

# Village Views

WHEELING ♦ ILLINOIS ♦ NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2002

## Ring in the Holidays with the 'Festival of Lights'

Residents will gather at Village Hall on November 24 to celebrate Wheeling's sixth annual "Festival of Lights" observance. The event will mark the official arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Village. The President, Board of Trustees and Village staff invite all residents to join the event, which will begin at 6 p.m.

"This year we will have music by the New Dawn Singers and the Wheeling High School Band," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, chair of the Special Events Committee, which organizes the "Festival of Lights."

The traditional lighting of holiday lights at Village Hall will be accompanied by the simultaneous

*continued on back page*



## Signs of Progress Shaping Future of Wheeling

BY WHEELING PRESIDENT GREG KLATECKI

Progress in the Village of Wheeling is measured in many ways – in the things we see, the things we don't see, and things we hope to see in the future.

Our "gateway intersection" at Milwaukee Ave. and Dundee Rd. is presenting a new look. An obsolete gas station has been replaced with waterfalls, walkways and a magnificent gazebo. We've been planning and working on this project for a long time. It is finally reality, an anchor and a focal point that all residents can enjoy and point to with pride.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has completed a badly needed resurfacing of Dundee Rd. IDOT is now working to improve McHenry Rd. to handle the increased volume of traffic using that street. Open drainage ditches are being replaced with underground culverts, accompanied by a reconfiguration of the McHenry Rd.-Rte. 83 intersection and widening of the roadbed to connect with four lanes north of Lake Cook Rd.

### State of the Village

Milwaukee Ave. continues to undergo a transformation that began several years ago when IDOT widened and resurfaced the roadbed and installed modern lighting. A new tax-increment finance district on S. Milwaukee Ave. will help



### It's finished!

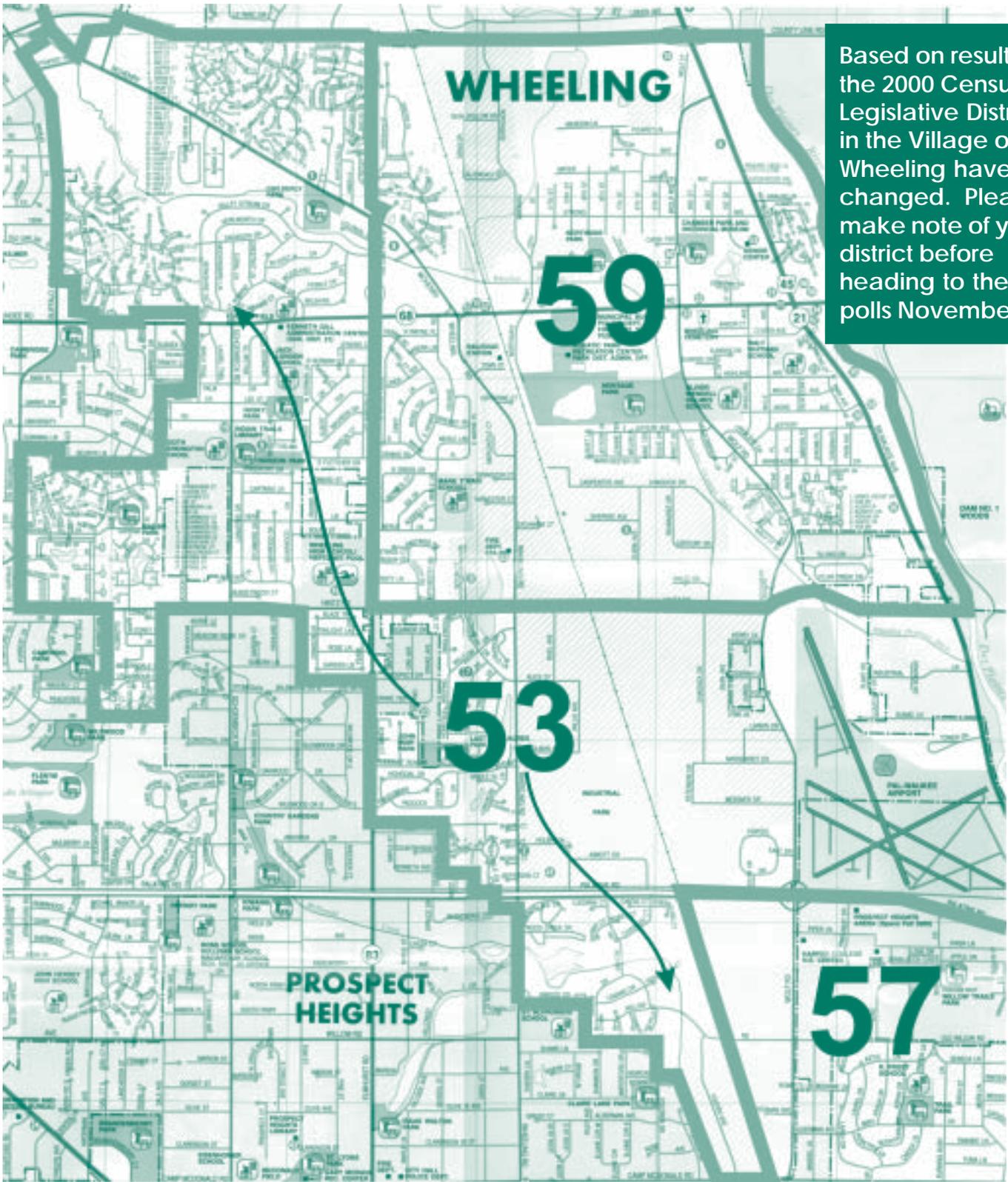
Friendship Park, at the corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Dundee Rd., officially opened on October 25. The \$1.5 million project at the Village's "gateway intersection" had been in the planning and construction process for almost a year.

