

December 27, 2001

December 28, 2002

A year in the life of our village



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

The home on Tahoe Circle where police found the murdered body of Jennifer Wiedemann is shielded from public view by police blinds and kept off limits by police tape.

Nanny murdered

1 The FBI and Wheeling police continue their search for Adolfo Sanchez, the man authorities believe murdered a 20-year-old nanny in Wheeling.

Jennifer Wiedemann, Sanchez's former girlfriend, is found dead in a Tahoe Village town house the morning of July 20. She is shot three times with a 9 mm handgun. Wiedemann lives at 1572 Tahoe Circle Drive at the time of her death and is employed by the suspect's brother, Au-

gustino Sanchez, as the family's live-in nanny.

Wiedemann and Adolfo Sanchez are involved in a relationship before Wiedemann breaks it off about a week before the murder, police say. They track Adolfo Sanchez to another brother's home in Milwaukee the day of the murder and find a shotgun and a 9 mm handgun, the suspected murder weapon.

Authorities issue an arrest warrant shortly after Adolfo Sanchez, 29, is named a suspect, but police immediately fear that he has fled to Mexico, where he has other relatives.

Wiedemann was a 1999 Prospect High School graduate and a student at Harper Community College. She lived in Augustino Sanchez's home and looked after the children living there, as both parents left for work early in the day.

a sitting area. The lot in front of Walgreens may also be incorporated into the overall design concept, which will be anchored at the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

If all goes as planned, Friendship Park may open for the Fourth of July, according to board members.

Astor Place

3 Crews are grading the former Wheeling Nursery site as the first step in transforming it into Astor Place, a town home and condominium development.

The Wheeling Village Board approves the plan submitted by Kimball Hill Homes for the property, which calls for the construction of 248 units on the 25-acre parcel. There will be 120 condominiums built in four buildings and 128 town homes surrounding the condos.

Although the Village Board considers the site for a commercial development, the only proposals that come before the board are residential projects. Kimball Hill representatives say they plan to construct a commercial element in the development on two of the 25 acres on the site, although no plan has been submitted to the board to date.

Kimball Hill still faces one glitch in the project. The company is having difficulty acquiring a 50-foot parcel adjacent to the development that would serve as an easement for sewer lines. Kimball Hill representatives say the owner is not letting the property go cheaply. If negotiations fail, the village could condemn an easement through the property for the sewer line.

Along the avenue

4 Milwaukee Avenue remains a hot topic for talks of development and redevelopment throughout the year. The Village Board remains committed to trying to find ways to clean up the commercial stretch with new development and ridding it of eye-

(Continued on page 10)



Jeff Krage/For Pioneer Press

The Rev. Jim Steiner conducts the final service at Community Presbyterian Church, which closed its doors after forming way back in 1864.

Plaza games

2 Millennium Plaza dies after three years of work and not a viable drawing on the board. But the Village Board is working on a new project that most trustees say is more appropriate for one of the village's most prominent corners.

Village staff is still trying to finalize engineering plans for the futuristic-looking Millennium Plaza when the board decides enough is enough. Trustees express frustration with the plan, the design and working with architects and engineers who live out of state. The plaza, which was to incorporate three lots on the corner, is scaled down to just one lot without the village saving any money on the cost of construction.

Board members also hear negative comments from residents about the design of Millennium Plaza. Many residents find the overhanging tubes and rails shocking, making the project even more controversial and difficult for the board to justify. The board elects to scrap the project in June.

The board is now working on a new project, which features a gazebo, waterfalls and



get a good idea of how set-
ously the board is taking its
job and how it reached its de-
cision, Daugherty said.

But Rebecca Daugherty,
who directs the Freedom of
Information Service Center,
manack said.

vacancy also is made away
from the public's eyes and
ears. Because candidates who
applied for the open seat were
interviewed in executive ses-

Top 10 *Continued from page 7*

sores in order to enhance the famous Restaurant Row.

Two new restaurants are added to the mix this past year — Ram Restaurant and Benihana. Both are unique to Restaurant Row in their offerings. The Ram, located near the intersection with Lake-Cook Road, offers a number of different beers brewed in the restaurant. Benihana offers Japanese dishes cooked tableside.

