

# Village Views

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

## Wheeling Awarded Safe Community Grant

The only community in the Northwest Suburbs to receive the Safe Community Grant, Wheeling was selected, in part, because of the innovative programs already in place:

- Air bag training program
- Primary seatbelt enforcement ordinance
- Bicycle rodeo
- Recently purchased speed trailer
- Child safety seat inspections.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the Village of Wheeling a \$50,000 traffic study grant. The money will fund a year-long analysis of five critical areas: drunk driving, road rage, unsafe driving around school buses, pedestrian safety and placing bicycle helmets with all children in the village.

Wheeling is the only community in the Northwest Suburbs to receive the grant—and one of just 19 statewide. The grant will pay for the services of Tom Pillewski, just hired as Safe Community Grant Coordinator; computer support and related expenses for the police department to compile statistical data about the five areas. “After we collect the data,” said Corporal Michael Rompala, who directs the Wheeling Traffic Unit, “we can set priorities about which problems to tackle first.”

Once the data collection process is complete, the Village will apply for additional funds to hire officers who will focus solely on the key areas. They will not handle general police calls. Rompala was expected to complete the preliminary evaluation by the end of 1998. “We were chosen to receive the grant,” Rompala explained, “because the innovative safety programs we already have in place were eye-catchers for the grant people.”

He pointed to the Village’s child safety seat inspections, air-bag training program, primary seatbelt enforcement ordinance, the recently purchased “speed trailer” and the department’s bicycle rodeo program. “Once we have the officers we need to spearhead these programs,” Rompala said, “there’s no question Wheeling will be a safer place to live and drive.”



### Trailing Their Speed

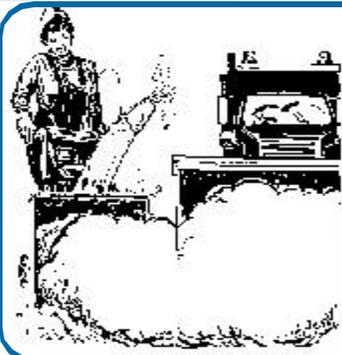
A new electronic eye is peering at the speed of traffic on Village streets and highways. The \$10,000 speed trailer began appearing in October, flashing travel

speed on a digital display at oncoming traffic. Part of a larger package that included two new radar units, the speed trailer cost 15 percent less than if it had been purchased separately.

What drivers see when they first encounter the speed wagon is a five-foot-tall white “box” with the speed limit mounted on top. Below, in even larger numerals, is the actual speed of oncoming traffic. The numbers change red when a driver exceeds the limit by a predetermined amount.

The trailer is effective, too, especially in residential areas. As a result, the trailer is in demand. Requests for it to visit the neighborhood take weeks to fill.

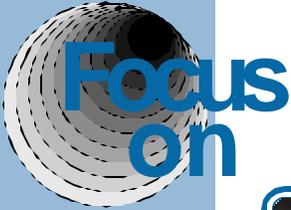
“The unit is a reminder and speed calibrator,” said Officer Dorann Swanson. She explained that traffic officers are often parked nearby when the speed trailer is operating. “If [motorists] don’t back off on their speed, they can get ticketed. We just tell them, ‘You saw [the speed trailer]. We saw it. Any questions?’”



Winter Is Here!

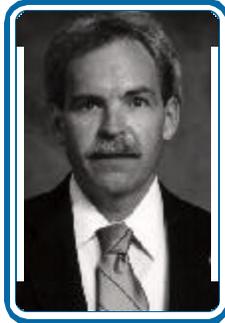
Snow removal tips and information on page 4.





## Hallmark of Public Works' Service: Attentiveness to Community Needs, Teamwork

*"Engineering Division personnel will survey the area and draw up a drainage plan that may save homeowners a lot of money."*



*Robert D. Gray, Jr.*

**A**ttentiveness to the needs of the community and a teamwork approach are the hallmark of service provided by Wheeling's Public Works Department, says Director Robert D. Gray, Jr. "When someone calls us, we try to respond that day."

Many residents may not be aware of all the times they might call Public Works for assistance. For example, Sewer Division recommends calling the Village first about a sewer service line problem. "It might be attributed to our line. If so, we'll pressure clean the sewer main," Gray says.

Before hiring a plumbing contractor to replace a service line, Public Works suggests having its sewer line closed-circuit television cameras check it out. "Pictures can save a lot of unnecessary digging," Gray adds.

