

Village Views

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

Festival of Lights Ushers in Holiday Season

The sights and sounds of holiday cheer arrive in the Village of Wheeling Sunday, November 28, when the third annual Festival of Lights officially marks the beginning of the holiday season. The Village Board and staff invite all residents to attend the event, which will be held in front of Village Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Join the community singing songs, enjoying holiday refreshments and extending goodwill to friends and neighbors.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will fly in to help celebrate the lighting of the Village's elaborate holiday display, which this year features nearly 75,000 lights. White lights strung on the Village Hall and surrounding trees will be accented by colored lights embellishing a blue spruce.

Figures of carolers will adorn the front lawn. Red ribbons and pine roping complete the display. In addition, banners proclaiming "Joy" add a seasonal touch and will be hung on light posts around the Village in conjunction with the event.

"This community-wide celebration helps us all come together to enjoy this most festive time of the year with family and friends," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, who organizes the event. "It is a glorious way to start the holiday season."

For more information on the Festival of Lights, call Trustee Abruscato at 847-541-8783.



A visit from Santa adds to the wonder of Wheeling's annual Festival of Lights.

Cable TV Competition Arrives in Wheeling

Ameritech New Media is scheduled to begin operating in the Village within the next year, providing a choice between cable operators for the first time.

The Board of Trustees approved the deal less than a month after agreeing to a 15-year contract with Telcelis, which does business as AT&T Cable Services.

Telcelis began providing cable service to residents in 1988.

Ameritech New Media foresees constructing 66 miles of new cable, which will be strung on existing utility poles or buried under-

ground. It is expected construction will take about a year.

The new operator will make service available to all 14,500 homes in the Village. Ameritech New Media has touted "competition and choice" as the overriding benefits of a second cable operation.

When construction is complete, Ameritech plans to provide service by means of state-of-the-art fiber optics cabling. Initially, traditional "analog" signals will be transmitted, although the system will be suited for digital transmission at a later date.

Ameritech currently operates franchises in 112 communities in the Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Columbus, OH, metropolitan markets.

2,000 Flock to Palwaukee Open House

Palwaukee staff took future flyers-to-be under their wing at the September 18 open house. The event drew more than 2,000 visitors. Additional photos on page 3.



"The effort will mark the first time one of the stations along Metra's routes will be decorated in this fashion."

Murals to Decorate Wheeling Train Station

A team of young artists soon will begin work on a series of murals slated to be installed at the Wheeling Metra train station. Planned for development this fall, the murals will encompass multiple themes characteristic of the Village: its diversity, its history as a transportation hub, and the scenes and faces of everyday life.

The project is a cooperative effort between the Village and the Wheeling High School Art Department. Students will be asked to submit ideas how they would render images in the murals. The best entries will be judged by a panel of Village Trustees, art teachers and others on the basis of creativity, quality of work and appropriateness. The selected concepts will be prepared

for production into finished panels.

The murals will be painted on four-foot-by-eight-foot plywood sheets or similar material. The paintings are part of the Village's greater effort to promote diversity and understanding among residents and stimulate cooperation among various institutions.

The panels will be developed in the school, ensuring maximum instructor supervision. When completed, the murals will be transported to the train station for semi-permanent mounting. The panels also may be displayed at other Village locations.

According to Metra officials, the effort will mark the first time one of the stations along its routes will be decorated in this fashion.

The murals are targeted for completion and installation by January 31, 2000.

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. 389 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.

Give Your Holiday Down Home, Personal Touch

Looking for a way to give your old-fashioned holiday celebration a down-home personal touch? You will find plenty of intriguing ideas right here in Wheeling. For an unusual gift, consider Antiques Center of Illinois, 1920 S. Wolf Rd., Humel Komer & Gifts, 562 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling Flowers and Gifts, 19 W. Dundee Rd., or Venture Hobbies and Crafts, 23 Huntington Ln.

To help create the holiday mood, light something up from Heaventree Candles, 500 Glen Ave. (open 9-3 and by appointment). Good places for decorations include Amazing Savings, 889 W. Dundee Rd., Card and Party, 300 Old McHenry Rd., or Wheeling Nurseries, 642 S. Milwaukee Ave. While visiting Wheeling Nurseries, check out the gift shop and Westernwear.