New residential units are now available and many others are on the way along Milwaukee Avenue. One Milwaukee Place has new residents and is nearly complete. Work begins at the former Wheeling Nursery to make way for Astor Place. Developer Anthony Tantillo pitches a proposal to the Plan Commission to build new homes across the street from the Wolf Road intersection.

The Village Board also is looking to take some properties within the tax increment financing district on Milwaukee Avenue. The board passes ordinances to negotiate sales with owners of six properties in the TIF, with the intent of demolishing the buildings to build new ones that conform better with the area.

Final sermon

5 The Community Presbyterian Church, Wheeling's oldest church, closes its doors for good after services Nov. 4. Declining membership and dwindling finances lead to the closing.

The last service attracts nearly 150 people, compared to the typical 25 to 35 who gathered on Sunday mornings. The final service includes the baptism of Seth William Swanson, the church's newest — and last — member.

The church began when a group of Wheeling farmers congregated to form the German Presbyterian Zion Church in 1864. A year later, the church's first building was constructed on Dundee Road. It was later moved to Chamber Park, where it stands today and serves as a community center.

In 1948, the church changed its name to the Community Presbyterian Church. In years following World War II, the church saw its membership peak. Sunday school grew to serve hundreds of the church's children. As those children grew and left home, the

church struggled to find new members to replace them.

Many people who once worshiped regularly at the church return for its final service and reunite with former neighbors they had not seen in years. Interim Pastor Jim Steiner says the church closes in "a dignified manner" that was "respectful to God."

Village elections

6 The April elections result in two new faces on the Wheeling Village Board, while two familiar faces stay.

Dean Argiris and Michael Horcher find their way to the board after the final results are tallied. Argiris serves as chairman of the Plan Commission before being elected to the board and runs on a platform of getting new development into town and cleaning up blighted areas. Horcher, the father of Trustee Patrick Horcher, runs on a simple platform of common sense and accountability.

During the same election, Trustee Trevor Lehmann runs a successful re-election campaign. He is now serving his second term on the board.

Wayne Wisinski decides not to seek re-election in April. William Spangenberg runs to keep his seat but loses his bid.

Village President Greg Klatecki is challenged by William Hein, who had served as village president himself from 1978 until 1981. Klatecki glides to re-election, defeating Hein by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

School days

7 Wheeling Elementary School District 21 implements two year-round schooling programs, one of which is in the newly reopened Hawthorne School.

The Hawthorne Academy is renovated and opened to serve students in the third, fourth and fifth grades as a solution to alleviate crowding in west-side schools. About 50 students enroll.

Principal Jason Klein says the students are learning from the same curriculum as the rest of the district, but instruction is modified to help individuals learn more effectively. Students also are asked to become critical thinkers, using the knowledge they

learn in the classroom in real-world projects. Students also are taught to understand how they learn.

Whitman Elementary School implements a new year-round program. Students learning in the Continuous Learning Calendar attend classes for nine weeks and then take three off. During those breaks, students have the option of taking reinforcement classes for a marginal fee.

Nearly half of Whitman's students voluntarily enroll in the new calendar program, surpassing even Principal Ralph Cook's expectations. During the first break in October, nearly 90 percent of students take the optional classes.

So long, Preister

8 The Preister family's ties to Palwaukee Airport date back 50 years, but earlier this year the family decides to sell its fixed-base operation.

Charles Preister, president and CEO of Preister Aviation Services, announces in August that he is selling the operation to Orlando-based Signature Flight Services, one of the largest chain operations in the country.

Preister Aviation began training pilots at Palwaukee in 1945. The family owned the airport until it sold to the village of Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights. Preister's only connection to the airport now is its charter service.

Palwaukee is Signature's fourth Chicago-area FBO. The company has 43 others across the country, four in Europe and one in Hong Kong. Preister says he chose Signature's offer to buy after receiving inquiries from other operators over the past year.

