

Village Views

Wheeling, Illinois

March ~ April ~ 2005

PW Department moves into new facility

The new Public Works Department Headquarters features a bright, open and modern reception area (below) as well as a new mechanics garage (right) that is part of the more than 70,000 square-feet of space.



The Wheeling Public Works Department is scheduled to begin moving into its new facility at 233 Hintz Road March 1. The transformation of the 70,000 square-foot former warehouse is nearly complete and will more than double the amount of space currently utilized by the division. Some of the major overhaul included filling and leveling of two loading docks, widening of several over-head doors, construction of locker room, reception area and first-floor conference room, employee lunchroom, offices, parts room, machine shop, fluid storage room and tire shop for Fleet Services. According to Chuck Spratt, Public Works Director, much of the construction on the offices and employee lunchroom was performed by members of the PW Department. When complete, the new headquarters will bring the entire department back together as the water/sewer division will vacate its temporary headquarters at the south receiving station.



Public Works employee Chris Brown (above) puts the finishing touches on some duct work. Many of the projects during the transformation of the former warehouse were performed by PW employees to speed the process along.

Planning Division proposes changes to zoning ordinance

The Village of Wheeling Planning Division unveils its proposed changes to the Village Zoning Ordinance and accompanying map during a public hearing at the 7 p.m. February 24 Plan Commission meeting in Council Chambers, 255 W. Dundee Road. The proposed changes range from minor regulatory changes to the creation of new mixed-use zoning districts.

According to Andrew Jennings, Village Planner, the new mixed-use zoning districts would integrate various uses such as residential, commercial and open space and be utilized in three areas within the Village. “The most prominent of the mixed-use districts would be a transit-oriented district intended to promote and jump start the development of Wheeling's Town Center,” Jennings said. “Additional mixed-use districts would be located along Wolf Road between Dundee and Lake Cook Roads and along McHenry Road near Weiland Road.”

Another proposed major revision involves the designation of zoning districts for properties recently annexed into the Village. In most instances, the proposed zoning district matches current uses; however the proposed district along Milwaukee Avenue near the airport will promote commercial development rather than industrial.

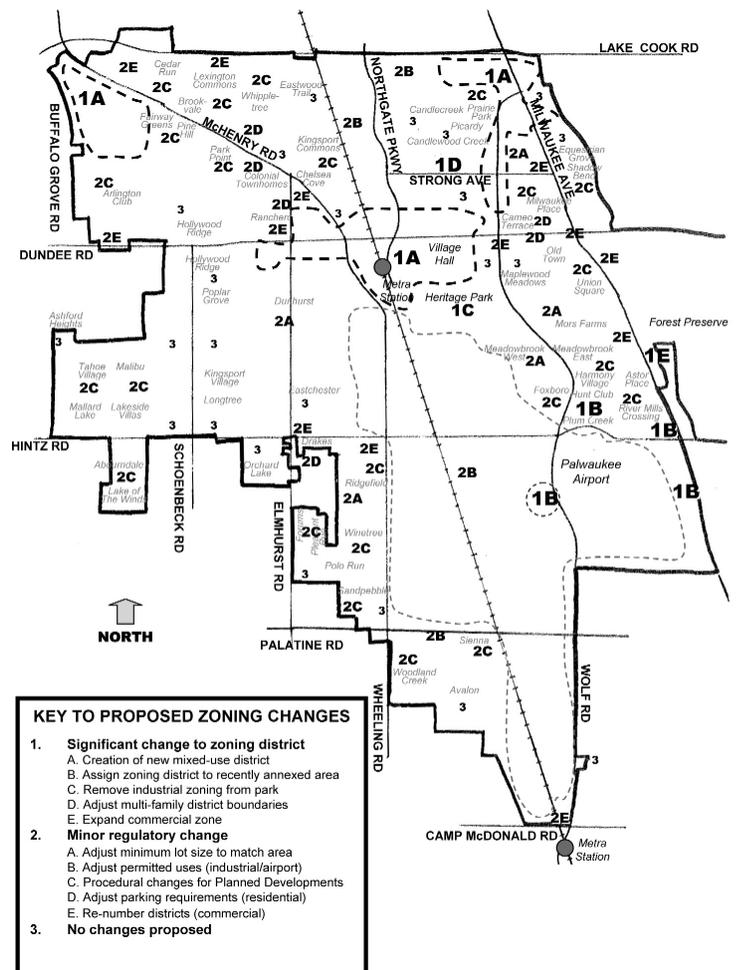
The last major proposal involves adjusting the boundaries of the single and multi-family zones along Strong Avenue in order to encourage a consistent housing character along each block front.