Milkyway Bookstore, 262 Old McHenry Rd., has ideas for putting the "C" back in Christmas. Another interesting specialty store is Alval Jewelry, 37 Huntington Ln. If time is short, remember Wheeling is home to some of the world's best restaurants. Many have dining certificates. Bob Chi's Crabhouse will deliver its specialties to your special someone's door anywhere in the U.S. by express delivery.

Welcome to Palwaukee!

Providing a unique closeup view of aviation and operations at the state's third busiest airport, Palwaukee opened its house to an estimated 2,000 visitors September 18. The event proved to be a favorite of fathers – such as the one at right – who got down to toddler level for a more interesting perspective than the average frequent flyer obtains.

There were many "Kodak moments," like the one at right, with future graduates of the flight school class of 2020 or so exploring the cockpit.

Below, staff refuels aircraft that provided complementary rides to more than 400 people.



Wheeling Receives \$125,000 C.O.P.S. Grant

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded the Village of Wheeling a \$125,000 grant to expand the Police Department's C.O.P.S. in Schools program. The three-year grant will provide for the hiring of one police officer to augment the long-established police liaison in Wheeling High School, the two middle schools and the four grade schools in the Village.

Currently, one officer acts as liaison to the high school, while a second is responsible for the lower grades. The grant will allow one officer to operate in each middle school and two of the

grade schools. Police officers working in the schools are especially active in the area of gangs, drugs and violent crimes. The grant will be enhanced with an additional \$65,650 matching contribution, to be split equally between the Village and School District 21.

"This program," said Commander Eric Larson, "is a cooperative effort between the community and the schools to provide positive role models for young people. It's far more preferable to intervene with youth at risk before problems arise than process them in the criminal-justice system later."

Trustee and Airport Commissioner Wayne Wisinski served as tour guide for guests who traveled the complimentary buses to each of four airport destinations featuring exhibits, free plane rides, a look at control tower operations, food and refreshments.



Developing Personal Contingency Plan Prepares Families for Winter, Y2K

By GREG KLATECKI, VILLAGE PRESIDENT

What did you do when you heard a big winter storm was on its way last January? Gas up the car? Buy groceries? Perhaps freshen up the supply of flashlight batteries?

Those are all good precautionary moves, especially since we live in an area that gets its share of stormy weather. But they should be just the "final checklist" in your Personal Contingency Plan. Having such a plan is as smart as buying insurance to protect your property and loved ones.

Unlike some of the storms that seem to come out of nowhere, the turn of the millennium is something we've anticipated for years. Everything points to January 1, 2000, as causing little more disruption than a typical chilly day.

The electric, gas and telephone utility companies tell us they're ready and anticipate no "Y2K" failures. Transportation carriers, including airlines and railroads, say they're ready, too. So is the Village of Wheeling. And so is the Klatecki family.

Featured on page 5 is a guideline for developing your own contingency plan – a common-sense guide that you can put into action whenever the

situation calls for it. Just as Chicagoans don't panic when the snow falls, wise planning suggests that the Y2K problem will be no greater cause for anxiety.

The Village will start the new year with full water towers. We don't depend on electricity to pump water to our homes because water is stored in elevated tanks and delivered by gravity pressure. In the unlikely event we lose electrical power, diesel-powered generators are in place to keep the sanitary sewers operating.

The Fire and Police Departments have added extra personnel to handle any emergencies. All Village systems have been scoured and corrected, where necessary, to assure that they are Y2K compliant. Should the telephone system malfunction, a backup emergency-reporting plan will be in place. (See map on page 5.)

None of us knows what may occur on January 1, so it's wise to make plans, just as the Village and my family have. Still, any disruptions that may occur are expected to be minor. New Year's Day 2000 is less of a cause for concern than an opportunity to bring our community closer together. I wish you a safe and happy New Millennium.

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Sewer Problems? Call the Village First

What do you do if the sewer clogs? It depends on where the problem is. The sanitary sewer system in Wheeling consists of two parts: the main, which is the Village's responsibility, and the service line, which connect residences with the main, and are the homeowner's responsibility.

If the sewer has stopped functioning, a call to the Public Works Department (459-2624) between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. will generate a visit from an inspector to determine whether the problem is in the municipal sewer or the service line. (After hours, call the Police Department at 459-2632.)

Public Works will handle any malfunctions in the main. But problems with the service line will require the expertise of a plumbing contractor.

It's likely the situation can be resolved through

"rodding" or boring through and cleaning out any blockages.

