

Village Views

Wheeling, Illinois

September ~ October ~ 2005

 Village offices will be closed
Monday, September 5
for Labor Day.

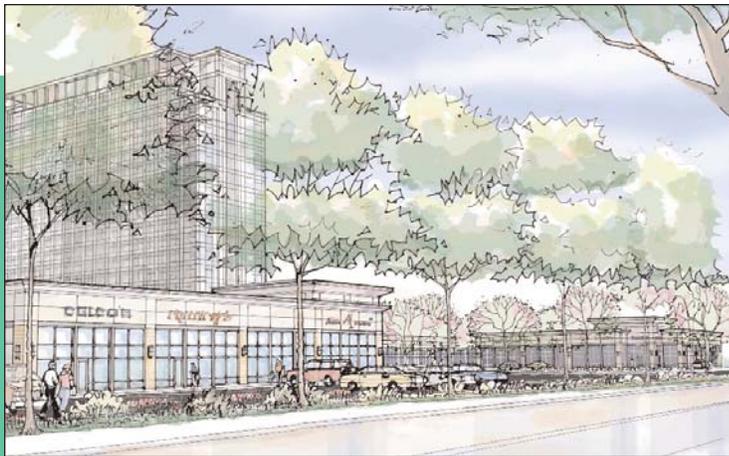
Westin North Shore project ahead of schedule

Developers of the Westin North Shore recently reported to the Board of Trustees that construction of the Westin North Shore Hotel is slightly ahead of schedule and that a December 2006 grand opening is projected. The 15-story, 411-room hotel and convention center is being built on the 21-acre site near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

According to Michael Firsel, principal with the Mid-America Investment and Development Company, the hotel will be shorter than originally planned due to

Federal Aviation Administration regulations. "The building looks exactly the same with one less floor," Firsel stated.

The change in height did not stop Westin from signing onto the project. Peter Dumon of the Harp Group reported that Starwood Hotels, owner of the Westin brand, has signed a contract for a four-star Westin hotel at the site.



Artist renditions of the Westin North Shore Hotel and Convention Center depict the 15-story, 411 room center enhanced by a variety of retail shops and restaurants. The hotel is scheduled to open in late 2006.



Trick-or-Treat hours for all goblins, ghosts and ghouls are 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, October 31.

~ www.vi.wheeling.il.us ~

GFOA recognizes finance department

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recently awarded the Village of Wheeling with the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement for Wheeling as it reflects the commitment of the Village Board and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The recognition was for the Village's fiscal year that began January 1, 2004.

"We are obviously pleased and proud to be recognized by the GFOA for our efforts in creating and maintaining a fiscally responsible budget," said Mike Mondschain, Village of Wheeling Finance Director. "This is the 18th consecutive year the Village has been recognized and only four organizations throughout the entire state have received this award more consecutive years than Wheeling."

Wheeling had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation to be considered for the award. The GFOA determines how the overall budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device and must deem each component 'proficient.'



Since the inception of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984, approximately 900 organizations have been honored. This awards program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Fitch - Chicago maintains Wheeling's AA+ bond rating

According to Michael Mondschain, Village of Wheeling Finance Director, Fitch Ratings-Chicago has assigned an 'AA+' rating to the Village of Wheeling's \$5.1 million general obligation (GO) sales tax bonds, series 2005. The 'AA+' rating is the second highest rating Fitch-Chicago assigns and will result in a lower interest rate regarding bond sales.

"This rating essentially makes the Village more attractive to bond purchasers when we sell them," Mondschain said. "These particular GO sales tax bonds are earmarked to fund land acquisitions related to the North Milwaukee/Lake-Cook tax increment financing (TIF) redevelopment project and to fund capitalized interest through Dec. 1, 2007."

The 'AA+' rating reflects the Village of Wheeling's economic diversification and steady tax base growth, manageable debt, and significant financial flexibility. Recent residential and commercial development continues to broaden the village's economic base as the manufacturing sector diminishes. Retail development growth and increases in the home rule sales tax rate have enhanced the village's sales tax base and reduced its reliance on the property tax. The village is likely to further enhance and diversify its revenue stream with the introduction of a food and beverage tax toward the end of 2005. The continued tax base growth and spending controls have enabled village administrators to meet the increased service demand while developing strong reserves.

