

Village Views

W H E E L I N G I L L I N O I S + M A Y - J U N E 2 0 0 3



Judy Abruscato

2003

Election



Patrick Horcher



Robert Heer

Trustees Abruscato, Heer, Horcher Win Reelection

Three Village trustees won reelection on April 1, ensuring continuity for another four years.

Judy Abruscato was the top vote getter, winning 1,948 of the ballots cast. This marks her fifth term in office.

Patrick Horcher received 1,860 votes to win his third term. Robert Heer's 1,552 votes placed him third overall; he, too, will begin his third term.

Other candidates included Plan Commissioners Kenneth Brady (1,268 votes), Pamela Dorband (1,419), and community activist Steven Telow (335).

The three incumbents have been strong supporters of Village policies focusing on economic and community development, beautification and modernization of the infrastructure.

Wheeling Prepares Study for New 'Town Center'

The Economic Development Department is launching a study to determine future development of a possible "town center" concentrating on the area surrounding the village train station near S. Northgate Parkway. Such a center could embrace housing, retail shops, and recreational and entertainment facilities.

The Village has agreed to have S.B. Friedman & Company and two subcontracting firms conduct a market analysis of potential land uses for the area. The Chicago-area Regional Transportation Authority is underwriting the \$75,000 project. It is seen as a more-detailed focus on a single area within the Village as a sub-set of the comprehensive planning process begun in 2002 by the Village Plan Commission and its consulting firm Camiros, Inc.

"Camiros' work is a broad-brushed effort to establish appropriate uses for the Village in general and five areas in particular, including the Northgate Parkway corridor," said Economic Development Director Bill Whitmer. "Friedman

and their partners, The Lakota Group and Metro Transportation Group, will focus on approximately 145 acres in all directions from the train station."

Whitmer indicated the study area includes outdated and vacant commercial strip centers along Dundee Rd., incubator and heavy industrial uses nearby, and currently vacant land. He said the planned addition of a second track to the METRA North Central line will spur commuter ridership, lending some urgency to the need for orderly planning and redevelopment of the area. The second track

continued on page 2



**Next Up:
July 4th**

The Special Events Commission is finalizing plans for the annual July 4 Taste of Wheeling and parade ... Turn to page 8 for details.

Wheeling is on the Web at www.vi.wheeling.il.us

Artist's rendering of how the pedestrian over-crossing at Jack London School is expected to look when a major overhaul is completed later this year.



Board OK's Overhaul of "London Bridge"

The Board of Trustees has agreed in principle to reconstruct the 36-year-old pedestrian crosswalk over Dundee Rd. at Jack London

Department may install landscaping at a later date. It is estimated the project will be completed by November or December.

The crosswalk had been targeted for demolition several years ago in favor of a traffic light at Cedar Dr., a move initially opposed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which is responsible for Dundee Rd. IDOT later ruled the Village may install a traffic light at that location or keep the overpass – but not both.

"Everyone is concerned about safety at that location," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. "We're confident this solution, coupled with crossing guards, will offer maximum protection for children going to and from school."

About 37,000 vehicles a day travel beneath the overpass.

Middle School. The 81-foot superstructure of the so-called "London bridge" will be replaced with a "bow-string" truss construction topped with a protective screen.

Plans call for installing corrugated steel surfaced with lightweight concrete to form the walkway. The stairs will be refurbished and repainted. The abutments will be faced with fieldstone similar to that used in other public spaces such as Cole Taylor-Friendship Park at Milwaukee Ave. and Dundee Rd.

The Trustees approved a reconstruction budget of about \$272,000 but excluded a proposal for accent landscape lighting, citing concerns about vandalism. The Public Works

Use Hotlines to Report Property Code Violations

Have you seen a property in Wheeling that needs sprucing up? The Village has a telephone hotline for residents who want to contact staff about uncorrected safety and appearance problems.