The new gazebo provides a backdrop for multilevel waterfalls, which are lit at night, walkways and extensive landscaping. The gazebo is seen as a focal point for community events and other citizen activities.

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# Update on Wheeling Legislative Districts



Based on results of the 2000 Census, Legislative Districts in the Village of Wheeling have changed. Please make note of your district before heading to the polls November 5.

## Wallace Douthwaite Named Wheeling Village Manager



Wallace Douthwaite

The Village of Wheeling has appointed F. Wallace Douthwaite as village manager. The Board of Trustees approved his employment

contract on September 3. He assumed the position on Sept. 16, becoming the sixth chief executive since Wheeling enacted the city-manager form of government in 1970.

Douthwaite, 48, who has been in local government administration for 27 years, was city manager of Springboro, OH. Previously, he was chief executive for Des Plaines; Greenacres City, FL; Gresham, OR; and Moline, IL.

Douthwaite earned an undergraduate degree in public administration from Miami University of Ohio and a master's degree in public adminis-

tration from the University of Kansas.

"Mr. Douthwaite brings considerable experience in economic development financing and land use issues to Wheeling," said Village President Greg Klatecki. "He has been involved in a number of successful economic development projects, including a public-private partnership for the development of a large downtown office building, the redevelopment of prime business land and the implementation of tax-increment financing districts to spur economic development."

Additionally, Klatecki pointed to Douthwaite's experience in managing municipal infrastructure issues and capital improvement planning. The new manager also has a background in labor relations and personnel management.

"My job is to make sure vital services — water

delivery, trash pickup, etc. — are delivered on a day-to-day basis," Douthwaite said. "I present to the Board of Trustees policy issues the staff feels are important. When the board sets policies, I help establish work plans and timelines and make sure the resources are there so everyone can march in that direction. Then I get out of the way, so the staff can do what they do best."

## New Boundaries, Procedures Mark Election Day 2002

As a result of the 2000 Census and subsequent redrawing of legislative districts in Illinois, areas of Wheeling are served by three different state representatives: The 53<sup>rd</sup> district largely covers the western half of the Village; the 59<sup>th</sup>, much of the eastern half; and the 57<sup>th</sup> a small portion of the south. The adjacent map indicates the boundaries for each district.

When voters go to the polls on November 5, they will use a newly installed ballot system designed to flag "undervoting" (voting for fewer offices than listed on the ballot) and "overvoting" (voting for multiple candidates for the same office). The accompanying diagram details the procedure for using the new system.