Another time to call Public Works is to advise Street Division of storm damaged trees on public property. They pride themselves on running a sound tree maintenance program. Have a problem with a frozen pipe? Public Works has a pipe thawer and may be able to assist. See a dead animal in the road? Street Division wants to know about it.

Specialized services for residents go beyond what many communities offer. Homeowners with drainage concerns, for example, have a friend at Public Works. "One of the most common problems we see is yard flooding when gardens or sheds obstruct the drainage easement. Engineering Division personnel will survey the area and draw up a drainage plan that may save homeowners a lot of money," Gray explains. "Residents don't necessarily have to hire a civil engineer or land planner to correct the problem." Public Works takes a special interest in drainage problems. "We look at the creeks every two years. Creek and drainage improvements are constant," Gray says.

Public Works delivers the Village's most visible services. It has privatized many essential services—landscaping

and waste removal, for example—to increase cost efficiency. However, snow removal is considered an emergency service, like flood control, so Public Works has its own equipment and trained personnel to handle it.

The Public Works Department prides itself on employing many homegrown professionals who care about Wheeling. "We get along very well. Many division heads grew up here. We are a 'can-do' group. You don't see massive chudholes in Wheeling," says Gray, whose round-the-clock work habits are legendary.

### PW Has 6 Divisions

The Public Works Department has six divisions: Engineering, Fleet Maintenance, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Street, Sewer, and Water.

**Engineering** reviews infrastructure improvements associated with new subdivisions and buildings, provides technical assistance, supervises permit processing, and provides on-site inspection of all public improvements. The division previously was part of the Community Development Department before a 1995 restructuring to increase efficiency and better coordinate improvements with Public Works.

**Fleet Maintenance**, as you might expect, keeps all Village vehicles in good operating condition. It is also responsible for underground fuel storage tank compliance and for providing snow and ice control support to the Street Division.

**Building and Grounds** is responsible for building, landscaping and grounds maintenance at the Municipal Complex, Senior Center, Cemetery, Metra station, and the branch fire station. It also provides snow and ice control services at these sites.

**Street Division** handles repairs on pavement, curbs, and gutters for 62 miles of Village streets; maintains 8,000 lineal feet of crosswalks, 73,100 lineal feet of pavement markings and all sidewalks; does parkway tree trimming, and keeps more than 700 street lights burning. It maintains an inventory of street histories. It uses infrared analysis of pavements to test strength and set priorities for replacement.

**Sewer Division** is responsible for 74 miles of sewer lines, 2,100 manholes, 9 sanitary sewage lift stations, 65 miles of storm sewers and 2 storm water pumping stations. Its

duties include sewer odor control, 24-hour emergency assistance, televising and inspecting of sewers. The Division is also responsible for flood response and emergency pumping.

**Water Division** supervises a system that delivers a daily flow of 4.4 million gallons of Lake Michigan water to Wheeling customers. Its responsibilities include 117 miles of water mains, 1,300 valves and valve vaults, 1,368 fire hydrants, 2 deep wells, 9 water storage facilities, 4 pump stations, and over 6,200 water meters.

To increase efficiency, Water Division is converting water meters to new remote-read radio units. Using new technology, these radio units enable Water personnel to read meters as they drive down a block without going up to each house.

# Community Celebrates Festival of Lights

A new banner, fit for the season, flies above Village Hall. A number like it also decorated Milwaukee Avenue.

The New Dawn Singers of Wheeling High School loaned their vocal talents for the event.



An outpouring of fairy dust and desire, Santa hears it all.

Board President Gregg Klatecki enjoys a moment with a young resident.



## Things that Go Boom in the Night

While many cold days lurk on the road to Independence Day, plans are nonetheless proceeding for the 1999 Fourth of July extravaganza. Attempting to build on the overwhelming response to the 1998 celebration, the volunteer committee is planning an event called "Bridge to Tomorrow" to recognize the changes occurring in Wheeling and its future in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The theme will be extended to feature a bridge of balloons.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Public Works Director Bob Gray will be co-grand marshals of the parade. Parade participants haven't yet been finalized, but Paul Nielsen's Blues Band and the Big Band Sound—both heard in recent years—will be featured in the band shell.

Last year's unexpectedly large turnout prompted organizers to introduce changes to ease the purchase of food tickets. While the number of restaurants participating will be the same—twelve—residents will be able to buy tickets up to a week in advance.

A bigger fireworks display is planned for this year. Already set is a \$15,000 budget to make things go boom in the night. To help defray costs, the annual spaghetti dinner will be held February 16, 5-7 p.m., at Amvets on M Henry Rd. Residents will also be asked to donate a dollar each with their water bills.