Jennings added that in addition to the major changes, there were proposals for several minor regulatory changes that would be included during the hearing. “The majority of the regulatory changes involve standards and procedures in the zoning code, but two proposed changes will also have an impact on the zoning map,” he said. “The two Planned Development Districts known as PD-3 and PD-4 will be consolidated into a single district called PDD and a new single family district called R-3A would be created to accommodate existing neighborhoods characterized by smaller lots.” The new R-3A district affects those homes whose lot sizes do not meet

minimum lot size requirements, and therefore require a variation for any construction or additions. The proposed small-lot district would allow additions to many homes without requiring the homeowner to go through the variation process.

Other minor changes proposed include reducing the number of commercial zoning districts from five to three, introduction of bicycle parking standards, increased landscaping and buffer requirements and an adjustment to parking requirements including an increase in the requirements for multi-family developments.

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War in Iraq causes change in Village administration

The effects of the 'War on Terrorism' extended to the Wheeling government offices recently as J. Mark Rooney, Assistant Village Manager, and a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army reserve, was activated to serve an 18-month deployment in the middle east. Rooney's swift activation prompted the Village Board to authorize the execution of a contract with Miller Cooper & Company at its February 14 Board meeting for professional consulting services regarding the Assistant Village Manager's position.

Effective February 15, Kenneth M. Bonder will begin assuming the duties previously assigned to the Assistant Village Manager. Bonder is no stranger to the northwest suburbs or government management as his distinguished career included serving as both the Finance Director and Village Manager for Arlington Heights, City Manager for Prospect Heights and most recently Chief Financial Officer for the City of Palatine.

"We will certainly miss Mark and our thoughts, prayers and support go with him and his family as he serves our country in the middle east," said Greg Klatecki, Village President. "In Mark's absence, the Board felt that Ken's familiarity with the northwest suburbs combined with his almost 40-years of experience in government management would enable us to remain on schedule with all of the ongoing projects."

Bonder's first official day on the job is March 1.

Police, Senior Services team up for safety

The Wheeling Police Department and the Pavilion Senior Center recently joined forces to provide cellular telephones to the elderly and victims of crimes that can be used to dial 911. The program provides the phones at no cost and are not affiliated with a service provider, but can be used to dial 911 as long as they are charged.

"It's a Federal Communications Commission rule that all cell phones can contact 911," said Shari Matthew Huizar, Victim Services Coordinator for the Police Department. "We have collected more than 100 old phones over the past few years for use in the program and they are now available for distribution; I will reiterate that the phones can only dial 911."

The Police Department initially began the program to help crime victims call police if they encountered the person who committed the crime against them. The program was expanded to help senior citizens who might live alone without an ability to contact emergency services.

Nancy Janssen, Pavilion Senior Center Director, was pleased that the police department included the senior center in the program.

"I think it's an excellent idea, especially for the frail and isolated in their own home who have no access to a lifeline button or portable phone. They can have the phone with them wherever they go in their homes." Janssen indicated that the phones would also be available to Wheeling seniors who might drive for a weekend getaway or take other trips. "I think it will serve a multitude of populations, including low-income individuals or seniors who don't have cell phones."

