

Village Views

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2001

24 Wheeling Kids Challenged at PACT Camp

Twenty-four area 12- and 13-year-olds spent a week on the town with six members of the Wheeling Police Department. The occasion was the annual PACT Camp (Police and Children Together), which puts the kids through a series of team- and trust-building exercises mixed with community service and plenty of fun.

The camp marked the fourth year the Wheeling officers have both joined and guided the youngsters through tours of the police and fire stations and a day at the Wheeling Aquatic Center. The group also used the Sunrise Outdoor Educational Center in Bartlett to conduct team-building activities, build a shelter in the woods, go on a scavenger hunt, and play broom hockey.

"The PACT Camp is a great way for officers to interact with these kids and show them positive role models," said Officer Jim Plovovich, who helped coordinate the program.

The youngsters also worked with physically challenged peers living with such disabilities as blindness and conditions that keep them confined to wheelchairs. The last day of activities found the group at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee.

"Ninety percent of our kids stay out of trouble," Plovovich said. "And a number of them have come back to mentor younger ones."

The week-long event is funded through the Law Enforcement Foundation of Illinois, a private organization. Other officers involved were John Bonk, John Connolly, Pete Panagakis, Mike Porzycki, and Staci Treiber.



Officer Mike Porzycki (center) checks the shelter-building techniques of some of the youngsters who attended the camp.



"Officer John Bonk (top) gives a boost to one of the 12-year-olds scrambling up a confidence-building wall at the police PACT Camp."

Wheeling Retail Center Vacancy Drops to Eight Percent

Wheeling's retail vacancy rate has dropped to 8%, according to a survey just completed by the Village's Economic Development Department, or WEDD. The figure is about half what it was when a similar survey was conducted in February 2000. The current poll covered 21 shopping malls and retail centers.

With guidance from the Wheeling Economic Development Commission, the survey sought to determine which properties could benefit from additional efforts to reduce the 8% figure still further.

The survey found that many properties are fully occupied and have no space available. Others indicate a low of 3% vacancy to a high of 32%.

"Since the survey was completed," Economic Development Director Bill Whitmer reported, "the center with 32% vacancy rate is now fully occupied."

The first survey, conducted by the WEDD in November 1998, uncovered a 12% retail vacancy rate for the shopping centers but does not include free-standing space. By February 2000, the rate had grown to 15%. Since then, however, efforts to market Wheeling as a desirable location have intensified.

"We keep a close watch on retail comings and goings in the Village," Whitmer said. "We want to help Wheeling grow in a way that will benefit businesses and residents alike."

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“It’s amazing how many products are made here that have an impact on tens of millions of people around the world.”

Wheeling: Purveyor to the World

When Economic Development Director Bill Whitmer surveys the manufacturing engine that helps drive the Village of Wheeling, his gaze falls on all 50 states and countless foreign countries.

“It’s amazing how many products are made here that have an impact on tens of millions of people around the world,” Whitmer observed.

Salad dressings created in Wheeling occupy space in refrigerators all over the country. Products made in Wheeling are used by the auto industry, in trains, in buildings, and in jet planes. And a Wheeling cookie-maker is getting to be as famous as Amos.

From Wheeling, the second-largest manufacturing center in the northwest Chicago suburbs (based on information compiled by the Illinois Manufacturers Association), thousands of products are trucked, freighted and flown to a broad landscape of faraway destinations. More than 900 Wheeling businesses create products and services, many of which affect the world.

The reputation of this one-time Pottawatomie Indian campground extends even to service businesses, such as Bob Chinn’s Crabhouse. The restaurant is recognized by *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine as the third-largest grossing independent restaurant in the U.S.

Ready Access to the World

“Restaurant Row is an attraction, but it’s only part of the story,” said Whitmer. “The Canadian National Railroad [formerly Wisconsin Central] carries freight to and from town. Interstate 294 makes up part of the Village’s eastern border, and other major

state highways

cut through town. With Palwaukee Airport in our backyard and O’Hare just down the road, our manufacturers have ready access to the world.”

