

Village Views

Wheeling, Illinois

November ~ December ~ 2003



Wheeling President reviews year, anticipates continued progress in 2004

It has been written in sports annals that it is often easier to rise to the top than remain there. I'm proud to say that as we continually strive to improve and enhance ourselves, Wheeling has remained at the top of places to live, work and play. Our Village is a safer place thanks to the efforts of our Police and Fire Departments. DUI arrests were up almost 40 percent from last year and five officers were recognized by the State of Illinois for their enforcement efforts. The fire department recently received the Residential Fire Safety Institute's Life Safety Achievement Award and we added three new firefighter/paramedic positions to our department ensuring we can provide the best possible emergency services for our growing community. We welcomed new residential developments in Astor Place and Park Point and will usher in the new year with another modern development, Prairie Park. In a time when many cities and towns across our country are still struggling with economic depression, our Village has maintained our financial stability which is evident by our recent bond upgrade. Starbucks, Pete Miller's Restaurant and FedEx Ground were just a few of the businesses that assumed the 60090 zip code during the last year. We began 2003 by approving a Tax Increment Financing District on North Milwaukee Avenue and end the year hoping to adopt our fourth TIF district that will encompass the area around the Metra Station. These TIF districts will allow us to continue enticing new developments to our Village as well as focus on redeveloping some existing properties. ——— Continued on Page 2



Village kicks off holiday season with annual 'Festival of Lights' ceremony

The Wheeling Special Events Commission invites the residents of Wheeling to kick off this year's holiday season with the 7th annual Festival of Lights Celebration. This year's event begins at 6 p.m. November 23 at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Holmes Middle School Chorus will perform seasonal selections and revelers can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies donated by Market Square Restaurant.

There will also be a special visit by Mr. and Mrs. Claus who will hear all the children's wishes for their holiday season.

The grand event is 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.....at least that is the plan. In addition, the Wheeling Park District will coordinate its lighting with the Village. New holiday decor will also adorn the fountain and be unveiled that day. For more information, call 847-459-2666, ext. 4107.

Village offices will be closed
November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving.
We wish you and yours a
happy & safe holiday.

Village takes next step in creating ultimate town center.

Page 2

Town Center ideas indicate bigger is better

The Village, in conjunction with S.B. Friedman and Company, the Lakota Group and the Metro Transportation Group, recently hosted the second community workshop regarding a proposed town center around the Metra train station.

The group of nearly 40 residents, Village leaders and area business owners all seemed to agree that major changes would maximize the potential of the half-mile circle around the Metra Station.

It has already been reported that the Wheeling Metra Station will feature double sets of tracks in 2005 and the Village is hoping to utilize the expanded transportation venue by surrounding the station with more residential, retail and industrial outlets. "The topic of discussion for the latest workshop focused on the exact mix of stores, homes and businesses deemed most desirable," said Bill Whitmer, Director of Economic Development. "The development could mean major increases in local tax revenue for the Village depending on the scale of the plans."

Some of the desired plans would result in introducing up to 200,000 square feet of additional retail space that would adjoin 125 housing units that would include townhouses, condominiums and row houses.



In addition, new access roads and possibly a foot and bike path could come into play to link existing residential areas to the Metra Station and Town Center. The group agreed that regardless of what changes would occur, all existing park district land would remain intact but access would be improved via Wolf Road.

S.B. Friedman and Company estimates the entire plan would take 10 to 15 years to complete once finalized.

"We are making major strides towards the completion of an initial plan; however, I must stress that it will be several years before any real development is actually seen," Whitmer added. "That said, there are some extremely exciting possibilities that exist regarding the future of Wheeling's town center."

Wheeling officials outline TIF plan

The Village will host a public hearing November 10 regarding the formation of a Tax Increment Financing District surrounding the Metra train station. The hearing will take place prior to the regularly scheduled Village Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall Council Chambers, 255 W. Dundee Road. The new TIF would encompass the municipal buildings on Dundee Road and extend west of the Metra train tracks past Elmhurst Road and east of the tracks to the Wheeling drainage ditch.

Village officials conducted a joint review board meeting in early October to inform representatives from the library, park district, schools and other taxing bodies on how the TIF could affect them.

In a TIF, the Village can freeze the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years. Properties still pay increases in property taxes, but money generated by appreciation in property value in the district can be used to pay for improving properties within the district.

"The hearing allows residents both within and outside the proposed TIF district the opportunity to voice their opinions or simply learn more about the Village's plans," said Mark Rooney, Assistant to the Village Manager.

President looks to future

Continued from Page 1

Over the last year we worked hard to complete and implement the Village's comprehensive plan. The plan will provide guidance as we look to the future establishment of a town center that will include housing, shops and entertainment facilities. Our business leaders and residents have worked side-by-side on plans that will maximize the use of the area around the Metra Station and I, for one, can't wait for the future.

Due to our economic stability we were able to invest more than \$1.2 million into improving our roadways, sidewalks and sewers and more than \$3.2 million into water system improvements.