Applications for seniors are available at the Pavilion. Seniors must be at least 55 and have no availability to a cell phone. Victims of crime can apply for a phone with the police department. Huizar said the department is still collecting old cell phones at the main police station, 255 W. Dundee Road.



Palatine Road construction guarantees headaches, detours

IDOT states work will begin in May and last several months

Portions of Palatine Road between the Des Plaines River and Rand Road will be reduced to one lane each way, with occasional stoppages beginning May. The \$21.7 million resurfacing project is scheduled to be complete before December, 2005. Although the end result will be a smooth asphalt surface for the much-traveled thoroughfare, the project itself is expected to create major traffic snarls.

The alterations begin in May with the demolition and replacement of the bridge over Route 83 which will completely close 83 for at least one month. The construction on the bridge will render Palatine Road to one-lane each way and will compete with traffic on Palatine Road that will be crossing Route 83 since there will not be a bridge. The bridge over Milwaukee Avenue, also slated for replacement, will cause a similar scenario, but Milwaukee Road will never fully close.

Officials also expect major delays and exasperated motorists on Schoenbeck, Wheeling and Wolf roads where they cross Palatine. The only good news revolves around the fact is that no work is currently scheduled on alternative roads such as Dundee, Hintz and Camp McDonald. However, farther south will be impacted, as Central Road will have daily closures as crews resurface it between Arlington Heights and River Roads.

Rules of the Road, according to Corporal Joe Schaff, Wheeling Police Department

- ❑ Beginning in May, Express lanes will be closed and vehicles will be detoured onto the frontage of Palatine Road at Elmhurst Road (Route 83).
- ❑ In the beginning of June, the bridge for the railroad will be closed and the frontage will be closed at the west end of Avalon. A three-way stop will be instituted by South Drive and Palatine Road westbound frontage. There will be a two-way stop west of South Drive due to the businesses at the railroad tracks having no other access. Vehicles will have to turn onto South Drive because the frontage east of there will remain one-way.
- ❑ After the railroad bridge is completed, the Wolf Road overpass will be closed down to one lane and work will commence in that area. Nighttime work will also take place closing the express lanes for both overpasses during the night.

PW, EPA work to prevent storm water pollution

Storm water pollution is a challenging water quality problem. Specifically, storm water is defined as excess rain water or snow-melt, referred to as “runoff,” which accumulates following a precipitous weather event. The runoff eventually terminates within various surface bodies of water or within the Village's storm sewer system collecting along the way any number of pollutants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that at least 50 percent of our nation's water pollution is caused through this process. As citizens and business owners, we can directly influence the effects of this occurrence by controlling our actions and the contaminants we allow to be present on our properties. The most common pollutants include:

- Illegal dumping of waste into the sewer system (e.g. antifreeze, oil and cigarette butts)
- Pesticides from lawns
- Sediment from construction sites
- Oil and grease from roadways
- Carelessly discarded trash

Once these hazards have been deposited into the watershed, they can contaminate and negatively impact the recreational and essential use of the natural resource. The pollutants taint the groundwater supply and interfere with the wildlife habitat of fish and other animals.

One of the ways that the Department of Public Works is taking a proactive approach to preventing storm water pollution is by installing new manhole grates with a graphic of a fish stamped on the surface. This symbol is meant to remind everyone that our actions have a significant impact on the surrounding environment.

For more information, please contact the Village of Wheeling, Water/Sewer Division at 847-459-2981, or visit the Illinois Environmental Agency's web page at www.epa.state.il.us.

Pet license required

The Village of Wheeling requires all dogs and cats to be licensed annually. Pet owners should stop by Village Hall to fill out the license application with proof of rabies vaccination or call 847-459-2600 to have the paperwork mailed to them. The application will include the following information:

- Name and address of the owner of the dog or cat;
- Name of the animal;
- Sex, breed, and color of the dog or cat; and
- The date of the most recent vaccination against rabies and the name and address of the veterinarian licensed by the state of Illinois who performed the same.