However, more extensive work may be needed, possibly installing exterior cleanouts. In more complex cases, the only remedy may be a partial or complete replacement of the service line.

Installation of cleanouts and line replacement call for a permit from the Community Development Department before work can proceed. The Village requires that contractors be licensed and bonded to ensure quality work and reasonable prices.

When looking for a contractor, you should get three competitive bids describing the work to be done and any guarantees that apply. Also, be sure to obtain references from the contractors – and check them thoroughly.

Developing Your Personal Contingency Plan

Whether by winter snow, summer winds, or computer bugs (Y2K), the Chicago area periodically gets buffeted. For that reason, every household in the Village would be well served to establish a Personal Contingency Plan. While it isn't a back-breaking task, it does require some thought and preparation.

You may wish to use the guide below in developing your plan. The guide is intended to be a planning tool for natural weather emergencies or the Y2K rollover at the end of the year.

- Inspect the insulation and weather stripping in your home, and add or replace it as necessary. A properly insulated home will retain heat longer should there be a power loss.
- Keep a two-three day supply of nonperishable foods on hand, such as canned goods that require no cooking. Be sure to include enough drinking water for each member of your household. Don't forget powdered milk and extra baby food if you have small children.
- Keep an extra supply of prescription medications on hand.
- Have emergency flashlights, a battery-operated radio and extra batteries on hand. Candles are a last resort and should be used with extreme caution.
- Kerosene lights and heaters are dangerous and inappropriate for indoor heating.
- Keep some extra cash on hand, even though the banking industry reports full compliance

with Y2K-related issues. However, hoarding is not a good idea as it could make you a target for crime.

- Keep detailed financial records in a safe place, such as a safe-deposit box.
- Keep an extra supply of disposable diapers and other infant necessities on hand.
- Check your smoke detectors to make sure they are working and have fresh batteries. Any detectors more than 10 years old should be replaced.

Communications Contingency Plan

In the event that telephone service is disrupted January 1 or after, the Village will establish mobile command posts at the above five locations. These centers are to report emergencies only. They will not be staffed if phone service remains normal.

Hotline Established

As part of its ongoing beautification effort, the Village has established a telephone hotline for residents who want to contact staff about uncorrected safety and appearance problems. Call 459-CODE. All calls will be received by voice mail, reviewed and referred to the appropriate department. Callers do not have to leave their names.

"SFHAs (Special Flood Hazard Areas) are identified on the Village's flood plain map ... The maps are available at Village Hall or Indian Trails Public Library."

Protect Property Against Flooding

Emergencies happen. Being prepared for them requires foresight and planning. Part of your Personal Contingency Plan should include an evaluation of your property, its location and how susceptible it may be to dangers from flooding.

If your property lies within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), purchasing flood insurance is as essential as buying homeowner's insurance, which does not cover damage from flood water. Since 1978 the Village has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program, making flood insurance available to all properties regardless of location. This insurance, available through your agent, provides policies that can cover both the structure and its contents.

The Village also is part of the Community Rating System, which gives residents a 10 percent reduction on new or renewing flood insurance policies.

The major sources of flooding are the Des Plaines River, Buffalo Creek and McDonald

Creek. However, other low-lying areas also may accumulate standing water during and after heavy rains or winter thaws. SFHAs are identified on the Village's flood plain map, which will help you determine whether your property lies within the 100-year flood plain. The maps are available at Village Hall or Indian Trails Public Library.

You can also ask for a written determination from the Village. You'll need to provide your name, the property address, a legal description, property survey, property identification number, a topographic survey (if available) and a \$25.00 fee.

Any construction within an SFHA – including building, regrading and filling – requires a Floodplain Development permit from the Community Development Department. If you see construction or filling without a Village permit sign posted, for your own protection you should notify Community Development (459-2620).

Dumping trash, even grass clippings, in drainage ways can cause flooding and is illegal. If you see anyone dumping in or adjacent to these waterways, you are encouraged to contact Community Development at the above telephone number.

Trustees Explore Joint Fire Training Facility



Trustees Pat Horcher (left) and Trevor Lehmann prepare to ascend to the top of the three-story "burn building" during the Board of Trustees' recent hands-on visit to the Joint Fire Training Facility. The facility, located on Deerfield Parkway in Buffalo Grove, is jointly owned by the Village of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Long Grove Fire Protection District and Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District.



Wheeling Trustee Wayne Wisinski gets a briefing on engine operations in Fire Truck #24.