For more information about "the Fourth," contact Trustee Judy Abruscato at 847-541-8783.

## Briefs and Announcements

### Horizons Seeks Volunteers

Horizons Children's Center urgently needs volunteers, especially among seniors and retirees. The program pairs adult mentors with small groups of children in the classroom for three hours a week. The hours vary from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. The ages of the children range from six weeks old through 12 years. Some children do not have grandparents living nearby and miss out on the value of learning from the generations. For information, call Chris Bauske at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 847-228-1006.

### Wisinski Joins Airport Commission

Trustee Wayne Wisinski has assumed the additional responsibility of representing the Village on the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. He fills the term left vacant by the passing of Bill Rogers, a longtime Village resident and former trustee. Wisinski will serve through 2001.

### Congrats to HS State Champs

The Board of Trustees lauded the boys cross-country teams at Wheeling High School and Holmes Middle School with proclamations. The Wheeling boys ran to a state championship. The Homets finished third at a recent state cross-country meet.

# Village Launches Snow Removal Plan

The arrival of winter means the annual launch of the Village's Snow and Removal Plan. The Department's priority list calls for plowing

- Principal intersections
- Primary collector streets to allow two-way traffic to pass safely
- Feeder streets, cul-de-sacs and dead-ends (in order).

Department personnel start at the top of the list and work their way down. It is impossible to predict when a given area may be plowed due to varying weather and snow conditions.

While the Department crews spread salt more heavily at roadway intersections and curves, weather, traffic volume, and pavement type are factors in how well the salt does its job. However, when the temperature dips below 25 degrees (F.), salt becomes less effective. In very cold temperatures, the salt has no effect.

With the Village caring for local streets and thoroughfares, two other agencies are responsible

for related highways

Major traffic arteries — Milwaukee Ave., Dundee Rd., Palatine Rd., Aptakisic Rd., Route 83 (Elmhurst Rd. and McHenry Rd.) and Wolf Rd. — are the responsibility of the Illinois Department of Transportation. Their phone number is 847-705-4222.

Primary and secondary traffic arteries — Lake Cook Rd., Schoenbeck Rd., Camp McDonald Rd., Old Buffalo Grove Rd., Wheeling Rd. (south of Palatine Rd.), Hintz Road, Buffalo Grove Rd., and Weiland Rd. — fall under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Highway Department, which may be reached at 847-827-1164.

As a reminder, the Department of Public Works has issued the following snow-related guidelines:

- Be careful where you shovel snow — NOT into the street or on the sidewalk and not covering a fire hydrant.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited following a snowfall of at least two inches until the plows are finished
- Keep your sidewalks safe for others; it's your responsibility to clear them

*Parking on Village streets is prohibited following a snowfall of at least two inches until the plows are finished*



**picked up with normal trash collection.**

## Drive Produces 36 Units of Blood

The Board of Health declared the recent blood drive "a success." The one-day event produced 36 units of blood. The next blood drive will be held March 10, 1999.

## Fill Senior Commission Vacancies

The Senior Citizens Commission would like to fill several vacancies. The commission helps advise and coordinate activities at the Senior Pavilion. For more information, contact Nancy Janssen, Senior Citizen Coordinator, at 847-459-2672.

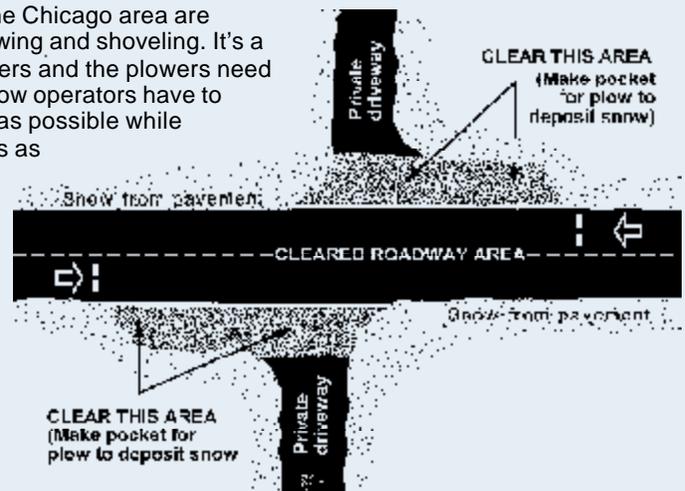
## Route 83 Improvement

Motorists traveling Route 83 between Dundee and Palatine Roads may experience periodic delays through late fall 1999 as reconstruction proceeds. The \$8 million project will see the highway grow from two lanes to five (including a painted median). New traffic lights are planned for the intersections of Hintz and Dundee Roads with Rte. 83.