That certainly is true for Abbott-Interfast Corp. As Senior Vice President James Calabrese put it, “At one time or another you’ve either sat on, walked on or been protected by one of our products.”

Abbott Products Flew in Gulf War

Calabrese said Abbott’s line of small parts, knobs and fasteners can be found in cars and trains, metal skeletons for buildings, overhead highway signs, fire hydrants, jet planes and missiles. Other Abbott products help hold together some of the U.S. Army’s tanks, and some flew in Patriot missiles during the Gulf War.

When the company learned Atlantic City wanted to rebuild its famous boardwalk, Abbott designed a special wood-deck screw that the city approved. “We told them, ‘Atlantic City may gamble with almost everything, but not with the safety of its boardwalk.’ They liked it,” Calabrese chuckled.

Closer to personal senses are the eight lines of Matt’s Cookies that drop from Cookie Specialties’ conveyor belts into the shopping bags of consumers. Cookie Specialties Inc. grew out of a hometown business, Pierce Foods, which manufactured peanut butter from 1953 until 1969. After a brief stint with the company that bought the peanut-butter operation, Grant Pierce began stirring up vats of cookie dough in 1972 for the dietary and specialty market. In 1979, the first Matt’s Cookies, named after Grant’s son, appeared on the market.

The company now ships 108,000 one-pound bags of cookies a week to supermarket shelves from Denver to New York, from Green Bay to Memphis.

Recently that reach extended farther when United Airlines began serving Matt’s Cookies on flights around the country. While Pierce is reluctant to expand the business too rapidly, he says the United delivery channel has raised the company’s profile among consumers. Now, even people in Miami can enjoy Matt’s Cookies.

Food production, while not a “specialty” of Wheeling, is well represented among Village manufacturers. Hidden inside



Village Hall Has New Look!

This sign, facing Dundee Rd., replaced an earlier version that had seen better days.

one of the industrial parks, HVR Corp. turns out its line of Hidden Valley Ranch dressings, a well-known label among millions of consumers, who also buy the company's dry mixes, croutons, Kitchen Bouquet Browning Agent, and KC Masterpiece sauces and marinades. A long-time fixture in Wheeling, the company annually sends 15 million cases of salad dressing all over the U.S., with supplemental shipments to Europe and Japan, where it is working to grow its share of those markets.

Food is just one area where Fluid Management fills a unique niche. Not only do its dispensers blend flavors for Nabisco cookies, FM's machines can be found in such unrelated industries as paint, office furniture, and trucking.

The machines that add color to paint cans at the hardware store? Probably from FM. And those that shake up the paint? Likely from FM. The company's mixers blend inks for printing plants, colors for steel office furniture, lettering on the sides of trucks, and, before long, cosmetics for the beauty industry. FM's products are all over Wheeling and in almost every town in America. Yet 60% of FM's orders now come from overseas.

It's handy that Fluid Management is just a block from Valspar Corporation, a leading manufacturer of paints, varnishes and stains. Sixteen million gallons of paint annually pour out of the company's 350,000-square-foot building headed for walls, floors and ceilings around the country and various foreign markets. Valspar has been a major supporter of the annual Community Paint-a-Thon in the Northwest Suburbs. The company has also backed efforts at removing graffiti from buildings around the Village.

More than One Million Candles

A relatively new Wheeling enterprise, Heaventree Candle Company, moved to town three years ago after outgrowing its original Evanston facility. More than one million handmade candles a year move out the door to every state and a number of other countries. Heaventree's ornate candles are sold under such private labels as Nieman-Marcus and Bombay.

"When we got into this business," remembered Franny Clarkson, who owns the business with her husband, Dennis, "we figured — how difficult can it be to pour wax into a mold? We learned — boy, *did* we — that it takes a huge amount of hand work and attention to detail."