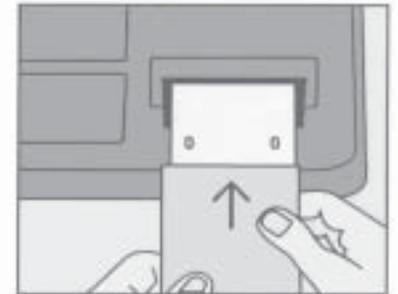
### Make Your Vote Count

New error-detection technology now alerts voters to ballot errors and gives voters a "second chance" to fix mistakes.



#### 1 Check for chads

After voting, check both sides of ballot. Remove any hanging or dimpled chads.



#### 2 Insert Ballot

Insert the ballot into the ballot counter.

#### 3 Wait for ballot counter

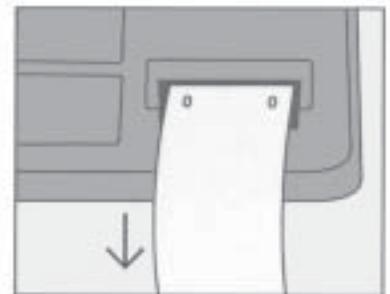
Your ballot will be ejected if you —

##### Undervote:

Intentionally skip a race or do not completely dislodge a chad.

##### Overvote:

Vote for too many candidates in a race.



#### 4 Second chance option

If the ballot is ejected, you may:

1) make changes or corrections, or 2) instruct the election judge to have the ballot accepted "as is" with the undervote(s) or overvote(s).

## Holidays Call for Special Fire Precautions

When holiday decorations go up, the risk of fire goes up, too. With that in mind, the Wheeling Fire Department has issued guidelines to reduce your risk and keep the holidays safe.

- If you put up lights outside, be sure to use those that are made for outdoor use. All lights, whether indoors or out, should be listed and approved by Underwriters Laboratories.
- Before installing lights, be sure to plug them in before you use them to check for frayed ends and bare wires. If they are in poor condition, replace them with new lights.
- Keep all combustibles away from your fireplace when it's in operation. And be sure to keep the fireplace screened in to ensure that embers don't pop out.
- Keep all open flames away from the Christmas tree.
- Fireplaces are for recreational use, which doesn't include burning trash or wrappings. Burn wood or compressed logs only. Gift wrappings are very volatile and may explode in an open flame. They should be disposed of in the garbage.
- If you use candles, make sure they're in proper holders. Burn dripless candles only.

- Before you leave home, make sure inside decorative lights are turned off.

As a further precaution during the cold months, you should have your furnace and flue serviced before winter sets in. The chimney should be checked by qualified personnel yearly for creosote buildup. Chimney sweeps or heating and air-conditioning specialists also will make sure the chimney isn't cracked to keep gases from entering the house.

### Senior Center Launches Senior Net

The Pavilion Senior Center has begun teaching basic computer skills to senior residents over age 50 through a national program called Senior Net. The program was launched in mid-September with an introductory program at the center. Shown cutting the ribbon are, from left, Mel Starkston, Midwest Regional Representative for Senior Net; Trustee Judy Abruscato, Carol Reagan, executive director of Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council; Pat Thielen, president of Palatine Senior Citizens Council Senior Net Program; and Director of Senior Citizens Services Nancy Janssen.



### Signs of Progress . . . *Continued from page 1*

consolidate properties in that area and lay the groundwork for future enhancements.

We are completing the year-long process of revising and updating the Village's comprehensive plan. It will provide guidance for orderly growth at key locations. This marks the first time the plan has been updated since the mid-1980s. It will provide guidance for future efforts to establish a town center complete with housing, shops and possible entertainment facilities. With the help of the Regional Transportation Authority, we're conducting a study around the train station to determine the area's future.

We have welcomed new businesses all over town. Our famed Restaurant Row will soon feature new names along with the noted establishments that attract people from around the Chicago area and indeed across the country.

Our housing stock continues to grow to accommodate an infusion of new arrivals representing a broad

spectrum of residents who can contribute to the future growth of the community. Astor Place is under development on the site of the old Wheeling Nursery and will provide an additional 250 residential units.