Call **847-459-CODE** to leave a voicemail message, which will be reviewed and referred to the appropriate department. Callers do not need to leave their names. (Note: this line should not be used for emergencies or conditions that are not emergencies but require an immediate response.)

Study for New 'Town Center' *continued from page 1*

will double METRA's commuter capability through the area.

As currently envisioned, the Friedman study will aggregate data from plans developed by other agencies, existing land uses and zoning, vehicle and pedestrian access, economic and demographic trends, real

estate usage patterns, and the relationship with existing and planned businesses in the vicinity. The data will be combined with community input at public meetings and field research to develop a profile of a future town center.

"At the end of the day," Whitmer said, "we expect to have a blueprint that will guide orderly development and beautification of

the area and make a significant contribution to the continued modernization of the Village."

The project began after the Board of Trustees expressed interest in creating a town center that would include the train station as a focal point for Village activities. It is expected the study will take six months to complete.

Budget Approved for Revised 'Short' Fiscal Year

The Village has approved a \$37 million budget for a "short" fiscal year, beginning May 1 and ending December 31. The Board of Trustees opted for the revised financial period to align it with the calendar year.

"We want to have a better idea of our spending needs so that we can adjust the level of property taxes when levied instead of making estimates based on parts of two different years," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite.

The move also enables the Village to seek capital-improvement bids at a time when contractors are idle. "If we wait until spring, the contractors' calendars are likely to be full, leading to higher costs when they squeeze us into their work schedules," Douthwaite said.

The budget covers \$6.4 million in capital improvements, including \$966,000 for the planned widening and resurfacing of Wolf Rd. from Manchester Dr. to Milwaukee Ave. An additional \$142,000 from tax-increment finance (TIF) funds also is earmarked for the project. Although the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has jurisdiction over Wolf Rd., it requires advance payment to begin work.

Choked traffic and long waits will be a thing of the past when the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) completes reconstruction of McHenry Rd. The job began last year when IDOT replaced open drainage ditches with culverts. IDOT expects to finish widening and repaving by fall.



The Wolf Rd. contract will be let in September, making it part of the new fiscal year. However, most of the construction will take place in 2004. The widening of the roadway will provide for an 11-foot center turn lane, easing the congestion that now occurs due to motorists making left turns. In addition, new streetlights and an enclosed drainage system will be installed.

The budget allocates \$580,000 to acquire flood-prone properties in the Wolf Rd. corridor. It will mark the second year of the acquisition program, which is being funded by a federal grant. Contracts for the current year have been let, but work has not yet begun.

The recent approval of the North TIF District, centering on N.

Milwaukee Ave. from Strong St. to Lake Cook Rd., coupled with the planned Prairie Park condominium development (see photo feature on page 4), requires additional water delivery to the area. A 16-inch water transmission line costing \$1.14 million will be built from Northgate Pkwy. to Wolf Ct. this summer.

Funding came from monies originally allocated to the reconstruction of Wheeling Rd. from Dundee to Hintz Rds. That project will be included in the 2004 budget.

Other expenditures include \$205,000 for construction of the Wheeling bicycle path from Dundee Rd. to Lake Cook Rd., which is being funded by an IDOT grant. Three firefighters and several administrative positions also will be added.

Village of Wheeling



The arrival of spring marks a seasonal makeover for the Village. Banners, such as this one sporting spring flowers, are hanging from lampposts at key locations around town.

Prairie Park at Wheeling Gets Green Light

The Plan Commission has given a tentative green light to Mark Family Construction for the proposed Prairie Park at Wheeling, shown below in a conceptual rendering.

The development, planned for the former Semmerling Fence property on Wolf Ct., will feature five buildings with 306 units surrounding a clubhouse and retention pond.

Finance Association Recognizes Village

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has bestowed its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting on the Village of Wheeling. The award is based on the Village's comprehensive annual financial planning report.