Matt's Cookies' red-and-white rolling billboard (right), one of Cookie Specialties' promotional tools, is a familiar sight around town. Crews at Heaventree Candies (below) prepare another batch of candles for shipment.



When a new concept is under development, it goes from a designer to a carver, who prepares a model that is used to fashion a master mold. Pouring molds are developed from the master. Then the candles

flow around the country and to Japan, Canada and Mexico.

Even police and fire departments benefit from products manufactured by Wheeling-based Lund Industries Inc., which produces brackets and mounts for computer consoles and mounting systems found in emergency vehicles. Lund also makes and sells flashers, sirens and power-distribution equipment as close as the Wheeling Police Department and as far as Egypt for use by the U.S. State Department. Lund also distributes 30 other emergency product lines.

Other manufacturers of products familiar to consumers include Solo Cup Corp.'s straws, plastic cups, cutlery and containers, which reach markets in 80 countries. Swingline paper clips, manufactured in Wheeling by ACCO USA, are ubiquitous basic supplies in offices around the world.

The Village even flirted briefly with The Boeing Company when the aerospace manufacturer was looking for a new headquarters in the Chicago area. "While we couldn't offer them the 100,000 square feet of rental space they were looking for," said Whitmer, "we do have good locations if they had wanted to build here. Besides, Palwaukee Airport

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It Was a Blast!

Village President Greg Klatecki (right), Police Chief John Popadowski and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin pause briefly during the parade.



Pyrotechnicians (below) prepare the charges and tubes for the Village's \$25,000 fireworks display that erupted over Heritage Park at dusk.

Police Target Aggressive Driving Near Schools

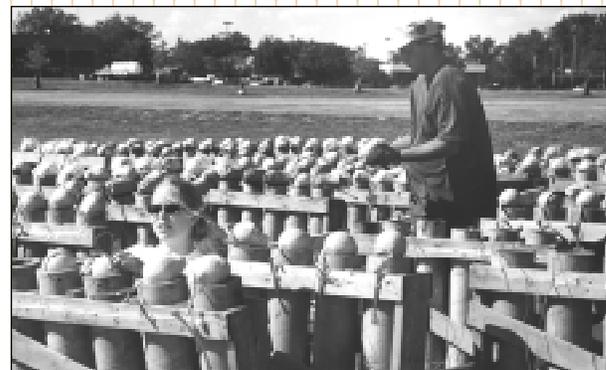
Wheeling Police are in the midst of a three-week traffic enforcement and awareness campaign corresponding to the opening of school. The Aggressive Driving Task Force will deploy 8-10 officers to target aggressive drivers, speeders and those who ignore crossing guards or block school buses.

"After a long summer," said Cpl. Pete Panagakis, who heads the Wheeling Traffic Unit, "people tend to forget about the concentrations of children crossing streets in the mornings and afternoons, and congregating around schools."

The campaign includes an awareness program for young drivers in the Wheeling High School drivers' education department. Flyers and payroll staffers will be provided to the Village's major employers for distribution to employees, reminding them of the need to slow down and use extra care when driving in school zones.

A similar enforcement effort in 2000 resulted in 469 citations issued, including two arrests for drunk driving.

The campaign began the last week of August and will continue through the middle of September. It is funded by portions of the Village's \$140,000 Safe Communities grant awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Thank you to our sponsors

Who Made It All Possible?

Thousands of residents thronged to the 2001 edition of Taste of Wheeling and the related July 4th celebration. The attractions included 14 food vendors, five entertainment acts and activities for the kids. The traditional parade and \$25,000 worth of fireworks capped the day's activities.

The Wheeling Special Events Committee, which has begun planning for next year's event, extends sincere thanks to the event's Golden Plus Sponsors and several other business and individual sponsors who contributed to the day's success. Thanks also to the many volunteers who participated.

For information about volunteering and sponsorship for 2002, call Trustee Judy Abruscato at 541-8783.

