on January 1, 2001, provides a clear path for people to follow in the terminal stages of life. The law provides for an orange "Do Not Resuscitate Order" bearing the seal of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

A completed form will now be required in the event emergency medical personnel are called to treat anyone whose long-term prognosis is poor. Previously, a doctor's order on the physician's prescription pad or letterhead was acceptable in such cases. The new law requires completion of the form in addition to any last directives such as a living will or a durable power-of-attorney.

"This process," said Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac, "is intended for a very limited number of people, such as AIDS or cancer patients, for whom the end of life is imminent. But the time to execute the form is in advance, not when the paramedics are on the way."

MacIsaac emphasized that the law requires emergency medical personnel to resuscitate patients in the absence of the Do Not Resuscitate Order. "Even though the family may know of the patient's wishes not to be resuscitated, without the properly completed form, we must initiate life support," MacIsaac cautioned.

The form requires the name and signature of both patient and physician, plus the names, signatures and addresses of two witnesses. However, in case the patient lacks decision-making capability, the form may be completed by a legal representative (such as someone holding a legally executed durable power-of-attorney).

The Illinois Department of Health has notified all physicians of the new rules. Forms are available from the Wheeling Fire Department, hospitals and physicians.

Call 459-CODE to Report Property Safety, Appearance Problems

Have you seen a property in Wheeling that needs sprucing up? The Village has a telephone hotline for residents who want to contact staff about uncorrected safety and appearance problems.

Call 459-CODE to leave a voice-mail message, which will be reviewed and referred to the appropriate department. Callers do not need to leave their names.

(Note: This line should not be used for emergencies or conditions that are not emergencies but require an immediate response.)

Replace Smoke Alarms

The first line of defense against fire is operational smoke alarms. "While most people know they should change the batteries in their smoke detectors once a year," Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said, "many don't realize they should replace detectors every 10 years. They're appliances, like any other, and they do wear out."

Fire Department Lauded

The Illinois Fire Inspectors Association has bestowed its Fire Recognition Award on the Wheeling Fire Department for "meritorious and distinguished service," citing sprinkler requirements that recently went into effect in the Village.

The award was made after Wheeling passed a local ordinance early in 2000 requiring that all new construction – residential, commercial, industrial – must be equipped with sprinklers. The law also requires that residential property that is expanded by more than 50 percent must be retrofitted with sprinklers. Owners of

Anatomy of a Fire Wheeling:

Continued from page 1

dangers involved with do-it-yourself fire fighting. "All big fires start small," he said. "The fire at the plant apparently began in a cardboard-storage area, and employees tried to fight it themselves. They thought they had extinguished it when they decided to air smoke from the building. That gave the smoldering fire what it needed – oxygen. By the time fire fighters arrived, fire had spread through most of the building."



The company's plans to rebuild are not known. Damage to the building is estimated at more than \$1.2 million.

MacIsaac said the "key to minimizing damage and protecting lives" is to call the fire department first, "then decide if it's safe for you to fight the fire. We don't mind coming out; that's why we're here. It's much easier to deal with fires when they are small. The bigger the fire the more difficult it is to control."

For anyone who decides it's safe to take action, MacIsaac provided two basic rules: "(1) always make sure you have an escape



for Sprinkler Law

other buildings are obligated to install sprinklers whenever they undertake expansion of any kind.

The Fire Inspectors Association recognized the Wheeling Fire Department “for furthering the aims and ideals of fire safety by adopting home sprinkler requirements that provide the best possible life safety to the citizens of Wheeling.”

“The Wheeling Fire Department has long been a leader in fire safety,” said Chief Keith MacIsaac. “This award recognizes the forward thinking of a team of dedicated professionals.”

Blaze Called Accidental



10:51 a.m. Flames leap across the ceiling, signaling dangerous conditions. Fire fighters are withdrawn. Five minutes later, the building is engulfed.

10:28 a.m. the fire spreads quickly.

11:22 a.m. The building is in ruins.

route, and (2) know how to use fire extinguishers before fires occur. Point the nozzle at the base of the burning material and sweep from side to side. Don't aim the nozzle at the flames.”



‘Be sure to wash your hands’

Village Health Inspector Beverly Slaby holds a black light on the freshly washed hands of Walt Whitman School First Grader Zain Salehbhai. Slaby uses a special disclosing liquid to demonstrate the importance of thorough hand washing. The children wash off the liquid and then see how well they did with the black light. If any of the disclosing liquid remains, it glows. The hand washing program has been operating in Village schools and restaurants for 4 years.

