

Wheeling unveils final draft for ‘Town Center’

The Village of Wheeling Metra Station Area Planning Study Project Committee met for what could have been the final time Tuesday evening at the Wheeling Park District Community Center. The committee, comprised of elected and appointed Village officials, Village staff, Park District representatives and local business leaders, has been working with consultants, the Regional Transit Authority, PACE and Metra on a land-use study around the Metra Station since July.

At a September public hearing, S.B. Friedman & Company, lead consultant, sub-consultants The Lakota Group and the Metro Transportation Group presented draft plans and strategies that resulted from the initial workshop conducted in July. The September “listening workshop” sought feedback, ideas and opinions from Village officials and staff, local business owners and organizations, developers, community organizations

and residents on the recommended development opportunities and transit oriented district strategies for this study area. Input that was received was implemented into the proposed plan and presented to the committee Tuesday night. The Village Board recently approved a TIF district that encompasses the study area and is designed to support the plan. Village staff hopes to begin utilizing this initiative for development planning around the Metra train station soon.

“This plan is the result of a lot of cooperation and hard work between the committee, RTA, Pace, Metra, concerned residents, business leaders and our consultants,” said Bill Whitmer, Director of Economic Development for the Village of Wheeling. “We’re extremely pleased with the plan and hope to begin implementing it soon.”

Continued on Page 6

Happy New Year

Motorists traveling on Milwaukee are greeted with a festive, holiday scene at Friendship Park. The Village’s Public Works Department braved the elements to install all of the lights and decorations at both the fountain and Village Hall. On behalf of the Village President, Board of Trustees and staff, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.



The Wheeling Police Department reminds everyone to celebrate the new year responsibly. ‘Drive Hammered, Get Nailed!’



Village Board approves annexation of parcels in unincorporated Cook County.

Page 8

Fire Department stresses fire safety during winter months

Now that the cold of winter is here, it is time to consider some important fire safety tips:

Keep all combustible materials at least 30 inches away from your furnace, boiler, water heater, fireplace, and/or wood-burning stove. The radiant heat given off by these appliances over time can cause combustible materials to ignite.

Kerosene heaters should only be used in a well-ventilated area that is equipped with a carbon monoxide detector. Allow the kerosene heater to completely cool down before refueling the unit outdoors. Do not refuel the unit within your home or garage.

Frozen pipes should only be thawed and repaired by a licensed plumber. Thawing pipes with a flame-producing torch can cause heat to travel along the pipe and remotely ignite the inside of the wall in your house.

Use fireplaces only with a proper metal screen or glass door assembly in place. Without these protective devices in place, sparks can exit the fireplace and ignite nearby carpeting or furniture. Do not leave fireplaces or wood burning stoves unattended. Only burn seasoned wood or pre-manufactured logs designed for fireplaces or wood-burning stoves. Do not burn paper or garbage in your fireplace or wood-burning stove. Ashes remain hot for several days. Wait at least three days before placing ashes in the garbage or in a combustible container.

Do not leave candles unattended. This is very important if you have pets and/or young children. If you use candles during power outages, consider replacing them with battery-operated lanterns that are available at most sporting good stores.

Keep lighters and matches in a secure place away from children.



Do not pour old gasoline from your lawn mower and/or snow blower down the sewer. This is very dangerous to you and your neighbors. Instead, pour the old gasoline into your automobile while the car is sitting outside of your garage. Do not pour gasoline inside your garage or use gasoline for any purposes other than as a motor fuel.

In the event of a fire, immediately call 9-1-1 (from your home or cellular phone) and evacuate your home. Always call the Fire Department first, before attempting to fight the fire. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself unless it is very small and you leave yourself a clear escape path to an exit from your home. Once outside, do not attempt to reenter your home until the fire is extinguished by the Fire Department.

Educate your children or grandchildren about the dangers of fire. As a family, develop a fire escape plan for your home.

If the batteries in your smoke detectors and flashlights are more than a year old (or if you are unsure how old they are), replace them. If your smoke detectors are more than 10 years old and/or your carbon monoxide detector is more than five years old, they need to be replaced.

Plan to make 2004 a fire safe year for you and your family. Fire prevention is everyone's responsibility - please do your part!



We're Glad You Are Here!

The Village routinely sends 'Welcome Packets' to new residents of Wheeling highlighting school districts, places of worship, garbage pickup and other tidbits of useful information that can make your transition into your new home less stressful. Occasionally we may miss someone, so if you are a new resident to Wheeling and have not yet received a welcome packet, please call us at 459-2600 to request that we mail one to you.