We are very proud of the accomplishments that occurred over the last year, but I believe I speak for the entire Board and staff when I say that you haven't seen anything yet. We are proud to work for and with you and we all strive to make Wheeling 'a community of choice.' I wish you a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous 2004.

Village begins ambulance bill refund process

Wheeling residents mistakenly billed for ambulance rides should be getting reimbursement checks in the coming weeks, providing they filled out forms requesting payment.

According to Mike Mondschain, Director of Finance, letters were mailed last week to all residents for whom the Village has records indicating they may have paid something out of pocket for ambulance service. However, Village officials do not know if these individuals were reimbursed for what they paid out of pocket or if it was applied to their insurance deductible.

The letter mailed by the Village asks the residents to sign a form certifying that they have not or will not be reimbursed for what they paid, or the amount has not or will not be applied to their deductible. Once the resident returns the signed form to the finance department (in a SASE), we will mail them a check for the amount they paid.

In addition, according to Mondschain, the Village will no longer accept anything out of pocket from residents.

“From this point forward, residents who use the ambulance service will receive a “statement” showing the cost of the service, a credit for the same amount with the words “Pending Insurance” and a Now Due amount of zero,” he stated. “The resident's only responsibility is to provide their insurance information to the billing company we use, Paramedic Billing Services. PBS will then bill the individual's insurance or Medicare/Medicaid and accept as full payment whatever is paid as full payment.”

Village officials also stated that this new policy applies to Wheeling residents only. Non-residents will still be responsible for paying any amount not paid by their insurance company. For more information, contact the Village of Wheeling.

Wheeling Fire Department offers holiday safety tips

Now that the weather is changing and cold weather is coming, the Wheeling Fire Department would like to offer some safety tips to help keep your families safe.

- ❏ Now that houses are closed and furnaces are running, homeowners should have their furnaces inspected and cleaned by a heating contractor to minimize the chance of carbon monoxide leaks and to optimize the efficiency of the furnace.
- ❏ Install a UL approved carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- ❏ Check the operation of all smoke detectors in the home and replace the batteries in battery operated units.
- ❏ If your house has a fireplace, it should be inspected and cleaned by a chimney sweep to rid the chimney of creosote buildup which can cause a dangerous chimney fire. Also be aware that holiday wrappings are very volatile and should never be burned in a fireplace.
- ❏ Keep all combustibles stored away from your fireplace when it is in operation and be sure to use a fireplace screen to ensure that hot embers can't pop out onto your carpet.
- ❏ Before installing any outdoor holiday decorations, inspect them for damaged cords. Only use lights that are approved for outdoor use outdoors.
- ❏ Holiday trees, whether they are artificial or real, pose a fire risk. Carefully inspect all lights before installing and never allow any open flames near the tree, including candles.
- ❏ Turn off all holiday decorations before retiring for the night or leaving your home.
- ❏ *Have a safe and happy holiday season!*

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 Tom Skilling points to a northern blast of winter heading 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.

Give us your cold, your tired..... actually, we just want your blood

The Village is hosting a Community Blood Drive from 2 to 7 p.m. November 12 at Fire Station #24 adjacent to Village Hall. The following are guidelines provided by LifeSource regarding donation:

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.

For questions about medication or conditions that may prevent you from being able to donate, call the LifeSource Medical Help Desk at 800-486-0680. To make an appointment prior to November 12, call Mike Boyle at (847) 459-2621 or mboyle@vi.wheeling.il.us.

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.



Welcome!

Southbound travelers on Milwaukee Ave. are now greeted with a new Village limits sign located near Lake Cook Road. The sign features the slogan, 'A Community of Choice.'

The Wheeling Special Events Commission wanted to take one last opportunity to thank our July 4th, 2003 Corporate and Event sponsors. We could not have done it without you.

Bill Stasek Chevrolet	North American Jet
Corus Bank	AmVets Post 66
Daily Herald	S&J Electric
Waste Management Northwest	Hoyne Savings
Wheeling Park District	Village of Wheeling
Kenny Construction	Market Square Restaurant
Hallmark & Johnson Property Management	

And, we thank our residents for their continued support.



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

Senior Services

NOVEMBER

Flu Shots at Pavilion Senior Center
Friday, November 7 - 9:30 a.m. to noon
65+ and Medicare Part B - No Charge
18+, at high risk - \$12 per person
Sponsored by Wheeling Township

Friday, November 21 - 10 a.m. to noon
Any Age - \$20 per person
65+ and Medicare Part B - No Charge
Sponsored by Cub Foods

Saturday, November 15 - 1 p.m.
The public is invited to the first annual meeting of the Wheeling SeniorNet at the Senior Pavilion Center. Several information breakout sessions are scheduled on such subjects as digital cameras, the Internet and Good file management of a Computer. In addition, the 2004 scheduled class sessions will be announced.