Wheeling Citizens Police Academy to Train Residents

Wheeling residents will get an inside look at the operation of the Police Department at the seventh annual Citizens Police Academy, which begins January 31. The 10-week program will provide participants with first-hand information on topics ranging from how department units function to law enforcement and community policing.

“The Academy is designed to increase understanding between citizens and the police through education,” said Sgt. Terrie Wisnewski, who heads the Crime Prevention Unit. “Our intent is to acquaint citizens with the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system, and to provide increased understanding of the tasks police officers face in their daily work.”

Academy instructors are drawn from department officers and personnel, who teach their own areas of expertise. The instructors have broad training and experience, and bring street experience into the classroom.

The initial session will include an introduction, orientation and history of the police department. In the weeks that follow, instructors will explain such units as Patrol, Traffic, Crime Prevention/Community Relations, DARE and Investigations. Law-enforcement issues to be covered span domestic violence, child abuse, use of force, major crimes and community policing.

Classes are held one night a week from 7-9:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd. Upon completing the 10-week program, Academy members will ride in a patrol car for one shift to experience first-hand what officers see and hear, and what they are trained to do under various circumstances.

Any Village resident over the age of 21 may apply for the Academy. To apply, call the Village at 459-2148. A printable application is available on the Forms and Permits page in the Reference Desk section of the Village Web site (<http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us/ReferenceDesk/FormsAndPermits.htm#PoliceDepartmentForms>). You will be notified if you are selected for the next session. There is no charge for the Academy.



Spring Multicultural Festival Set



“The multicultural festival is intended to provide an informative, educational and social event where residents can celebrate the ethnic diversity that comprises the Village. The intent is to give attendees a flavor of their neighbors’ heritage and bring people together.”

The Village of Wheeling has announced plans to stage its second annual “Pageant of Nations” multicultural festival on May 6, 2001. Produced under the sponsorship of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, the event will assemble a variety of ethnic traditions to celebrate the diversity of more than 24 languages and nationalities represented in the Village.

The Human Rights Commission, chaired by Wheeling resident Bill Maloney, is reaching out to Wheeling’s various ethnic communities to invite citizens to help guide the festival’s organizers. “We want this to be a community-wide event that properly represents the people of Wheeling,” Maloney said. “The ad-hoc Multicultural Steering Committee will open an important window to the preferences and traditions of our diverse population.”

Horizons Center To Train Day-Care Owners

Wheeling’s Horizons Children’s Center is looking for a few good people to open child-care homes in the Village. To that end, Horizons is launching a program to train prospective owners in the mechanics of obtaining a license and operating a child-care home.

An introductory meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2001, at 7 p.m. in the Village Councilroom, 255 W. Dundee Rd. A licensing representative from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services will explain the requirements and processes for licensing.

There is no cost for the program, and anyone who opens a child-care home after completing the training will receive a \$100 stipend. The program is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

“There are only five child-care homes licensed in the Village,” said Suzan Tash, director of the Horizons Center. “We would like to see four or five more to meet the growing demand.”

The day-long festival will feature entertainers representing various cultures, crafts from around the world, exhibits and demonstrations and ethnic cuisines. The entertainment lineup is being finalized and will be announced soon.

“The multicultural festival is intended to provide an informative, educational and social event where residents can celebrate the ethnic diversity that comprises the Village,” said Maloney. “The intent is to give attendees a flavor of their neighbors’ heritage and bring people together.”

Residents interested in participating in the Steering Committee should contact Assistant Village Manager Jim Grabowski at 459-2605.

Wheeling will also produce a 5K run as a prelude to the festival. Between 500 and 1000 runners are expected to take part.

Welcome New Business

Greater Chicago Chiropractic LLC — Evelyn Zuehlke, DC, 798 W. Dundee Rd., 847-229-0808, chiropractic clinic

Areawide Cellular — Darryl Jacobs, 794 W. Dundee Rd., 847-541-6500, retail sales of cellular telephones

EZ Hair Clips — Filiberta Sanchez, 27 W. Dundee Rd., 847-229-8643

Futuretek Source Inc. — 557 N. Wolf Rd., Michael Breslaw, 847-215-7272, computer hardware & software sales

Shirley Nails — Jeremy Nguyen, 788 W. Dundee Rd., 353-3040, nail salon

Express Printing Center/Link-Letters Ltd — Eric Matye, 309 N. Wolf Rd., 847-480-9007

Americo Inc. DBA Medicare — A. Kabbani, 47 W. Dundee Rd. 2SW, 808-8669, medical

New Owner

Beep Beep Communications — Tushar Patel, 735 W. Dundee Rd., 847-537-5588, paging & cellular service

Collector’s Shop — Brian Boyer, 33 N. Elmhurst Rd., 847-731-0993, music CDs, videos, cassettes

Joe’s Northshore Towing — Leon Asrikan, 700 N. Wolf Rd., 847-537-5412, towing company

Beacon Management Co. — Robert G. McLennan, 1670 S. Wolf Rd., 847-541-8400, property management office



Community Calendar

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

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

Plan Commission — 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 7 p.m.