The certificate is GFOA's highest recognition in governmental accounting. The organization said the recognition "represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

A GFOA panel judged the comprehensive annual financial report against an established standard. One of the program's objectives is demonstrating a "spirit of full disclosure" that motivates users to read the report.

Finance Director Michael Mondschain accepted the award on behalf of the Village.

Moody's Hikes Debt Rating

The Village has received a boost in its bond rating to Aa3 from Moody's Investors Service. The rating, upgraded from A1, applies to all of Wheeling's outstanding \$12.9 million general-obligation debt.

Moody's said, "The rating upgrade reflects the village's improved credit position driven by a diversifying tax base, consistently strong finances and affordable debt levels."

Moody's pointed to the Village's property mix, conservative budgeting and low debt burden, as the reasons for the upgrade.

It is the second upgrade from a bond-rating firm since the beginning of the year. Earlier, Fitch's had rated Wheeling's rating as AA+, citing reasons similar to Moody's for its decision.

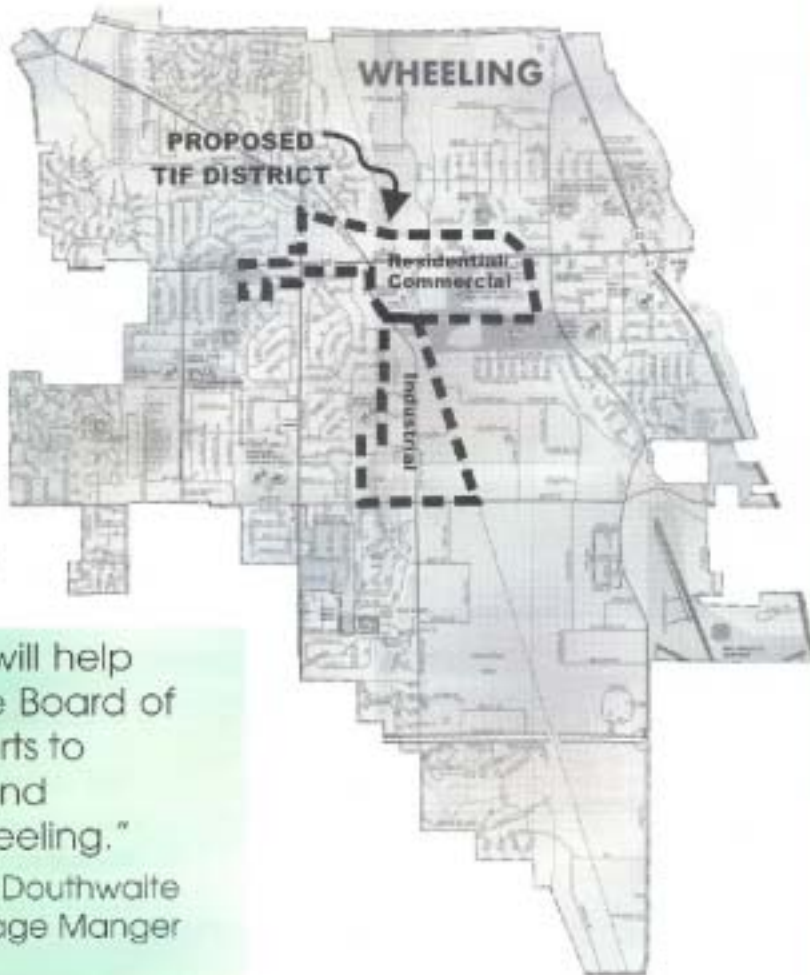


New Wheeling TIF District Announced

The Village is readying a new tax-increment finance (TIF) district centering on the north and south of Dundee Rd. It will be the Village's fourth TIF district.

A draft request for proposals was sent to interested firms in early April. Village Manager F. Wallace Douthwaite said he expects a contract will be let to a TIF consulting firm by the second week of May. He anticipates the plan will be ready within four months after the consulting firm finishes its work.

