

Village Views

Wheeling, Illinois

May ~ June ~ 2005

Westin-North Shore breaks ground

The Village President, Clerk and Board of Trustees were all smiles as the shovels hit the dirt.



Shovels and smiles took center stage at 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 18, 2005 as officials from Village of Wheeling, Mid-America Investment and Development Company and the Harp Group moved the first of what will be many shovels of dirt during the construction of the Westin North Shore Hotel. Actual demolition and construction is scheduled to begin in late spring with an early 2007 grand opening planned.

Representatives from Mid-America, the Harp Group, Westin and the Village were on hand to move the first dirt of the 410,000 square-foot complex.



It was roughly one year ago to the day that developers from Mid-America outlined their proposal to build the estimated \$114-million, 441-room Westin-North Shore Hotel to the Village Board, receiving a resounding seal of approval. The hotel, convention center and retail complex will occupy the area where the Wedgewood Riding Stables sit, as well as the vacant lot to the south, the Wonder Bread outlet and AAA Auto Sales on Milwaukee Ave. The hotel itself will consist of an 18-story, 225-foot high tower and be the anchor of the 410,000 square-foot complex that will include retail and restaurant space, a bank and parking for approximately 900 vehicles.

“The Westin North Shore will be an exceptional facility that sets a new standard of excellence in the northern suburbs,” said David Bossy, President of Mid-America. “The adjacent restaurants and retail stores we are developing will help attract guests to the hotel and create an exciting destination for residents of Wheeling and its neighboring communities.”



Village officials are confident the hotel will not only enhance the Village's image, but have a dramatic impact on the economic landscape. “This will bring in money without putting the burden on the schools or the library,” said President Greg Klatecki.

The project is projected to create 300 to 400 construction jobs and the equivalent of about 1,000 permanent full-time positions. In addition, the hotel and retail complex is expected to generate more than \$100 million in real estate taxes, hotel taxes, sales taxes and telecommunications taxes over the next 22 years.

Election 2005

Village President

Judy Abruscato	32%
Patrick Horcher	26%
*Greg Klatecki	42%

Village Clerk

*Elaine Simpson	100%
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Village Trustee

David Vogel	17%
Kenneth Brady	20%
*Dean Argiris	26%
*Michael Horcher Jr.	18%
Stuart Shapiro	16%
Stephen Telow	4%

(* Designates incumbents; Each race was for a four-year term)

Village outlines financial assistance programs for eligible businesses

The Village of Wheeling has myriad programs designed to assist both new and existing businesses with development, re-development, etc. The following are some of the most commonly-used programs and some factors that would affect eligibility.

INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS (I.E. PRIVATE ACTIVITY)

On an annual basis, the village can issue tax-exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB's) on behalf of manufacturing companies to finance the acquisition of fixed assets such as land, buildings and equipment. Bond proceeds also may be used for either new construction or renovation.

Benefits of Industrial Revenue Bond financing include:

- Long-term financing at interest rates lower than conventional financing, usually below prime;
- Fixed or variable rate financing;
- Finance up to 100% of project cost (subject to credit approval and underwriting standards of the borrower's bank)

Because of significant up-front costs of issuance, Industrial Revenue Bond issues of less than \$1.5 million generally are not cost effective. Smaller fixed asset projects may be eligible for financing through the State's Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) loan programs. For more information on smaller financing programs, contact the IFA at (312) 651-1300 or visit their website at www.il-fa.com.

For most companies, bank participation is necessary before IRB's can be sold to investors. The participating bank will make the credit decision, structure terms and set collateral requirements. Banks can either (1) guarantee the bonds by providing a Direct Pay Letter of Credit or (2) purchase bonds directly to hold as an investment in their portfolio.

Eligibility:

Qualified Industrial Revenue Bond projects include facilities that are primarily used to manufacture or process tangible products. The Internal Revenue Code defines all IRB eligibility requirements. Final determination of project eligibility is subject to a legal opinion from a recognized

municipal bond attorney. A completed Economic Disclosure Statement (EDS) and a Volume Cap Application must accompany the Industrial Revenue Bond application.

Fee:

A non-refundable application fee is due when the application is submitted. There are also closing fees plus other applicable charges. For an application, contact Wheeling's Economic Development Division at (847) 459-2978. In most cases, applications can be reviewed by staff and considered by the Village Board within 30 to 45 days of submission.