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Taqueria Alamo Inc.

All ages participated in the annual parade, including this trio bearing the colors.



Ready, aim SPLASH! A young dart-wielder fires at a rack of water balloons.



New Emergency Phone Systems to Protect Wheeling Residents

Two new, state-of-the-art emergency telephone systems are being installed in Wheeling. The first, known as a citywide high-speed telephone notification system, will give emergency personnel the ability to notify residents directly in the event of police and fire actions, as well as natural disasters.

"When this system is ready, probably by October," said Wheeling Police Commander Eric Larson, "we will be able to reach as many people as may be affected by an emergency."

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The system will be built on geographic-imaging software which can correlate map coordinates with addresses and telephone numbers. Because the software is built on "layers," police and fire personnel will be able to zoom in on map enlargements to isolate areas that may be affected by an emergency.

"In the event of a storm or high water, for example," Larson said, "this system will let us telephone everyone in the affected area with a recorded message telling them about the emergency and providing instructions about what to do."

The system is persistent, too. It will continue to dial a telephone number until it gets an answer or the emergency has been cancelled.

AVTEX, Inc., of Bloomington, MN, was accepted as the contractor for the \$22,400 project, which is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

A second emergency system, Wireless 911, is in the final stage of development by the Wheeling Fire Department. Targeted for completion by November, Wireless 911 will eliminate the sometimes-erratic behavior when wireless-phone users call 911.

"Calls currently made to 911 from a cell phone," said Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac, "may not get you assistance. Depending on the cellular service provider, you may get a recording that service is not available. Wireless 911 calls made in the Village of Wheeling will be routed automatically to the fire-dispatch center."

MacIsaac said the system will cost the Village about \$10,000 for equipment modifications in the dispatch center. Most of the operational costs will be defrayed by the surcharge currently on wireless phone bills.

Welcome New Businesses

Digital Nature Inc. – Olya Nikitova, 581 N. Wolf Rd., 847-465-9637, wholesale computer equipment

Direct Freight Group – 225 W. Gilman Ave., 847-204-8359, warehousing and distribution

Rick Fingerman Photography Inc. – Rick Fingerman, 307 S. Milwaukee Ave. #109, 847-520-0021, photography

I Am Siam Inc. – Piya Sirithas, Huntington Ln., 847-419-0698, Thai restaurant

Mobile Soundwerx – Tom Waitzman, 173 Wheeling Rd., 847-921-4200, mobile electronics installation and sales office

Order Express Inc. – Jorge Miranda, President, 737 W. Dundee Rd., 847-465-1539, money transmitter

Pita Palace Restaurant, Inc. – Fadi Ahmad, 1057-59 Lake Cook Rd., 847-229-1010

New Owner

Franciscan Communities doing business as Addolorata Villa/Garden Cafe – 555 McHenry Rd., 847-537-2900, cafe

Dovebid, Inc. (formerly Philip Pollack & Co.) – Ross Dove, 9945 Capitol Dr., 847-520-0040, industrial auctioneers and appraisers

Technotrans America Inc. (formerly Ryco Inc.) – Norbert Huelsmann, 2181 S. Foster Ave., 847-259-3330, manufacturer of printing equipment

New Location

Roger Mattingly Photography – Roger Mattingly, 123 S. Wheeling Rd., 847-465-9622, digital business-to-business photography

Additional Business

Alianza Hispana Inc. – 27 N. Elmhurst Rd., 847-537-1400, travel agency

“The Flight for Life helicopter is scheduled to be on display, along with news choppers from Channels 9 and 32... Several Learjets also will be open.”

Planes, Planes, Planes to Headline Palwaukee Open House

Palwaukee Municipal Airport will roll up the hangar doors to provide area residents with a peek into flight operations, maintenance facilities and airplanes galore during the airport's 7th annual open house. The event will take place September 8 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This year, plans are to assemble an array of airplanes, including antiques, a biplane (“double-winger”), and corporate jets for public inspection. The flight-control tower will be open for tours, as will the airport's maintenance facilities. The tower will be one of five stations served by a free trolley.