Chamber of Commerce works to improve Village

The Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, is an active, membership-based organization committed to maintaining a healthy and progressive business community.

Businesses who are Chamber members have access to programs, events, publications, and other benefits which strengthen and promote their businesses.

The Chamber partners with local municipalities, public libraries, park districts, and other local organizations on programs such as:

- * Producing a community street map, a retail/dining guide, and a Chamber membership directory for both residents and businesses, and offering business referrals;

- * Providing training programs for the employees of local businesses (such as English-as-a-Second-Language and management training classes);

- * Sponsoring annual college scholarships for graduating high school seniors who are employed (or their parents are employed) by a Chamber member;

- * Distributing local information to residents considering relocation in Wheeling;

- * Sponsoring annual award programs such as Business of the Year and Community Enhancement Awards, to those businesses who are working to make a positive impact on the community;

- * Supporting the village and other local organizations by

promoting their programming in the monthly Chamber newsletter or on the Chamber Web site, such as the Fourth of July Celebration and the Wheeling Blood Drives;

- * Partnering on special events such as the Wheeling Park District's Passport to the World, the Palwaukee Municipal Airport's Open House and the Wheeling Fourth of July parade/children's games, and many others;

- * Hosting events to highlight our businesses, such as the Summer Sizzle (August 8, 2004 - join us for a fun, memorable event) and the "Putting on the Ritz with Restaurant Row" event in October each year.

Additionally, the Chamber hosts a variety of benefits to local businesses such as educational seminars, networking events, advertising and marketing co-op programs, business showcases, mailing lists, candidate forums, golf outings, multi-Chamber events and more.

Shop and dine in your community! If you are a local business, you are encouraged to become a Chamber member. Keep in mind that a portion of your sales tax remains in the Village to help the community grow and prosper. For a free retail/dining guide or more information, call the Chamber office at 847-541-0170 or visit www.wphchamber.com.

State Child Passenger Protection Act amended

Public Act #83-8, the child Passenger Protection Act, has been in effect in Illinois since July 1, 1983. The law, amended effective January 1, 2004, requires anyone who transports children in Illinois in non-commercial vehicles to do so in the following manner:

Children under the age of 8-years-old (INCREASED FROM 4-YEARS-OLD) must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system, more commonly called a child safety seat. Child safety seats include infant seats, convertible seats (rear-facing for infants and forward-facing for toddlers) and booster seats that are used with the vehicle lap and shoulder belt system.

Children weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported in the back seat of a motor vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat is not equipped with a lap and shoulder belt system.

Children and young people ages 8 to 16-years-old must be secured in a properly adjusted safety belt in any position in the vehicle.

The parent or legal guardian of a child under 8-years-old is responsible for providing a child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child.

Every person under 18-years-old who transports a child ages 8 to 17-years-old is responsible for securing that child or young person in a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt or safety seat.

An initial violation will result in a \$50 fine, which is waived upon proof of possession of an approved safety seat. Subsequent violations are punishable by a \$100 fine. Children with physical disabilities that prevent the use of standard safety seats are exempt from the provisions of the law if the disability is duly certified by a physician.

Did You Know?

The Village of Wheeling is extremely proud of its designation as a 'Tree City USA' and appreciates the efforts of our residents to keep the Village green. Occasionally, privately-owned trees must be removed by ComEd for safety reasons. If you are the owner of one of these trees, *did you know* that you are eligible for a replacement at no cost to you?

The Village has a cooperative agreement with ComEd called the Private Property Tree Replacement Program.



The Private Property Tree Replacement Program focuses on removing selected trees growing directly under overhead lines and issuing a replacement voucher to residents. The goal is to replace those trees with low growing trees or plants.

How does the program work?

Prior to cyclic pruning, feeders are examined and trees are selected for removal.

If a tree that has been selected for removal is located on residential property, a ComEd representative contacts the homeowner and asks him or her to sign a tree removal form. For each tree over four inches in diameter (chest high) that is to be removed, ComEd may, at ComEd's discretion, offer to the owner a replacement voucher. Each voucher will be redeemable at a participating vendor for one replacement tree on ComEd's approved replacement list, or for an equal dollar amount of other approved landscape materials. ComEd will mail the voucher, along with a planting guide and other appropriate publications, to the owner after the removal of the existing tree.

Who cuts the tree down?

If the owner agrees to the removal of the tree, ComEd will cut down the tree, remove and chip associated brush, cut all wood into firewood length and leave the wood on site. The homeowner will be responsible for any stump removal and disposal of logs left on site. This responsibility will be specified in the signed agreement of the owner before removal of the tree begins.