Park Point, on McHenry Rd., is in its final phase of construction. A new housing project is in the planning process on the site of the former fence business on Wolf Ct.

A streetlight program, part of a 10-year effort, is illuminating many neighborhoods that were once dark. Infrastructure improvements include replacement of decomposing water mains and storm sewers.

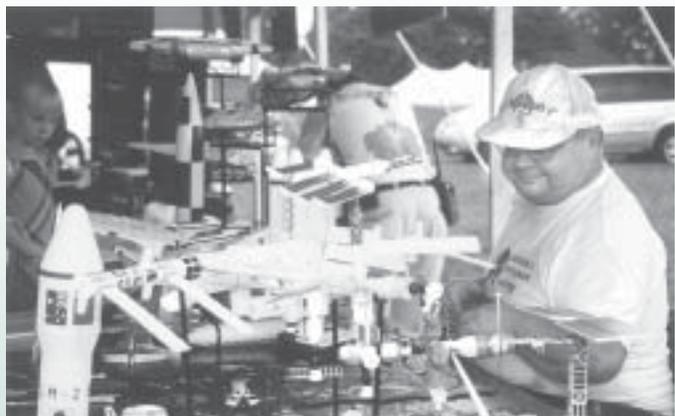
We have moved to create a greater sense of community with an Independence Day celebration that rivals any in the northwest suburbs, and an annual Festival of Lights to usher in the holiday season. Other activities sponsored by the park district and the library help residents get acquainted and share all that Wheeling has to offer.

And it is by no means over. The Plan Commission has an active program to beautify key locations around the Village. We are looking at improving certain blighted or unimproved areas. METRA will soon add a second track from Wheeling north to expand access to

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## Palwaukee Opens Its House

Everything from helicopters and antique aircraft to model planes and flight operations were on display at this year's annual Palwaukee Airport Open House. Thousands of area residents viewed exhibits, took plane rides and enjoyed local entertainment at the event. The airport contributes an estimated \$160 million to the regional economy.



## Signs of Progress

*Continued from page 4*

commuter trains and speed the movement of freight through town. The Economic Development Department is actively working to attract new businesses that will expand the tax base and add to our ability to build on what we have.

Whether you live here, work here or both, the Wheeling of tomorrow will reflect the vision of today. It's a fine place to call home, do business, learn and live fruitful lives within the great Chicago metropolitan area. Wheeling has truly become "a community of choice."

## Welcome New Businesses

**Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, DBA Cingular** – Lynn O'Connell, Manager, 1455 Lake Cook (in Wal-Mart), 847-762-2208,

**Ashland Millwork** – 5 Messner Dr., Gregg Kuetemeyer, Owner, 847-465-8739, warehousing

**North Shore Battery Corp.** – 145 S. Milwaukee Ave., Brad Winter, President, 847-537-2288,

retail & wholesale sales of batteries & related items

**Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, D/B/A Cingular Wireless LLC** – 1455 Lake Cook (in Wal-Mart), Steve Gray, President, 847-465-8456

**US Bank** – 800 S. Wheeling Rd., Richard Kellmann, Branch Manager, 847-520-0900

# Briefs and Announcements

Election

Day

Is Tuesday,

November

5.



Don't

Forget

to

Vote!

## Serve on Boards and Commissions

Wheeling President Greg Klatecki is seeking residents who would like to serve on one of the Village's seven boards and commissions. "Citizen participation on these bodies is essential to provide community input and guidance to the Board of Trustees," he said.

The committees include the: Plan Commission; Economic Development Commission; Board of Health; Human Rights Commission; Senior Citizens Commission; Ethics Commission; and Fire and Police Commission. Terms vary depending on the committee.

Applications are available at Village Hall and also on the Wheeling Web site, [www.vi.wheeling.il.us](http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us). Click on Reference Desk, Forms and Permits, Municipal Forms, then Commission Questionnaire. For more information call Village Hall, 847-459-2600.

## Fall Blood Drive Set

The Village is looking for a few good donors on November 13. The quarterly blood drive will be conducted at the Main Fire Station, 255 W. Dundee

Rd., from 1-6 p.m. While walk-in donors are welcome, the Wheeling Health Department does encourage appointments to ensure proper staffing during the collection period. For appointments and information, call Village Health Officer Mike Boyle at 847-459-2621.