The new TIF district will complement that recently announced



"This district will help advance the Board of Trustees' efforts to modernize and beautify Wheeling."

—Wallace Douthwaite
Village Manager

for N. Milwaukee Ave. (known as the "North TIF District"), the initial "Crossroads" District centering north and south of Dundee Rd. and Milwaukee Ave., and the South TIF District in the vicinity of the former Wheeling Nursery, now the site of Astor Place under development by Kimball Hill Homes. However, it remains to be determined whether the area will be a single district or divided into a residential/commercial zone on the north and an industrial section to the south.

TIF districts provide the funds for infrastructure and other improvements in target zones. As properties are developed within the district, their value rises — leading to an increase in property taxes. The resulting revenues, deposited in a special account, are applied to legally approved projects.

"This district will help advance the Board of Trustees' efforts to modernize and beautify Wheeling," Douthwaite said. "It's especially timely because the work is nearly finished on the Village-wide comprehensive plan and the possible creation of a town center within this new TIF district."

Locate New TIF District

Wheeling's fourth TIF district will extend slightly north of Dundee Rd. from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch west to Elmhurst Rd., wrapping around on the south side of Dundee Rd. east to Wheeling Rd. It will continue south on Wheeling Rd. to Hintz Rd., then east to the Canadian National Railroad, and finally north to Dundee. (See adjacent diagram.)

Spring Has Sprung!

Wheeling Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on May 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Get your gardens in bloom!



"Help brighten up the Village in the annual Blooms and Brooms cleanup campaign."

Brooms and Blooms — the Annual Clean Sweep

The Plan Commission is seeking a few good volunteers to help brighten up the Village in the annual Blooms and Brooms cleanup campaign.

Participants will gather at Village Hall at 8 a.m. on May 17, then remove debris from Milwaukee Ave. and plant flowers at key entry points. For more information, contact Ken Brady at 847-537-8642.

Garden Club Sale

Wheeling Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on May 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in front of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd. Various types of annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, herbs and vegetables will be on sale. The Garden Club is also seeking new members. For more information call Chris Brady at 847-537-8642.

Senior Center Roundup

(Programs will be held at the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St.)

A six-part course, "Powerful Tools for Caregivers," will begin May 5 at 6:30 p.m. The course will cover balancing personal needs with those of a friend or relative suffering from dementia, heart disease, Parkinson's disease or stroke.

The Spring Educational Forum is scheduled for May 8 at 1 p.m. and will focus on Wheeling Township resources.

Welcome New Businesses

Allstar Dental Inc. — Eric Strohmeier, 163 S. Wheeling Rd., 847-394-1744

A&A Ventures Inc. DBA Liquor Island — Aleksandr Mavlyanov, 1750 W. Hintz Rd., 847-997-0055, package liquor

Bauer Comfort — Arina Moroz, 1049 Lake Cook Rd., 847-736-7514, wool products

Durable Inc. — Scott Anders, 750 N. Northgate Pkwy., 847-843-1100,

European Home Development — Dmitry Lapom, 260-B Holbrook, 847-520-7822, wholesale home improvement products

Peterson International Enterprises Ltd. — William Pfeifer, 761 Glenn Ave.

Pot of Gold Resale Shoppe — Antoinette Trela-Vandernoot, 534 W. Dundee Rd., woman's resale consignment boutique

Presentation Services/Audio Visual Services Group Inc. — John C. Voaden, 860 Chaddick Dr. Unit B, 630-203-6314

Stecyn Enterprises Inc. — Donald Geren, 401 S. Milwaukee Ave., 847-478-5111, sales-commemorative plates

Stefano's Flooring — Mario Santostefano, 250-252 McHenry Rd., 847-229-0400, floor covering

New Owner

Creekside Cleaners — Hae J. Kim, 286 McHenry Rd., 847-520-8250,

New Location

ARA Cabinets 4U — Jeffrey Pike, 39 S. Milwaukee Ave., 847-215-1700, kitchen & Bath

H&R Block — Mark Ernst, 546 W. Dundee Rd., 847-459-1272, Income tax preparation

The Nedlog Company — Grant Golden, 92 E. Messner Dr., 847-541-0924, sale & marketing of fruit drinks

The Right Help Inc. — Michael V. Kern, 395 E. Dundee Rd., 847-245-2232, business consulting

Featured speakers include Sue Burlini, director of Senior and Disabled Services, and Assessor Dolores Stephan.