## Tips to Keep Your Driveway Clear of Snow from Public Works

Winter and snow in the Chicago area are synonymous with plowing and shoveling. It's a time when the shovelers and the plowers need to cooperate. Snowplow operators have to move as much snow as possible while avoiding such barriers as parked cars.

Sometimes plowed snow can block driveways. You can help reduce the chance of a clogged driveway by shoveling snow in the direction of traffic, so the plow can take it away instead of pushing it in. Also be sure to clear a pocket on the side opposite your driveway as shown in the attached diagram.



# Beware the Indoor Fire Season

The Wheeling Fire Department has issued a set of reminders to reduce the chance of fire, especially during the colder months.

- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from a hot stove.
- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Turn pot handles inward to prevent spills.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or run power cords across doorways or under rugs.
- Use non-tip candle holders and never burn candles near combustibles, such as curtains.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, including rooms where people sleep with the door closed.
- Have your chimney and central heating system inspected at least once a year.
- Never store gasoline inside your home.
- Keep fireplaces small.

Always use a screen to keep sparks where they belong.

- Never pour ashes into an indoor barbecue pan.

## Laundry Room

A little-known fire hazard lurks behind the usually friendly laundry dryer. Lint is highly combustible. Most gets caught in the lint trap, but some slides through to be vented outside.

If left alone, the vents perform well and safely. Some homeowners, trying to block access to nest-building birds, install screening over the outtake of the vent pipe. This is a collecting point for the lint particles not stopped at the lint trap. Over time, lint will collect on the screen to the point of blocking air flow and creating hazards.

The Wheeling Fire Department urges residents not to use small screening over a laundry vent tube. Consult with a licensed contractor to determine the best and safest solution.

# 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 - Second 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.

# 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

### EDC Developing Plan to Attract, Retain Business

The Economic Development Commission is developing a long-term plan to attract and retain new business in the Village. Chairman John Flanagan recently sent a letter of introduction to employers with more than 100 employees about the existence of the commission and the newly formed Economic Development Department.

Commission representatives met with Metra to discuss the impact, both present and future, of Wheeling train station on residential development within a quarter-mile radius of the station.

In a joint effort, the commission and Village staff have compiled a list of priorities for Wheeling's future economic well being. The top three include:

- ◆ Coordinating with area educators to address questions of work-force readiness and apprenticeships.
- ◆ Providing special attention and assistance to small businesses needing permits and licenses.
- ◆ Retaining local businesses.

#### Developing Statement of Human Rights

The Human Rights Commission is completing the lengthy development of a statement of human rights for the Village of Wheeling. Based on the Wheeling 2000 report, the statement is intended to raise awareness of bigotry and negative remarks made against groups or individuals. The theme "That's not right," was developed in the Wheeling 2000 report.

#### Approve One Milwaukee Place

The Plan Commission/Sign Code Board of Appeals passed to the Board of Trustees a recommendation for approval of the

planned unit development at the corner of Milwaukee and Dundee (One Milwaukee Place). The recommendation, subsequently approved by the Board, included approval of a special sign district for the Walgreen's store planned for that corner. One Milwaukee Place, when completed, will include a complex of stores, restaurants and residential units.

#### Facilitate Construction of River Crossing

Zoning Board of Appeals recommended certain variations from the municipal code to facilitate construction of the River Crossing housing development planned for the northwest corner of Hintz Rd. and Milwaukee Ave. The variations related to so-called "setback" requirements.

## Board Actions

#### Approve Strip Mall Project

The Board of Trustees gave the green light to developers Don and Caryn Geller to convert portions of the current K-Mart parking lot (Dundee and Elmhurst Rds.) into a strip mall containing a projected 18 stores and other small businesses. The project will involve filling in the parking lot to eliminate problems of flooding and standing water.

#### Proceed with River Crossing Townhomes

The board also has told Burns & Construction Co. to proceed with construction of townhouses at the corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Hintz Road. Burns & expects to break ground for the project, known as River Crossing, in the spring.

## 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	9 1 1
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 Klatacki	459-8116
Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson	541-8692
Village Manager: Craig Anderson	459-2617
Trustees:	
Judy Abruscato	541-8783
Robert Heer	541-4274
Patrick Horcher	419-1956
Trevor Lehmann	541-6700
William Spangenberg	520-1019
Wayne Wisinski	394-3432

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