The SeniorNet Program is for older adult students (50-years-old or older) who wish to learn basic computer skills with peer teachers. For more information, call 847-459-2670.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 10 - 7 p.m.
Holiday concert for the community featuring the fabulous 'Mood Swings' at the Pavilion Senior Center. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, December 17 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Holiday party at Chevy Chase Country Club Lunch, Dancing, Raffles, and Door Prizes
Lunch Choices: Chicken Piccata or Prime Rib
Reservations at Wheeling Park District or Pavilion Senior Center - \$25 per person

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.



Thank You!

The Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees and staff thanks our residents for their cooperation and patience during the recent garbage strike.

Fire Department earns Safety Award

The Wheeling Fire Department has been presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for 2002 by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) as announced by Roy L. Marshall, Director for the RFSI.

For 10 years, the Life Safety Achievement Award has recognized the local fire prevention activities that contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. Wheeling qualified for this award because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures during that respective calendar year. Although residential fires in the United States account for only 20 percent of all fires, they result in 80 percent of all fire deaths. The RFSI is committed to reducing that number.

“Experience tell us that fire prevential activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires,” Marshall stated. “The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevential efforts and encourages them to continually improve those efforts.”

“I salute the entire department for a job well done and thank the RFSI for recognizing the pride we take in keeping Wheeling safe,” said Keith MacIsaac, Fire Chief. “It’s always nice to be patted on the back and especially when the award recognizes that no lives were lost due to fire in Wheeling in 2002.”



Village asks residents to remember those less fortunate during the holidays



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, and at Bill Stasek Chevrolet, 700 W. Dundee Road beginning October 20 and continuing until December 18. 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.

Last year, more than 34,000 needy children in the Northern Chicago Zone received toys thanks to people just like you; let’s do our part again this year.

Another program the Village is supporting this year is the Merlin Muffler and Brake Snug Hugs for Kids. For 12 years, Merlin’s has been collecting new and like-new, as well as hand-made winter clothing that is donated to Children’s Home and Aid Society of Illinois. Since its inception, the Snug Hugs for Kids program has donated more than 150 tons of winter clothing to needy families.

This year’s drive takes place from November 1 through December 10 and individuals are asked to take items directly to the Merlin Muffler & Brake Shop located at 90 Old McHenry Road. The Village thanks you for your support and wishes you and yours many happy returns for your kindness.

The Wheeling Police Department is pleased to announce the following promotions that recently occurred within the ranks of the department:

John Stone has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Police.

John Teevans has been promoted to Police Commander and will be in charge of the Support Services Division.

The Wheeling Fire Department is pleased to announce the following promotions that recently occurred within the ranks of the department:

Bart Burns has been promoted to Lieutenant/Paramedic.

David Palmeri has been promoted to Lieutenant/Paramedic.



Speak ou *T*

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

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

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

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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

ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Residents are invited to attend public meetings of Village Boards and Commissions. Most meet in the Village Hall Councilroom unless otherwise noted here.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paint-A-Thon spruces up homes, lends elderly a hand



Sheila Schultz, former Village President, puts the finishing touches on a door during the Paint-A-Thon.

The Village of Wheeling once again picked up paint brushes and rollers and spread a little goodwill and elbow grease during the annual Paint-A-Thon recently.

The Village team was led by Dennis Rouleau, Manager of Palwaukee Airport, and included an assortment of volunteers from the Village and the Learning House School in Wheeling. The group was able to paint two homes during the one-day event and another home was painted by a team from the Wheeling Park District.

According to Nancy Janssen, Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center Director and Paint-A-Thon committee member, 10 townships across the northwest suburbs participated.

“In all, more than 700 volunteers came out this year and 36 homes of senior and

disabled individuals were spruced up and painted,” Janssen reported. “It takes the steering committee all year to coordinate the volunteers, find houses and actually do the work, but without a doubt this is one of the most rewarding projects to be involved with.”

The annual event is designed to assist homeowners 60 years or older or those who have a permanent disability. In addition, the homeowners must meet certain financial guidelines in order to be eligible.

Janssen has been involved with the charitable project for 11 years and each year has ended the same.

“At the end of the day, everybody gets to stand back, look at the project and see what an amazing accomplishment it is,” she said. “There’s no better feeling that helping people who really need it.”

Spratt named Director of Public Works

F. Wallace Douthwaite, Village Manager, announced that Charles Spratt has been named to the position of Public Works Director, effective October 16. Spratt had been the acting director since August 18. Spratt is no stranger to the Wheeling Public Works department, having come on board in November 1995 as a Fleet Services Supervisor. He was promoted to the Building and Fleet Services Supervisor in November 1999 when the Building Maintenance and Fleet Services Divisions were combined. “Chuck is an extremely skilled Public Works professional, obviously familiar with the Village and has the respect of the men and women in our PW Department,” Douthwaite said. “He is the right man for the job.”

Flood information is now available through a link to FEMA via the Village website - www.vi.wheeling.il.us

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

911

Trustees

Judy Abruscato: 847-541-8783	Michael Horcher: 847-541-3276
Dean Argiris: 847-808-8418	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