COOK COUNTY CLASS 6b PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Cook County's Industrial Property Tax Class 6b Incentive can reduce your industrial company's total property tax bill by more than one-half (16% vs. 36%) over a 10-year period, with gradual increases of 23% for the eleventh year and 30% for the twelfth year of the incentive. In addition to manufacturing companies, warehousing and distribution companies are also eligible. Once the incentive has expired, it cannot be renewed.

What qualifies?

- ~ New Construction.
- ~ Expansion of existing facilities.
- ~ Substantial rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- ~ Purchase and use of facilities that have been vacant for at least two years.

The Village has also developed Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) Facade Improvement and Education/Training Programs that apply to new and/or existing businesses that reside within one of the four TIF Districts in the Village. Applicants may be the owner of an eligible building(s) or the owner of a new or existing retail business within the District.

For more information on these programs, contact the Village's Economic Development Department at 847-459-2978.

Construction season is here again; don't forget about your permit

Warm weather means construction projects, but the Department of Engineering reminds everyone that permits need to be taken out prior to construction beginning on the following projects:

- ~ Driveway construction or repair; asphalt, concrete and/or paver brick;
- ~ Sidewalk or service walk construction; concrete and/or paver brick;
- ~ Patio Construction;
- ~ Parking lot construction or repairs; asphalt.

The new permit application is not available on-line at www.vi.wheeling.il.us. The Engineering Department requires a Plat of Survey and a copy of the contractor's estimate that clearly states the scope of work to be done along with the description of materials to be used. Wheeling Standard Specifications for various projects listed can be obtained at the Department of Engineering located at the rear of the Municipal Complex, 255 W. Dundee Road.



Other permits required by Engineering include:

- ~ Commercial/industrial sewer or water service repairs;
- ~ Right-of-way installations;
- ~ Floodplain development;
- ~ Site alteration development;
- ~ Soil boring/monitoring of wells.

For more information, call
847-459-2985

Public Works moves into new facility; plans open house

The Village's Public Works Department has a new mailing address...and a lot more space. The Public Works Department moved from its old headquarters, 255 W. Dundee Road, to its new 70,000 square-foot home at 233 W. Hintz Road. The facility is 100 percent operational, although construction is not quite complete on a conference room and a few offices. The move brings all divisions of Public Works under one roof and provides roughly twice as much space as the old facility.

"The renovation work performed by the contractor in conjunction with the months of hard work performed by our own public works staff, have made this a facility we be proud of," said Chuck Spratt, Director of Public Works. "And, it's nice to have everyone back under one roof."



Part of the renovation of the new Public Works facility included the construction of a state-of-the-art mechanic's bay.

Save the Dates!

The Public Works Department will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21 at its new facility, 233 W. Hintz Road. Village chefs will be grilling up complimentary hot dogs and hamburgers while you tour the new facility, getting up close and personal with some of the coolest equipment around. Kids will enjoy a visit from our official mascot, P.W. Paws and take home a few goodies too.

The Village will formally dedicate Lark Memorial Park at 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 6. The Park is located on Milwaukee Avenue next to Chicago Bagel and Bialy.

Police Department Resource Center plans 2nd annual open house



The Wheeling Police Department has scheduled its 2nd Annual Neighborhood Center Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Resource Center, 99 Wolf Road. Some of the activities scheduled include the following:

Children finger printing and photographs;
Bicycle safety;
Bicycle inspection and proper helmet fit;

Bicycle registrations;
Tour of facility;
McGruff the Crime Dog;
Wheeling Fire Department;
Crime Prevention Safety Tips;
Child safety seat inspection and installation;
Children's raffle;
(Must participate in child finger printing to be eligible)
Snacks and drinks.

For more information, contact Sgt. Pete Panagakis at 847-459-2993

Wheeling's Dealings

Happy Arbor Day

The Village of Wheeling has been designated a 'Tree City USA' for the 15th year by the National Arbor Day Foundation. To qualify, Wheeling had to meet the four standards to become a Tree City USA; have a tree board or department, enact a tree-care ordinance, implement a comprehensive community forestry program and hold an Arbor Day observance.

"An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement - a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years," said John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation. "The Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement."

This year's Arbor Day Celebration will take place at 2 p.m. Friday, April 29 at Field School. Village officials will be on hand to present Field School with a Tree City USA Flag and plant a tree with the students to commemorate the occasion.