Other factors that contributed to the high rating were economic expansion, good cost control, strong financial management and ample reserves which provide a significant source of internal financing for planned capital projects.

Wheeling scheduled to conduct special census

Due to annexations and numerous residential development projects, the Village of Wheeling will be conducting a partial special census this fall. The Village's next official census was not scheduled until 2011 resulting in the decision to contact the United States Census Bureau to conduct this special count.

According to Village officials, The special census is necessary since Federal and State governmental bodies share their revenues with municipalities based on population. "We anticipate that the special census of the newly annexed areas should mean that our population will increase between 3,000 to 4,000 persons," said Ken Bonder, Assistant Village Manager.

Current revenue sharing among Illinois municipalities is approximately \$100 per person meaning the

Village would receive an additional \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually. The total revenue from the special census would total between \$150,000 and \$200,000 between 2005 and 2011, when the regularly scheduled census would occur.

All new and existing residential developments that have come into Wheeling since 2000 will be a part of the special census. It is extremely important that everyone be counted as the end result is more revenue from the state.

The Village will begin accepting applications for part-time census takers once representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau arrive in September. Hiring and application procedures for all interested candidates will be posted on the Village website, broadcast on cable channel 17 and published in the Daily Herald and Wheeling Countryside as soon as possible.

Family of Wheeling artist donates artwork to Village Board

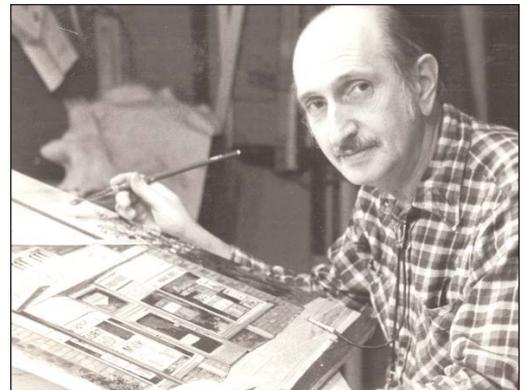
The family of renowned Chicagoland artist William L. Rubin dedicated an original piece of artwork to the Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees during its August 8 meeting. The late artist's daughter, Pamela Brengause, her husband Henry and children Georgine, Alan and Mitchell were on hand to see a piece of their father and grandfather's legacy officially dedicated to Wheeling.

Mr. Rubin and his wife Sylvia were 20-plus year residents of Wheeling and Ms. Brengause thought it appropriate to dedicate a piece to the town he loved.

"Even though my father became a renowned artist primarily for his depictions of Chicago, both he and my mother loved Wheeling and were proud to be residents of the community," Brengause said.

Rubin's ability to transfer reality into art enabled him to transition from a successful businessman to full-time artist in the late 1970's. According to a feature article in the December 12, 1983 Crain's Chicago Business, Mr. Rubin's artwork adorned the walls of corporate giants like Quaker Oats Co. and Dart and Kraft, Inc. In addition, Mr. Rubin was the only artist chosen to exhibit at the city's 150th birthday party. His daughter related that it still not uncommon to see her father's artwork in a variety of venues around town.

"My family and I were having dinner at Harry Caray's Restaurant and I noticed a painting of Wrigley Field that looked familiar," Brengause said. "Upon inspection, sure enough, there was his signature in the lower right-hand corner; that was a really neat moment."



Leaf disposal program outlined

With the onset of the fall season, the Public Works Department reminds residents not to deposit leaves into streets and gutters. Leaves intentionally raked into streets/gutters have a clear and immediate detrimental effect on the Village's storm sewer system.

As we are all aware, rainfall during the fall season in our area is standard. Leaves deposited into streets/gutters will inevitably result in – during periods of even relatively minor rainfall – clogged storm sewer inlets and subsequent localized flooding. Correcting such problems takes significant man-hours and results in substantial added costs.

The Village's contract with Waste Management provides for alternative methods by which residents may dispose of leaves and other forms of landscape waste. In addition to paper landscape waste bags, residents may use plastic or metal refuse cans – the latter, of course, being emptied and returned to the resident for future use. Instead of the ongoing expense relating to the purchase of paper landscape waste bags, residents may wish to make a one-time investment into one or more plastic and/or metal refuse cans for this use. Wheeling is one of only a few communities where such a disposal method is available. Moreover, the Village eliminated the requirement of residents to purchase "stickers" for each bag/can of landscape waste disposed. Again, the intent of the Village was to provide a program offering the greatest ease and least amount of inconvenience to its residents.