Construction continues on Police Satellite Office

Thanks to the hard work of Public Works employees, off-duty police officers and volunteers from the Citizen's Police Academy and community, the police satellite offices at 99 Wolf Road opened for business December 15. Although the offices won't be 'officially' christened until March, construction has progressed enough to allow a few Crime Prevention Unit officers to move in.

"There is still a lot of work to be done, but thanks to the diligence of our public works department and many volunteers, we were able to open the doors before the end of the year," said Commander John Teevans.

According to Teevans, desks, tables, chairs and other pieces of furniture were donated by Allstate, Northbrook School District and Palwaukee Airport which saved the Village thousands of dollars.

The satellite offices will house the entire Crime Prevention Unit when construction is completely finished. The offices are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Individuals with crime prevention issues or concerns are encouraged to stop by or call 847-459-2679.



John Popadowski, Police Chief, applies another coat of paint during a recent work session at the future satellite office.



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

Senior Services

The Wheeling Pavilion Center announces the following programs for area senior citizens in Wheeling and the nearby suburbs. Anyone 55-years-old or older is welcome to join the activities, volunteer to assist with them or share his or her talents with others.

Senior Net Computer Classes

Registration for the very-popular Senior Net Computer classes runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, January 17. Daytime and evening classes will be offered. This program is designed to help adults ages 50 and older learn computer skills in a friendly environment. All participants must be members of Senior Net, the national program, which requires a \$40 annual fee. Each student will have his or her own computer to use during the class. First session classes begin January 26th.

Singles Mingles

Looking for companionship? Need to add some spice into your life? Simply looking to meet new friends? The Pavilion Senior Center introduces the new Singles Mingles Group. The inaugural meeting is Friday, January 24 at 1 p.m. Save the date and bring a friend to lend ideas and interest to ensure this group becomes as fun and productive as possible. There are no fees, but please RSVP by January 23. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Join the Pavilion members as we celebrate the year of the snake at the Chinese New Year Celebration from noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, January 22. Delicious Chinese cuisine, entertainment and friendship will be served.
\$9 per person for Pavilion members
\$14 per person for non-members

Health Watch

Improving Your Quality of Life

(Information courtesy of the Village of Wheeling Health Department)

Before your guests shout happy new year and fill the air with corks and confetti, here are a few food preparation and serving tips to keep you and your guests safe.

A popular way to celebrate the holidays or other special occasions is to invite family and friends to a buffet dinner. However, this type of service where foods are left out for long periods of time, leaves the door open for not only the invited guests... but also uninvited guests such as bacteria that cause food borne illness. Careful attention to the way food is served will help ensure that guests do not become victims of food poisoning.

If you are planning a holiday buffet, the key to food safety is to keep perishable foods at a safe temperature. Bacteria tend to grow when food is maintained at a temperature between 40 to 140 degrees F for more than two to three hours. A thermometer that registers in that zone is a wise investment.

Always wash your hands before and after handling food.

If you are cooking foods ahead of time for your buffet, be sure to cook them thoroughly to safe temperatures. Cook fresh roast beef to at least 145 degrees F for medium rare and 160 degrees F for medium doneness. Bake whole poultry to 180 degrees F and poultry breasts to 170 degrees F. Ground poultry should be cooked to 165 degrees F. All other meat, fish and ground red meats should be cooked to 160 degrees F.

To keep foods hot (above 140 degrees F) use warming plates, chaffing dishes or appliances such as slow cookers or electric frying pans on 'low' settings. Also, hold hot food in the oven (on low) before transferring it to the buffet table.

Keep cold foods cold by placing them on ice on the serving table. Be sure to leave them in the refrigerator until you're ready to serve them.

Serve small quantities of food and plan to replenish containers frequently. Avoid adding fresh food to leftovers that may have been held at an unsafe temperature.

If you have catered or restaurant-prepared food on the buffet, handle it safely, too. If foods are delivered or picked up far in advance, make sure you have room in the oven or refrigerator to hold them.

When the party ends, discard any food that sat for two or more hours on the buffet table. Other leftovers can be refrigerated or frozen in shallow containers.

In general most leftovers are safe in the refrigerator four days. All leftovers should be reheated to 165 degrees F.