The Flight for Life helicopter is scheduled to be on display, along with news choppers from Channels 9 and 32 that are normally based at Palwaukee. Several Learjets also will be open.

Not to be outdone away from the flight line, the airport will have dozens of model airplanes on display, along with several flight schools and their planes. The fire and police departments from Wheeling and Prospect Heights also will have displays.

There is no charge for the event, including free parking, raffles, refreshments and air plane rides on a first-come basis to 400 attendees. However, there will be a nominal fee for helicopter rides.

For information, call the airport at 847-537-2580.

Beacons Light the Night on Wheeling Homes

Obscured house numbers may become less of a problem for emergency crews trying to locate people in distress. The Village of Wheeling has obtained 4,000 flashing emergency beacons for purchase by Village residents.

House numbers not visible at night or difficult to read during bad weather can delay teams responding with emergency help.

The beacons, installed on a porch or front window, can function as a normal night light or, when triggered by two flicks of the light switch, a brilliant flashing marker to help police, firefighters and paramedics easily locate the site of an emergency. The beacons are visible up to 125 yards in daylight, and as far as light conditions permit at night.

“These lights can greatly reduce response times in emergencies when a few seconds may be critical,” said Sgt. Terrie Wisniewski, of the Wheeling Crime Prevention Unit.

The beacons are available for \$5 each at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd. All residents are encouraged to take advantage of the program, especially in homes with elderly residents, small children or people with known medical problems.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events Scheduled

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will conduct three Chicago-area recycling events in September and October to collect household hazardous waste. The events will accept everything from oil-based paint (excluding latex paint), drain cleaners, household batteries (not automotive) and pesticides to lawn chemicals, paint thinners, solvents and used motor oil.

IEPA, however, will not accept agricultural, business or institutional wastes, explosives, fireworks, farm-machinery oil or smoke detectors. Fire extinguishers, lead-acid batteries and propane tanks, also not accepted by IEPA, may be collected by event cosponsors. To verify the materials being accepted, call the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County at 847/296-9205 or visit www.swancc.org

The events are scheduled for September 8 at the Village of Hoffman Estates Vehicle Maintenance area, 2405 Pembroke Ave., Hoffman Estates; September 15, Village of Wilmette Department of Public Works, 711 Laramie, Wilmette; October 13, Maine East Township High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge.

All events will be held from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Community Calendar

Residents are invited to attend public meetings of the following Village boards and commissions. Most meet in the Village Hall Councilroom (unless otherwise noted).

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 lunch room.

Senior Citizens Commission—3rd Monday of the month, 10 a.m., Village Hall, south half of lunch room.

Fire and Police Commission—3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Finance and Administration offices.

Palwaukee Airport Commission—3rd Wednesday of the month, Committee of the Whole meeting, 7 p.m., regular meeting, 8 p.m., Airport offices, 1020 South Plant Rd.

Economic Development Commission—1st Tuesday of each month, 8 a.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

Board of Ethics—3rd Thursday of January, April, July and October, 7 p.m., south half of Village Hall lunch room.

September

3 - Labor Day. Village offices closed. Garbage collection delayed one day.

8 - Palwaukee Airport open house 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

8 - Household Hazardous waste collection event, Village of Hoffman Estates Vehicle Maintenance, 2405 Pembroke Ave., Hoffman Estates

15 - Household Hazardous waste collection event, Village of Wilmette Department of Public Works, 711 Laramie, Wilmette

October

13 - Household Hazardous waste collection event, Maine East Township High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge

31 - Halloween. Trick-or-treat hours: 3-7 p.m

“The Village of Wheeling has obtained 4,000 flashing emergency beacons for purchase by Village residents... The beacons are available for \$5 each at Village Hall.”