Reminder: permits may be required

Engineering Department permits are required for driveways, patios, sidewalks, parking lots, commercial sewer and water repairs, soil borings and monitoring wells.

Last year 200 permits were issued by the Engineering Department from January 1 to December 31. This year, by the end of July, the Department has already issued 204 permits. With much of the construction season ahead of us yet, we will continue to serve the community by issuing permits and with inspections for conformance to Village Standards.

If you have any questions regarding permits issued by the Engineering Department or need to schedule an inspection, please contact the Engineering Department at 847-459-2985

News You Can Use

Surplus Property For Sale

Hoping to capitalize on the popularity of the internet, more specifically internet auctions, the Village has decided to sell its surplus property via an on-line government auction house,

www.propertyroom.com.

This site is similar to eBay, however the items for sale are strictly government-oriented surplus,

i.e. computers, bikes, electronic equipment, unclaimed lost and found items etc. There is no cost to sign up and bid on items listed not only by Wheeling, but municipalities around the state and country. For more information, call 847-459-2600 or log onto www.propertyroom.com.

PROPERTY
ROOM.COM

Real Estate Transfer Certificate

The Village implemented a Real Estate Transfer Certificate Program August 1 that affects all transfers of ownership in real estate located within Wheeling. Essentially, the certificate ensures all water, sewer and garbage disposal fees have been paid prior to closing. Certificate applications will be available on the Village website,

www.vi.wheeling.il.us, at Village Hall, 255 W.

Dundee Road or can be mailed or faxed by calling 847-459-2600. There is no fee for this certificate, however applications must be received seven business days prior to closing to ensure it can be processed. The Village will notify the county recorder of deeds, title companies and real estate organizations of this new requirement. For more information, contact Michael Mondschain, Finance Director, at 847-459-2600.

We love pets too, but.....

Village Ordinance

7.08.060 states that it is

unlawful for an animal to use or be upon any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within the village

except when such animal is on leash controlled by the owner or his or her agent. The short version?

Please keep your animals on a leash when they are out of the house.





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

SeniorNet seeks instructors

The Wheeling SeniorNet Learning Center located at the Pavilion Senior Center is searching for volunteers to teach computer classes. There are no more than six students per class and two peer teachers instructing the class at a pace carefully designed for seniors.

We also need volunteers as Board members, scheduling the activities. Visit our web site

www.seniornet.org/usa/wheeling or for more information call the SeniorNet Hotline at 847-459-2666

X4131.

More volunteer opportunities

The Pavilion Senior Center has the following volunteer opportunities available:

Craft Coordinator - The 'Center' is looking for a volunteer who loves creating crafts and is willing to teach or help other for two hours, Tuesday mornings.

Helping Hands Drivers - Drivers are always needed to drive seniors to doctor appointments, medical testing, grocery shopping, etc. Drivers can choose the type of service they wish to offer and select appointments around their schedules.

Meals on Wheeling Drivers - Drivers are needed to distribute lunches to homebound seniors unable to perform tasks for themselves. You may select the day or days you are able to fit into your schedule.

Community Paint-A-Thon - The Community Paint-A-Thon is a unique partnership designed to paint the exteriors of homes owned and occupied by persons with limited financial resources, who are at least 60-years-old or older, or those who have a permanent disability and unable to do the work themselves. This project utilizes the support of many volunteers and community organizations to complete the task on one day, scheduled for **September 10, 2005**. We need your help to complete the day-long project of love.

For information about these and other volunteer opportunities, contact the Pavilion Senior Center at 847-459-2670.

FD, Senior Services team up to offer drive-thru flu shots

The Wheeling Fire Department and Senior Services Department will again be hosting a 'drive-thru flu clinic' on Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 10 am to 2 pm at Fire Station 24, 255 W. Dundee Road (attached to Village Hall).