CARE needs you

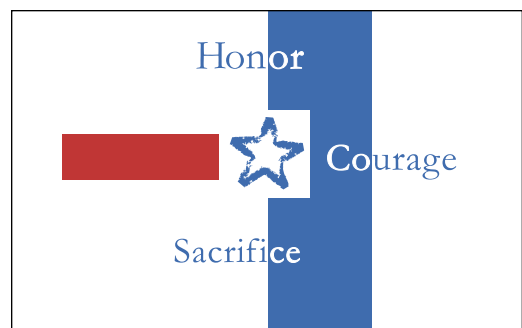
Have you ever wanted to do your part in a Wheeling community emergency? C.A.R.E. (Community Assisted Relief Efforts) might be what you are looking for. For more information please contact the Wheeling Police Department Social Services Unit at (847) 459-2640. Training and equipment provided.

Route 83 in Wheeling to become 'Blue Star Memorial Highway'

The Wheeling Garden Club, in conjunction with Phillip Carpenter Amvets Post 66 and the Village of Wheeling announce that Route 83, as it passes through Wheeling, will be dedicated as a Blue Star Memorial Highway during a Memorial Day Ceremony.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., immediately following the annual Amvets Memorial Day Parade, at 700 McHenry Road (Route 83). The ceremony will consist of a Blue Star Memorial Marker being placed alongside Route 83 that honors the men and women who have served their country, past, present and in the future, in the Armed Forces, patriotic music and refreshments.

"The Blue Star Memorial Marker is a proud tradition of the garden clubs across Illinois and I'm proud we were able to work with the Amvets Post 66 and the Village to get this designation for Route 83," said Ken Brady, Wheeling Garden Club member.



Chamber promotes 'Clean Air Counts' campaign

The WPH Chamber of Commerce has joined a coalition of organizations in the Lake Cook Corridor as an outreach partner to recruit households, businesses and other organizations to support the Clean Air Counts initiative. This initiative will help to reduce the levels of ground-level ozone (smog). This urban haze poses a danger to human health, particularly for children and the elderly.

Fortunately, you can do something about it! Together, we can improve our region's air quality by choosing to make a few modest changes. For example, you can:

Use low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) cleaning products and paints. Look for non-toxic biodegradable, and vegetable-based solvents when selecting cleaning products and paints with low levels of VOC's.

Buy energy efficient appliances and lighting products. Energy Star appliances and efficient lighting techniques reduce energy usage. An energy Star television, VCR or DVD player uses 70% less energy than conventional models. By replacing standard bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs, you can save about \$78 a year, assuming a three-bulb purchase year. This means lower utility bills that lowers the need to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity.

Utilize hand and electric powered tools outdoors. In one hour of operation, a conventional gasoline lawnmower pollutes as much as 40 new cars. New models of push mowers are lighter and easier to push.

Walk or ride a bike as frequently as possible, particularly when you're traveling a short distance. Walking and biking are emission-free, helping both air quality and your health!

Gas up your car and fill your portable gas cans after sundown on warm days. Doing so will reduce the creation of ozone in our atmosphere.

Check out www.cleanaircounts.org where you will find plenty of information that will help you to improve the air quality in your own home and in the village at large! Signing up is free for residents and businesses, and helps both you and us to quantify how much we've reduced the output of smog-causing chemicals. Questions can be directed to John Golec at 847.541.0170.



Safe Passage

The Wheeling Fire Department recently conducted Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH) Day with the help of some residents. Lt. Bart Burns, Firefighter/Paramedic Pat Leahy and Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Decristofaro several families during the day, helping them plan and execute safe escape passages from their homes in the event of fire. Jessica and Jamie Livingston (shown above) received the visit as part of a school contest, but the fire department invites any resident to drop in should they desire assistance in planning a personalized escape plan.

We thank you for your blood

The Village Board of Health thanks everyone who participated in the Wheeling Community Blood Drive on March 9, 2005. The drive collected more than 30 units of blood; a mark we hope to break at our next drive.

The Board of Health also thanks Hackney's, Don Roth's, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and Bob Chinn's Crabhouse for their donations and support of the Wheeling Community Blood Drive Program.



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.