Briefs & Announcements

Entertainment 2000 Books

Entertainment 2000 Books are now available at the Pavilion Senior Center. Buyers can receive 2 for 1 savings at restaurants, car rentals and hotels, dry cleaning and more. Books are \$35 and can be picked up at the Pavilion Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 459-2670 for more information.

Holiday Craft Fair

The Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale will be held at the Pavilion Center Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A rummage sale, luncheon bar, raffles and clowns are included. Children can have their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs.

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 lunchroom.

November 1 – Ticket sales begin for "Dancing to the Future," to be held February 13, 7:30 p.m at Chevy Chase Country Club. Purchase tickets for \$30 per person at Village Hall through February 1.

November 6 – Holiday Craft Fair and bake sale, 9 a.m -2 p.m, at the Pavilion Senior Center.

November 18 – Thanksgiving luncheon, featuring a performance by the New Dawn Singers, noon, Pavilion Senior Center. Tickets \$7.

November 28 – Festival of Lights, Village Hall, 6:30 p.m

December 15 – Senior Holiday Party, featuring luncheon, dancing and entertainment, 11:30 a.m - 3 p.m at Chevy Chase Country Club

"Santa and Mrs. Claus will fly in to help celebrate the Village's elaborate holiday display, which this year features nearly 75,000 lights... Sunday, November 28."

Class and participate in arts & crafts

Thanksgiving Luncheon

A Thanksgiving luncheon takes place at the Pavilion Thursday, November 18. See the New Dawn singers from Wheeling High School perform at noon. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Cost, \$7.

Senior Holiday Party

Celebrate the holiday with friends at the newly renovated Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wednesday, December 15, from 11:30 a.m to 3 p.m. Enjoy lunch, dancing and entertainment provided by the Jerry Dittman 14-piece orchestra. Cost, \$24. Call 465-3333 for more information.

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 _____

Village Awarded \$140,000 for 'Safe Communities'

The Village of Wheeling has been awarded a \$140,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to extend the Police Department's Safe Communities program for another year. Originally established to identify safety problems and develop strategies, Safe Communities, headed by Coordinator Tom Pilewski, has begun constructing action steps to address those problems.

The analysis and evaluation of existing figures was based on three public meetings open to the community and two more held with the existing Evaluation and Special-Events Committees of the Safe Communities Program. The analysis revealed that top concerns among residents include aggressive driving during busy commute periods, drunk driving, drivers ignoring school buses and emergency vehicles, and pedestrian and school-crossing safety.

Programs under development in the Safe Communities program cover six major areas:

- student alcohol awareness
- fleet-vehicle safety

- cross-agency participation in such events as various national traffic safety weeks

- seat belt usage

- defensive driving (to be coordinated through Illinois Department of Transportation)

- traffic safety information programs on traffic laws, seat-belt and child safety seat use, obtaining a driver's license, etc., provided on request to ethnic groups

Under the program, high school students participating in drivers education classes can experience firsthand how alcohol affects motor-skill impairment. Five sets of fatal-vision goggles are on order. Three levels of "impairment" are available in each set to demonstrate degraded skills with increased blood-alcohol levels.

"We want to work with the community to address concerns about safety in general and traffic in particular," said Pilewski. "We'll be looking at ways to improve the usage of child-safety seats and help educate residents about safety on the highway."

BOARD ACTIONS

Establish Senior Citizens Department

The Board of Trustees has established a new Department of Senior Citizen Services. Nancy Janssen, who has directed activities at the Pavilion Senior Center for the past six years, will be director of the new department. Senior services in the Village had been a function of the Community Development Department.

New Walgreens Site

A new Walgreens drugstore will rise on the southeast corner of Dundee and Schoenbeck Rds. The site is now occupied by a bagel restaurant and a nearly vacant strip mall. Walgreens originally had planned to erect two drive-through prescription pickup lanes but agreed to one lane at the board's request. Construction is expected to begin early next year.

Fresh Farms Addition

Trustees approved construction of an addition to Fresh Farms grocery store at 291 E. Dundee Rd. The store, crowded for space, plans to build a new storage area.

Judy Bechaud Appointed to Human Rights Commission

Judy Bechaud was appointed to the Human Rights Commission. Unfortunately, the September/October issue of *Village Views* erred in listing her as a member of the Senior Citizens Commission. We regret the mistake.

VILLAGE OF WHEELING

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

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	459-8116
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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