The annual fee is \$5 per dog/cat in your household and, once licensed, a metal tag bearing the license number and year will be issued. The Village will bill annually using the anniversary date of each rabies vaccination administered within a particular address. If you feel there has been a discrepancy with your pet license fee or you need to update your records, please stop by Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.



Village Blood Drive

The Village of Wheeling will be hosting a blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m. March 9, 2005 at the Fire Station on Dundee Road adjacent to the Village Hall.

We have been working to improve the blood drive by reducing wait times and trying to see how we can make the entire event better. Even with exceeding our last blood drive goals, no one experienced any significant wait.

We are requesting all donors make an appointment if possible to assist us in managing the flow of people into the drive. To schedule an appointment, please call Health Officer Mike Boyle at (847) 459-2621 with your name, phone number and desired donation time.



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

The Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling announces the following program that will be offered to area senior citizens. Anyone 55-years or older is welcome to join the activities or volunteer services to assist or share talents with others.

50/90+ Anniversary/Birthday Celebration

The Pavilion Senior Center will host its fourth annual event in June for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70+ years of marriage anytime this year. Couples married between January 1 and December 31, 1955, 1950, 1945, 1940 and 1935 as well as anyone celebrating a 90th or 90+ should contact the Senior Center directly so they can be sent a special invitation. The event will feature lunch, entertainment and tales remembered from the past.

Senior Tax Assistance

AARP volunteers will be on-hand to assist seniors with income tax filing from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays (March 2 to April 13). Appointments must be made and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Returns will be prepared for seniors who have low to moderate income not exceeded \$60,000 annually. Circuit Breaker forms and Senior Tax Exemption forms may be brought at the same time if you have received them in the mail. There is no fee for this service.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Celebrate the 'Wearin' of the Green' on the day that everyone becomes just a little bit Irish. This year's celebration is noon Sunday, March 13 and features a succulent corned beef and cabbage luncheon and the Anam Amor Irish Dancers. Cost is \$9 for members and \$14 for non-member guests. Tickets can be purchased at the Pavilion Senior Center.

Call the Pavilion Senior Center for ongoing activities and services.

Village donates funds for tsunami relief fund

The Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees recently pledged \$5,000 in financial assistance towards the ever-growing relief fund for victims of the devastating tsunami that struck India and other parts of southeast Asia in late December. The \$5,000 was part of a \$58,000 aid package for local social service organizations.

Prior to asking the Board for its approval, President Greg Klatecki stated that Wheeling's Swaminarayan Hindu Temple was quick to commit financial assistance to the September 11 disaster fund. "Our neighbors at the Swaminarayan Temple offered prayers, condolences and donated money in the aftermath of one of the darkest days in America's history and now, we need to do the same for them in the wake of this tragedy."

According to the Associated Press, the death toll will surpass 150,000 as a result of this unprecedented natural disaster and that the relief and reconstruction process could be more than a decade in duration.

Cash donations may be sent to The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Checks should be mailed to Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, 2107 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20008. Envelopes should be marked "PM's National Relief Fund."

The following social service agencies also received funding from the Village for 2005:

- OMNI Youth Services
- CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center
- Resource Center for the Elderly
- Salvation Army Family Services Shelter, Inc.
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Greater Wheeling Area Youth Outreach
- Girl Scouts
- Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce

Election Day: April 5, 2005

Any resident wishing to register to vote and participate in the upcoming April 5 elections can come to Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, with two forms of identification listing his or her current address. The last day to register for the upcoming election is March 8.

In-house voting for individuals using absentee ballots begins March 14, however residents are urged to call 847-459-2600 to verify dates.

**Cook County,
Bank One
partner to
accept
property tax
payments**

The Cook County Treasurer's Office has entered into a new partnership with Bank One for acceptance of property tax payments. The new partnership replaces LaSalle Bank and takes effect with the first installment property tax bills that will be mailed at the end of January and due March 1, 2005.