Pavilion 'Super Senior' Day

Join us at the Pavilion Senior Center as we honor the most active and cooperative volunteer and crown him or her 'Super Senior' at noon Thursday, May 5. The 'Super Senior' is voted on by all members of the Pavilion Senior Center. Entertainment will be provided by Louis Adams, a lively keyboard musician and singer and Market Square Restaurant will cater a delicious luncheon. All seniors are invited to attend this jubilant affair. Cost is \$9 for members and \$14 for non-members. Reservations are required.

Senior Celebration Day

The 17th Annual Senior Celebration Day is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Randhurst Shopping Center in Mount Prospect. This celebration is planned to thank seniors for their many contributions to our communities. Exhibitor booths, live entertainment, free health screenings, demonstrations of activities, state ID card and free goodies. The entire event will provide opportunities to learn what is available for older adults. Volunteers are needed to work in the Pavilion Senior Center's booth. Please phone the center if you would like to assist.

AARP Defensive Driving Course

The AARP will be conducting a two-day defensive driving class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday May 4 and May 11 at the Pavilion Senior Center. Successful completion could result in rate reductions on your car insurance. Registration is limited so please phone the Pavilion Senior Center to reserve your space and send a \$10 check made out to AARP in advance to the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 First Street, Wheeling.

Community Paint-A-Thon

Applications for the 2005 Community Paint-A-Thon will be available in May and due on July 1. To qualify to have your home painted, your household income must not exceed \$30,000 annually. Call more for details.

Call the Pavilion Senior Center for ongoing activities and services.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport hosts first 'Discover Flying Day'

Palwaukee Municipal Airport answers flight-related question such as "how tough is flight training, how much does it cost and can I really do this?" at its inaugural 'Discover Flying Day' scheduled for May 14. Rain or shine, the day begins at 9 AM and runs until 1 PM. The event takes place at Palwaukee's Hangar 10 located on the west side of the airport along Wolf Rd. between Hintz and Palatine.

Nearly a dozen single-engine training and cross country aircraft will be on static display to entice pilots toward the first step of their transformation from neighbor to aviator. Representatives of all four of the airport's flight schools will be on hand to offer a glimpse at why their business might just be the answer to your dreams ... no matter how old, or young, you might be.

And just in case you arrive realizing you have no idea what questions to ask about learning to fly, there will be two forums asking and answering questions about financing your training, what airplane to choose or what you can actually accomplish once you have your license in hand.

There will also be a number of aviation-related exhibitors on hand including the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA), Women in Aviation International, the 99's and the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary's Civil Air Patrol (CAP). One flight school plans to have a few PCs running Microsoft Flight Simulator for people to try their hand as well.

The day includes a number of chances to win any one of a dozen or so terrific raffle prizes, including certificates for free demo flights and maybe even a few copies of MS Flight Simulator.

Bring the family, especially those people who are crazy about airplanes or learning to fly.

For more information, visit the airport website at www.palwaukee.org or call Community Relations Coordinator Rob Mark at 847-537-3580, extension 159 or e-mail him at rmark@palwaukee.org

'Save me some money.....'

Although its not the exact classic line from the movie Jerry Maguire, it does apply to Wheeling senior citizens and their refuse pick-up. Seniors are eligible for a 25% discount on their bill, but need to fill out the appropriate paperwork at Village Hall. Please bring a recent Waste Management bill and your drivers license, birth certificate or a state-issued ID. Individuals must be 65-years-old to be eligible for this program. For more information, call Dianne Anderson at 847-459-2960.



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

Village adds second day to annual festival

This year's July 4 festival has a few additional wrinkles, including an additional day, more live music and a beer tent. The Wheeling Freedom Fest is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, July 3-4 with the event running from 2 to 10:30 p.m. Sunday and 1 p.m. to the conclusion of the fireworks on Monday. The parade will step-off at 6 p.m. July 4. The event will be highlighted by nine live musical acts, more than 15 of your favorite restaurants and civic organizations comprising the 'Taste' portion of the event, additional kids activities, one of the best parades in the northwest suburbs and then culminate in what has become one of the most anticipated fireworks shows around. Stay tuned for specific details about the Freedom Fest on Channel 17, www.vi.wheeling.il.us and in your local media outlets.

There is still time to get your company, group, etc. into the Wheeling Freedom Fest July 4th Parade. Simply fill out this form and return it to the corresponding address.

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> Christine Brady	847-459-2600
<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	Elaine Simpson: 847-541-8692

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