Wheeling senior citizens (65 and over), residents aged 14 or older with an underlying and clearly apparent chronic medical condition, or female residents who are currently pregnant, will be given priority from 10 am to 1 pm. From 1 pm to 2 pm, remaining stockpiles of vaccine will be made available to any individuals 14 years of age or older. Flu shots are payable with proof of Medicare Part B or by paying \$20.00 (cash or personal check). Pneumonia shots will also be available for \$30.00 (cash or check). No credit cards will be accepted. In addition to the flu and pneumonia shots, blood pressures will be taken and tire pressures checked, free of charge. Interested residents should line up with their vehicles behind the fire station and follow the posted signage.

Mark Your Calendars

'Great Pavilion Center Rummage Sale!'

Pavilion Senior Center
199 N. First Street
Friday, Sept. 23rd &
Saturday, Sept. 24th
9a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grab a friend or two and search for new and/or gently used treasures and trinkets!

'Eyes of Wheeling Photography Contest'

The Human Rights Commission is sponsoring the 'Eyes of Wheeling' photography contest for high-school-age 'shutterbugs.' The contest encourages area youth to capture the diversity of Wheeling through the lens of a camera.

Deadline for entries is December 12 and cash prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place and two honorable mention participants. For more information, call 847-459-2600.

Fire Department lists fall safety precautions

By taking a few simple precautions, fall can be a fun and exciting time of the year for you and your family:

Warm days and cool nights - fall is in the air! Fall can be an exciting and fun time of the year but also a time of hidden dangers. By taking a few simple precautions, you and your family can safely enjoy the season.

School is back in session. Watch for children crossing the street before turning "Right on Red" at stoplights. Obey school bus warning lights and stop signs - come to a complete stop far back from the bus stop to avoid having child sudden step in front of your car. Stay a minimum of 20 feet behind school buses, since they have a large blind spot and the school bus driver cannot see you in the rearview mirror.

When you change you clocks for Daylight Savings on October 30th, change the batteries in your smoke detectors too! National statistics show that only 50% of the smoke detectors properly work when needed because of dead or missing batteries. Properly working smoke detectors increase your chances of surviving a fire in your home by more than 50%. If your smoke detectors are more than 10 years old, replace them with new ones. Combination or dual ionization/photoelectric smoke detectors give the best response for both smoldering and free flaming fires.

Practice a home fire drill with your family. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if a fire should occur in your home, as well, as how to properly evacuate your home and where to meet, once you are outside. Always plan two (2) ways out of every room in your home.

Have your furnace professionally cleaned and serviced. Not only will it save you money on your gas and electric bills, it will minimize the risk of mechanical breakdown later in the deep cold of winter. Worn-out and/or improperly maintained furnaces can also cause Carbon Monoxide (CO) to leak into your home.

CO is a tasteless, odorless gas that is deadly in moderate to high concentrations. Install a CO detector equipped with a digital read-out on all levels of your home for added family safety.

Properly dispose of landscape waste (including leaves) using curbside recycling from Waste Management. The burning leaves and other landscape waste are strictly prohibited in the Village of Wheeling. It not only presents a fire risk and additional pollution, it is also harmful to our residents suffering from respiratory conditions.

Do not pour gasoline from your lawnmower or other garden power tools down the sewers! Not only is this illegal but it is extremely dangerous! Vapors can back up into other homes where it can cause fires and explosions. Instead, pour the left over gasoline into your family car or truck. Even if the gasoline is mixed with some small engine oil, it is safe to use in your vehicle.

Remove leaves and other potential obstructions from your home's gutters and downspouts. This will minimize the chance of ice collecting and backing up into your attic in the middle of winter. When working on ladders, make sure both ladder feet are firmly on the ground and position ladders far away from overhead electrical lines, including the electrical service line to your home.

On Halloween, make sure children wear costumes that are non-combustible or made from natural fibers (wool or cotton). Avoid masks that obscure or hinder the vision of your child. Do not place candles or lit jack-o-lanterns along walkways, sidewalks, or porches where a child's costume may accidentally encounter the flame.

Homecoming parades, beautiful fall colors, and Halloween decorations. Make your fall season a safe one!



A Hero Retires

The Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees officially retired Canine Officer Sabre, seen here with partner Sgt. Michael Porzycki, at its August 8 board meeting. During his career Sabre was not only instrumental in keeping the streets of Wheeling safe for its citizens, but he worked tirelessly as an ambassador for our Village. Sabre and Sgt. Porzycki participated in parades and festivals throughout the northwest suburbs and conducted hundreds of demonstrations for countless numbers of school children. We thank Sabre for his years of service; he will be missed.