This change means that Cook County residents can pay their property tax bills at any of the more than 250 Bank One locations in Chicagoland free of charge. Payment will no longer be accepted at any LaSalle Bank location.

For more information, contact the Cook County Treasurer's Office at 312-603-7117 or log onto www.cookcountytreasurer.com.

Speak ouT

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

- | | | |
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| Village Board -
Every Monday, 7:30 p.m. | Senior Citizens Commission -
3rd Monday of the month,
10 a.m., south half of Village
Hall lunchroom | Economic Development
Commission -
1st Tuesday of the month, 7:30 a.m.,
south half of Village Hall
lunchroom |
| Plan Commission -
2nd & 4th Thursdays
of the month, 7 p.m. | Fire and Police Commission -
3rd Wednesday of the Month,
2 p.m., Fire Department
Training Room | |
| Board of Health -
4th Tuesday, every other
month, 7 p.m. | 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. | |
| Human Rights Commission -
1st Tuesday of the month,
7:15 p.m., south half of
Village Hall lunchroom. | | |

Relay for Life seeks teams, sponsors, donations for June cancer walk

Wheeling High School hosts the American Cancer Society's annual 'Relay for Life' June 18-19, 2005 as teams of walkers will battle the disease one lap at a time. According to Amy Johnson, Planning committee Chairperson, scores of enthusiastic and caring citizens will gather at the school's track for an overnight relay against cancer that will feature food, fun, camaraderie and a moving tribute to cancer survivors and victims.

"Essentially, the 'Relay for Life' is an incredible cooperative effort between members of the community from all walks of life," Johnson said. "Our goal is to get as many people as possible to join the relay, raise funds to fight the disease and have a great time doing it."

Teams usually consist of 8 to 15 walkers who take turns traversing the quarter-mile track, cheering for each other and other teams and creating a sense of purpose and camaraderie with all participants, event volunteers and spectators. Each team commits to raising \$1,000 which goes towards the goal of \$90,000 for the entire event.

"We're hoping to sign the majority of our teams up at a 7 p.m. March 1 kickoff celebration at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center," Johnson said. "There will be music, food, guest speakers, raffle prizes and more in-depth information about the relay and fundraising tips."

The 'Relay' committee is seeking volunteers to help at the event itself, as well as additional sponsors. Currently, the Gordon Flesch Company and Rammy's Sub Contractors have signed on as corporate cancer fighters. For more information on walking, volunteering or sponsoring the event, contact Amy Johnson at 847-718-7038 or ajohnson@d214.org.

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

	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
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> F. Wallace Douthwaite	847-459-2617

Trustees

Judy Abruscato: 847-541-8783	Michael Horcher: 847-541-3276
Dean Argiris: 847-845-6990	Patrick Horcher: 847-331-4234
Robert Heer: 847-541-4274	



Village bids goodbye to colleague, friend

Trustee Trevor Lehmann lost his battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis disease [Lou Gehrig's Disease] on January 13, 2005 after a valiant 10-month battle. Even as the disease ravaged his body Lehmann helped raise awareness for ALS by working diligently with the Les Turner ALS Foundation and encouraging law makers in Washington D.C. to create additional funding for ALS research. Trevor addressed his family, friends and the community through a letter read at his funeral and left these words to live by:

"When each of you leaves here today, please don't mourn me and ask why did this happen. Instead celebrate life. Hug and kiss your loved ones and tell them how much they mean to you - not just today but everyday. Most of all embrace life and take action to make change happen."

Editor's Note: Jen Lehmann gave birth to twins, Tyler Ross and Grace Ann on Valentine's Day; babies and mom are doing just fine.

PRSR-STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 053
 WHEELING, IL

CARRIER ROUTE PRE-SORT

Local Postal Patron
 Wheeling, IL 60090