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

Human Rights Commission — 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:15 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

Zoning Board of Appeals — 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.

Senior Citizens Commission — 3rd Monday of the month, 10 a.m., Pavilion Senior Center.

Fire and Police Commission — 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Finance and Administration offices.

Palwaukee Airport Commission — 3rd 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 — 1st Tuesday of each month, 8 a.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

Board of Ethics — 3rd Thursday of the month, January, April, July and October, 7 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

Special Events Committee — 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

January

1— New Year's Day, Village offices closed

2— Tax Appeals Seminar presented by the Cook County Board of Review, 6:30 p.m., Councilroom, Village Hall

10— Introductory meeting for prospective home child-care providers, 7 p.m., Village Councilroom

15— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Village Board meeting rescheduled to January 16, 7:30 p.m., Village Hall

31— Citizen Police Academy begins weekly sessions, 7-9:30 p.m., Village Hall. To apply, call the Village at 459-2148

February

10— Dancing to Larry Bemben's Big Band Orchestra, 6:30 p.m. - midnight, Chevy Chase Country Club

12— Abraham Lincoln's Birthday observed

19— President's Day, Village Board meeting rescheduled to January 20, 7:30 p.m., Village Hall

The last day to purchase tickets for Dancing to Larry Bemben's Big Band Orchestra will be February 1. For more information on the event, call Trustee Judy Abruscato at 541-8783.

Trustee Election Set for April 3

A municipal election for the Wheeling Board of Trustees will be held April 3, 2001. The Village President, Village Clerk and three trustee positions will be on the ballot.

Additional information about the election will be printed in the next issue of *Village Views*.

To vote in this election, residents must be registered to vote by March 6, 2001.

To vote in the April 3 election, residents must be registered by March 6.

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 _____

Board & Commission Reports: A Look Back at 2000

Wheeling's Economic Development Commission was honored for its newly created Village brochure by the American Economic Development Council last year. On top of that success, the Commission completed the Wheeling Shopping Center Guide. These tools are valuable assets in the Village's ongoing efforts to draw successful businesses to the area as part of Wheeling's comprehensive development plan.

The EDC also has been coordinating with PACE, the suburban transit system, to tailor a transportation program aimed at improving access to public transportation for employees of local businesses. The program will begin in February.

Promote Wellness

Last year the Board of Health reviewed a new food code for adoption by the Board of Trustees and hosted blood drives in March, July and November. The Board of Health also organized two "Wellness on Wheels" programs, which provided the opportunity for lower-income residents to receive free health care screenings. Members of the Board are working to organize a bone marrow drive to be held this March.



Blood Drive Collects 55 Units... Tom Lueders, a maintenance operator in the Public Works Department's Water Division, stops by Fire Station 23 to donate blood. The fall blood drive generated 50 units of blood from 55 volunteers.

Business-Friendly Sign Code

The Wheeling Plan Commission revised the Village Sign Code in 2000 to ease the restrictions on placement of commercial business signs. The code now takes aesthetics into account and allows Village businesses more freedom to announce themselves to shoppers. The Commission also organized Brooms & Blooms and Brooms & Bulbs events.

Organize Community of Heroes

Members of the Human Rights Commission have been working to organize a monthly column in *The Wheeling Countryside* to recognize a member of the community whose accomplishments make the

Village a better place for all residents. An additional column will highlight historical figures from the same ethnic background as the honoree. It was also instrumental in organizing Wheeling's first "Pageant of Nations," a celebration of the Village's diversity held in May.

Program Evaluation

With self-assessment guidelines provided by the National Council on Aging, the Senior Citizens Commission went through an intensive evaluation process of services provided at the Pavilion Senior Center. The resulting information will help the Center provide better programs for area seniors.

Commissioner Mitch Fox was integral in organizing a computer room at the center for senior use. Fox also teaches courses there for seniors who want to expand their knowledge of computers. Funding for the computer lab was provided through a state grant.

(Next issue: Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, Special Events Committee, Ethics Board, and Airport Commission.)

VILLAGE OF WHEELING

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

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
Code Enforcement Hotline	459-CODE
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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