News You Can Use

Organizations wishing to conduct tag days (charitable fundraisers designed to solicit donations from motorists on public streets) must first get a village permit to do so. Permit applications are available at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road and should be submitted no less than one month prior to the requested date as each request must go before the Village Board for consideration. Keep in mind, only one organization is allowed to conduct a tag day in the Village of Wheeling on any particular day.

In addition, if anyone suspects an organization is conducting a tag day without prior approval they are encouraged to contact the Wheeling Police Department non-emergency telephone number: 847-459-2632.

Thanks for a great celebration.....
see you next year!



On behalf of the Village of Wheeling President, Clerk, Board of Trustees and staff, thank you to everyone who visited the two-day 'Freedom Fest.' Mother Nature did her best to dampen everyone's spirits, but you persevered and made this year's July 4th celebration a memory-filled event. Special thanks go to Smith Family Construction, Inc., Gene's Village Towing, Bill Stasek Chevrolet, Waste Management and the Wheeling Park District for their sponsorship and support of 'Freedom Fest 2005.'

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.

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

**Palwaukee Airport Community
Engagement Council (PACE) -**
1st Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.,
Airport Offices, 1020 S. Plant Road.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Governor signs off on Crossroads TIF extension

Governor Rod Blagojevich penned his signature to the Tax Increment Financing extension bill into law last week officially extending the Crossroads TIF until 2019. Prior to the extension, the TIF district had been scheduled to end in May, 2008.

“We’re thrilled the Governor acted to extend the Crossroads TIF District,” said Village President Greg Klatecki. “There are just too many projects in that TIF district that will not be complete by 2008 and this extension will allow us to maximize the potential of some recently acquired properties in the Crossroads District.”

According to Michael Mondschain, Finance Director, the extension will allow the Village to pursue a variety of retail, restaurant and mixed-use development and redevelopment projects along Milwaukee Avenue. The Crossroads TIF District encompasses what is commonly known as ‘Restaurant Row’ and extends north to Strong Avenue and south to Manchester Road.

In keeping with Illinois legislative preferred procedure and policy, the Village sought and received the support of other taxing districts that are affected by the use of TIF districts as development tools. “Both District 21 and 214 as well as the park district gave their approval and support for the extension,” Mondschain said. “The Village agreed to begin paying the school districts their share of TIF funds in December, 2005 that neither district would have seen until 2010, making this a win-win situation for all taxing districts involved.”

Police Resource Center hosts 2nd annual ‘Halloween Open House’

Wheeling’s 2nd annual Halloween Open House is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, October 29 at the Police Department Neighborhood Resource Center, 99 Wolf Road. Ghosts, goblins and their parents can participate in child fingerprinting/DNA kits, Photo’s with Mc Gruff the Crime Dog, kids’ Halloween drawing contest, child safety seat inspections, bicycle safety inspections, face painting, facility tours, ghoulish snacks, raffle prizes for costumed children, fire department activities and more scary fun. Call 847-459-2993 for more information.



Village of Wheeling

255 W. Dundee Road ~ Wheeling, IL 60090

847-459-2600 ~ TDD 847-459-2987

www.vi.wheeling.il.us

Fire/Police/Paramedics

Non-emergency Fire	847-459-2662
Non-emergency Police	847-459-2632
Community Development	847-459-2620
Economic Development	847-459-2978
Pavilion Senior Center	847-459-2670
Public Works	847-459-2624
Water Billing	847-459-2607
Code Enforcement Hotline	847-459-CODE
Palwaukee Municipal Airport Noise Hotline	847-537-2580, ext. 159
Village President: Greg Klatecki	847-459-2988
Village Clerk: Elaine Simpson	847-541-8692
Village Manager: F. Wallace Douthwaite	847-459-2617

Trustees

Judy Abruscato: 847-541-8783	Robert Heer: 847-541-4274
Dean Argiris: 847-845-6990	Michael Horcher: 847-541-3276
Ken Brady: 847-537-8642	Patrick Horcher: 847-331-4234

911

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Local Postal Patron
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