The annual Fun Faire fundraiser will be held June 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Activities will include silent and live auctions, a raffle, and a bake sale.

Seniors interested in computer courses can register with Senior Net on June 28, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For information, call the Senior Center at 847-459-2672.

Community Calendar:

May

5 - "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" 6-part course begins, 6:30 p.m., Pavilion Senior Center

8 - Spring Education Forum, 1 p.m., Pavilion Senior Center.

17 - Wheeling Garden Club plant sale. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., in front of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

17 - Blooms and Brooms, annual Village spruce-up and spring planting.

31 - Village auction, 10 a.m.-noon. Police parking lot, behind Village Hall.

June

7 - Fun Faire fundraiser, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Pavilion Senior Center.

28 - Senior Net registration- 8:30-11:30 a.m., Pavilion Senior Center.

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 _____

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.

Regularly Scheduled 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.

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

Lang Named Public Relations Coordinator

James Lang joined the Village of Wheeling on April 7 as public relations coordinator. The position is new.

Lang, 30, was public information coordinator for River Trails Park District, Mt. Prospect. He formerly was communications director for the Vernon Hills Park District.

The position will be responsible for developing media news releases, producing the *Village Views* newsletter, coordinating activities with the Special Events Commission, and other, related activities.

Lang holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern State University in Louisiana. He is a candidate for a master's degree in business administration at the University of Phoenix.

Next Up: July 4th

The Special Events Commission is finalizing plans for the annual July 4 Taste of Wheeling and parade.

The family-oriented Taste of Wheeling will feature offerings from seven restaurants and organizations. Golden Chef, I Am Siam, Joe's Pizza, Sauer's Bakery, Tuscany Restaurant and Wa-Pa-Ghetti's will present the best of their kitchens. Amvets will furnish sno-cones, and the VFW Post of Wheeling will provide the popcorn. Italian sandwiches, hamburgers and French fries will come from the Knights of Columbus (KofC).

Kids will keep busy with a moon walk, a 60-foot Dino Adventure, a safari train, wind tunnel, spin art, a car-racing track, face-painting clowns and a 26-foot giant slide. The KofC will reprise its basketball toss. A sand-art station will give youngsters a chance to make their own take-along art pieces.

Scheduled entertainment includes the Alegria Mexicana Dancers from St. Joseph the Worker church, disk jockey Greg Koeppen, a karaoke sing-along, and the sleight-of-hand of magician Jerry Bash. The Jesse White Tumblers and Larry Bembert's Big Band Orchestra also will entertain.

The Fire Department will set up a badge-making booth. The Wheeling Rotary Club and Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce also will be on hand. The traditional parade is expected to feature 75 units, including the Cubs band and three fife-and-drum bands. At dusk, \$33,000 worth of fireworks will erupt over Heritage Park.



For more information, contact Special Events Commission Chair Judy Abruscato at 847-541-8783.

Spirit of America logo design by Dale Kemery.

Village of Wheeling

255 WEST DUNDEE ROAD • WHEELING, IL 60090
847-459-2600 • TDD 847-459-2987
WEB SITE: WWW.VL.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
Pawnee Noise Hotline	847-537-2580 (ext.159)

Village President: Greg Klutecki 847-459-2988

Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson 847-541-8692

Village Manager: Wallace Douthwaite 847-459-2617

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



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