Identity theft; don't become a statistic

From pilfering your mail to stealing your wallet, 'Identity Thieves' are willing to do most anything to steal your good name. When someone obtains personal information about you, either through trickery or using publicly available information, and assumes your identity by applying for credit cards or opening bank accounts, the crook has become YOU. Victims report that criminals used their personal data to take over their identities and run up huge debts and/or commit crimes. [The FBI considers identity theft to be the fastest growing crime in America, affecting more than half a million people each year.](#)

While identity thieves are persistent and conniving, here are a few ways to minimize your risks:

On any application forms, ask why they need specific personal information and what is it used for? If you feel uncomfortable divulging personal information about yourself, then don't offer it.

Pay attention to your billing cycles and when you expect your billing statements. Contact your bank or billing company should your statement not arrive.

Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after it has been delivered or consider a locking device if this is not possible.

Put passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using obvious passwords such as birthdays, anniversaries, consecutive number series, etc.

Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry to what you actually need/use. Do not carry your social security card with you.

Never give any personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing with.

If you are a victim, contact the fraud departments with the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and Trans Union, the U.S. Social Security offices as well as the Wheeling Police Department so that the perpetrator might be tracked and caught. Immediately close all accounts that have been tampered with and make sure you do so in writing.



While these proactive steps may seem like a lot of work, consider them as time well spent to protect you and your family from a potentially significant financial loss.

Village outlines 'Town Center' plan

Continued from Page 1

According to the committee, the plan is designed to be a 25-year outline for development focusing on the area surrounding the Metra train station.

“Good things happen when people work together for a common goal.”

Greg Klatecki
Village President

“Good things happen when people work together for a common goal,” said Greg Klatecki, Village of Wheeling President. “I'd especially like to thank the RTA for awarding us the grant that allowed us to create this plan.”

In all likelihood, the inevitable frigid blast of snow is around the corner, but how prepared are you in the event you get stranded? Here's a handy checklist you can use to ensure your safety in a worst-case-scenario. (Info. courtesy Wheeling Police Dept.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice scraper | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel | <input type="checkbox"/> Transistor radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bag of sand/kitty litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothing/footwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tow rope/chain | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jumper cables | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tire repair kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road flares | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas line antifreeze | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra doses of prescription medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight w/extra batteries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles, matches, small empty tin can |



Christmas Tree Removal

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees for recycling from January 5-16 on your regularly scheduled yard waste pickup days. In order to be recycled, lights and tinsel must be removed. If you utilize a bag to remove the tree from your house, please remove the tree from the bag before placing it curbside.

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

Board annexes properties into Village boundaries

The Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees recently voted to annex numerous properties located in unincorporated Cook County into the Village. Village leaders proposed that the annexations were necessary to improve the Village's overall image and make improvements to the areas.

Prior to the December 8 vote, three public meetings were held by the Village staff to hear the concerns of all individuals affected as well as answer any questions about annexation in general.

The annexed properties include two residential areas west of Route 83, an area of smaller homes and businesses south of Hintz Road, the Plum Creek and Hunt Club condominiums and several industrial areas along Milwaukee Avenue. In all, approximately 1,600 residences and businesses were affected by the annexations. With the annexations approved, the Village will move forward with asking for a special census that will increase Wheeling's per capita revenue share from the state.

According to Village attorneys, the Village will begin providing services such as police, fire, snow plowing and 911 response as soon as all of the applicable paperwork has been filed and acknowledged by Cook County. The target date for complete transferral of services from the county is January 1, 2004.



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
<i>Village President:</i> Greg Klatecki	847-459-2988
<i>Village Clerk:</i> Elaine Simpson	847-541-8692
<i>Village Manager:</i> 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



Wheeling Park District hosts annual 'Passport to the World'

The Wheeling Park District invites you to celebrate the history and rich culture of Wheeling at the third annual 'Passport to the World.' The event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 22 at the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road. This fun, family event is free and encourages everyone to celebrate and embrace diversity. Individuals will learn about other cultures, their traditions, customs, dress and cuisine as you take a virtual trip around the globe. You'll sample foods from other cultures, as well as enjoy the rich variety of entertainment that will be on display. This fun-filled day is sure to delight young and old alike. Special appearance by Lynn Jordan & The Shivers.

Other Park District happenings.....

Snow Fest

Enjoy a wintery, fun day at the newly renovated Chevy Chase Country Club filled with fun winter events such as a snow castle building competition, ice skating and crafts. Bring the family out and enjoy the frosty treats of winter while possibly winning a trophy or other giveaways. This event is free! Those who enter the snow castle competition must register in advance. For more information call Erami Izkierdo at 847-465-2937.

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