## A Visit to Lollipop Lane

The Wheeling Historical Society's Lollipop Lane will be open Dec. 7-15 for children to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus. A parade will roll down Dundee Rd. on Dec. 7 at 1:30 p.m. to kick off the annual event. The holiday couple will hold court at Old Presbyterian Church in Chamber Park week nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and from 2-5 p.m. on weekends.

## Citizens Police Academy Scheduled for Late January

The Wheeling Police Department has begun accepting applications for the annual Citizens Police Academy, now set to begin in January. Village residents over 21 may apply for the Academy.

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## 36 Local Couples Celebrate Marriage, Life Longevity

Almost three dozen seniors gathered at the Pavilion Senior Center for a special celebration marking at least 50 years of marriage or 90 years of life.



Sidney and Ann Bass proudly displayed their wedding photo at the event. Many other photographs and mementos also were on display in a special look back at the lives and times of those who attended.



**Briefs and Announcements**

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Applications are available at Village Hall or on the Web site at [www.vi.wheeling.il.us](http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us). Then click on Reference Desk, Forms and Permits, Police Forms, Citizen's Police Academy. More information about the Academy is available on the Web site or from Crime Prevention Officer John Teevans, 847-459-2990.

**Here Comes Toys for Tots**

The Village of Wheeling and Bill Stasek Chevrolet will be drop-off points for the 2002 Toys for Tots program. Beginning November 1 and lasting through December 17, residents can drop off new toys in the collection bins at Village Hall and the car dealership. Used toys cannot be accepted. Please do not wrap toys.

For more information, call Village Hall at 459-2600 or Bill Stasek Chevrolet at (847) 537-7000, or visit the Wheeling Web site at [www.vi.wheeling.il.us](http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us).

**Schedule of Regular Meetings**

**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 lunchroom.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Calendar:**

**November**

**2** - Holiday Bazaar and Raffle, Pavilion Senior Center, 199 First St., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For information, call 847-459-2670.

**5** - Election Day

**13** - Blood Drive, Main Fire Station, 255 W. Dundee Rd., 1-6 p.m.

**24** - Festival of Lights, Village Hall, 6 p.m.

**28-29** - Thanksgiving Holiday. Village offices closed. Trash pickup delayed one day.

**December**

**24** - Village offices open, regular hours.

**25** - Christmas. Village offices closed. Trash pickup delayed one day.

**31** - New Year's Eve. Village offices open, regular hours.

**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 below.*

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

**Fire and Police Commission** — 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 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 South Plant Rd.

**Economic Development Commission** — 1st Tuesday each month, 8 a.m., south half of Village Hall lunchroom.

**Board of Ethics** — 3rd Thursday of January, April, July and October, 7 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunchroom.

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

Wheeling is on the Web at  
[www.vi.wheeling.il.us](http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us)

## A DAY OF REFLECTION



Hundreds of residents gathered at Village Hall on September 11 to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of 2001.

## Festival of Lights

*Continued from page 1*

illumination of displays at Friendship Park, at the corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Dundee Rd.; the decorative plot on N. Milwaukee Ave. near Lake Cook Rd.; and the park at the corner of Northgate Parkway and Dundee Rd.

The 75,000-light display will be enhanced with the addition of a horse and sleigh with two figures inside. A fireworks show is planned for the playing field next to Village Hall, depending on weather conditions.

"The Festival of Lights gives residents the opportunity to share the sights and sounds of the season together," said Trustee Abruscato. "We're looking forward to seeing everyone." For more information, contact Trustee Abruscato at 847-541-8783.

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

## Village of Wheeling

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

### Fire/Police/Paramedics

### 911

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
<b>Village President:</b> Greg Klatecki	847-459-2988
<b>Village Clerk:</b> Elaine Simpson	847-541-8692
<b>Village Manager:</b> Wallace Douthwaite	847-459-2617

### Trustees

Judy Abruscato	847-541-8783	Michael Horcher	847-541-3276
Dean Argiris	847-808-8418	Patrick Horcher	847-419-1956
Robert Heer	847-541-4274	Trevor Lehmann	847-541-6700



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