Wheeling: Purveyor to the World

Continued from page 3

was a natural parking place for Boeing’s smaller airplanes.”

Boeing didn’t come to Wheeling, but other businesses continue to scout and relocate to the Village. The Economic Development Department maintains an active business-retention program, working with existing businesses in the Village. The department also regularly reaches out to companies that could find Wheeling an attractive place to do business. “We’ll do whatever we can to maintain Wheeling’s position as a purveyor to the world,” Whitmer said.

SPEAK OUT

Communicate with Wheeling elected officials and administrators. Your advice, suggestions, questions and opinions are appreciated and **will receive response**. Please complete this form, detach and return to: Village Manager, Village of Wheeling, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Comment _____

Update: Boards & Commissions

Senior Citizens Commission Plans Fall Health Seminars



seniors on the Web at www.vi.wheeling.il.us

On the heels of its successful Cook County Sheriffs Academy last spring, where area seniors learned about policies, procedures and functions of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, the Senior Citizens Commission is planning a fall health seminar.

Learn more about Village services for

The program will inform elderly residents of ways to prevent illnesses from undercooked food, as well as molds and carbon monoxide. For more information, contact the Pavilion Senior Center at 459-2670.

Residents Give Gift of Life at July Blood Drive

Wheeling residents turned out July 11 for the Board of Health's summer blood drive and gave the gift of life at a time when area bloodbank levels are at dangerous lows.

The drive collected 49 units of blood for the LifeSource Bloodbank, which provides blood products to area hospitals.

Disaster Event Seeks Volunteers

The Wheeling Fire Department is seeking volunteers to act as "patients" and "passengers" at a major disaster drill in the Village on Saturday, September 15. The drill will involve about 100 "seriously injured patients" and another 300-400 "passengers" as bystanders.

The exercise will simulate an accident between a train and a vehicle. More than 40 fire departments, 20 police departments and 12 local hospitals will participate. Representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration and

the National Transportation Safety Board also will be involved to enhance their knowledge about the logistics of a commuter rail disaster.

The volunteer "patients" will be made up to simulate injuries. They will be transported from the drill site to local hospitals, which will use the simulation to evaluate their disaster plans.

To register as a volunteer and for more information, call the Wheeling Fire Department at 847-459-2662.

Village Bans Heavy Trucks from Wolf Road

The Board of Trustees has prohibited heavy trucks from portions of Wolf Rd. between Hintz Rd. and Milwaukee Ave. Trucks with three or more axles will be required to use alternate routes through the Village. The board action came after the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which currently controls Wolf Rd., agreed that heavy truck traffic presented safety problems on a highway that fronts on schools and residential neighborhoods. IDOT plans to widen and resurface Wolf Rd. in the near future.

Board Rolls ZBA Functions into Plan Commission

In a move aimed at streamlining Village government, the trustees eliminated the

Zoning Board of Appeals as a separate entity. ZBA functions were rolled into the Plan Commission. Two members of the ZBA, Stuart Shapiro and Ray Lang, were appointed to the Plan Commission, which has been expanded to seven members.

VILLAGE OF WHEELING

255 WEST DUNDEE ROAD ● WHEELING, IL 60090
847/459-2600 ● TDD 847/459-2987
WEB SITE: WWW.VI.WHEELING.IL.US

Fire/Police/Paramedics

911

Non-emergency Fire	459-2662
Non-emergency Police	459-2632
Community Development	459-2620
Economic Development	459-2978
Pavilion Senior Center	459-2670
Public Works	459-2624
Water Billing	459-2607
Code Enforcement Hotline	459-CODE
Village President: Greg Klatecki	459-2988
Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson	541-8692
Village Manager: Craig Anderson	459-2617

Trustees

Judy Abruscato	541-8783	Michael Horcher	541-3276
Dean Argiris	808-8418	Patrick Horcher	419-1956
Robert Heer	541-4274	Trevor Lehmann	541-6700

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