Time to move on

9 The village loses three department heads over the year as one retires and two take other positions elsewhere.

Robert Flalkowski, who served as Wheeling's finance director for 20 years, resigns in June to become the finance director in Deerfield. Flalkowski had won many state awards for his work with the village. He is replaced by Michael Mondschain in October.

Robert Gray retires as Wheeling's

public works director. He had been employed with the village since 1973, when he was hired as an engineer. Just five years later, he was named as the director of the Public Works Department. Gray was instrumental in many capital improvement projects for the village, including burying power lines along Dundee Road, water and sewer improvements, the village's street lighting program and overseeing the diversion channel construction for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch. Village officials are still seeking a replacement for Gray.

Michael Klitzke leaves as head of the Community Development Department in October. He takes a job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and moves to Wisconsin. He served with the village for 14 years. Village officials have yet to find a replacement for Klitzke.

Future plans

10 Wheeling has become much more attractive to business and residential developers in recent years, but the village government has a weak guide for future growth. That prompts the Village Board to hire a consultant to overhaul the comprehensive plan.

Plan commissioners host one meeting with Camiros, Ltd., the firm hired for the project, and lay out a wish list as to what it would like the firm to examine. The list includes developing a town center, cleaning up blighted properties along Milwaukee Avenue, improving flood mitigation and making streetscape improvements.

It has been 15 years since the village's comprehensive plan has been examined and updated, far too long, say village officials. Village Planner Jeff Harris says the comprehensive plan should be looked at every five to 10 years, and an overhaul is overdue.

It is expected Camiros will have a new plan developed in early 2003. The process will include interviews with village officials and prominent residents, community forums and examining existing land uses. The consultants and village officials say community input to the plan is going to be vital to the project's success, since it will be the community that has to live with the new plan.

Chief: fire suspicious

Countryside

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
12/27/01

Wheeling fire and police investigators continued their search for clues late last week as to what started a suspicious fire that engulfed a house at 231 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac classified the early morning Dec. 18 fire as suspicious in origin. He said the first reports of the fire came from passers-by calling on their cellular telephones at around 12:30 that morning. MacIsaac credited the village's wireless 911 system, which was activated less than a month ago, for allowing the motorists to notify the department of the blaze. The fire was already burning through the roof of the building when crews arrived at the scene.

No one was injured in the fire.

MacIsaac said the building, which was once occupied by a psychic reader, was vacant at the time of the fire. He said firefighters had the blaze under control in about one hour.

The Wheeling Fire Department received mutual aid from the Buffalo Grove and Northbrook fire departments, as well as the Deerfield/Bannockburn Fire Protection District.



Ralph Steber/For Pioneer Press

Wheeling firefighters work to extinguish a fire that broke out at 231 N. Milwaukee Ave. the morning of Dec. 18. Wheeling fire and police officials are investigating the cause of the fire, which they classify as suspicious.

Photographers' Choice

Pioneer Press 2001

1/03/02



Jimmy Wiltse gazes at the candle's glow during a vigil held in September shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Citizens get to see inner workings of Wheeling P.D.

12/28/01
BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For those who want to see close up how Wheeling police work without the risk of earning a criminal record, the department again will sponsor its Citizens Police Academy. The department puts on the academy to promote a better understanding between citizens and police, Wheeling Officer Dorann Swanson said.

Up to 30 people participate in the annual program, which is free to enrollees. They learn about police patrols, how evidence technicians operate, about K-9 units and even laws governing criminal searches and seizures.

"Residents get an inside look on how the department operates," Swanson said.

At the end of the course, participants will ride along with a police officer in a patrol car for a shift to see

firsthand what patrol officers do.

Swanson said participants will be able to meet many of the department's officers. The classes also draw people of all ages from throughout the community, she said.

"We had people in their 20s all the way up to senior citizens," she said. "We've had people from all walks of life."

Academy instructors come from the various parts of the department

and talk about their own areas of expertise.

The academy classes will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, one night a week for 10 weeks. Classes begin Feb. 6.

To participate in the police academy, people must be 21 or older and live or work in the village.

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What is an evidence technician, and how do they operate? How do Wheeling police officers patrol the street? How often do officers qualify on the shooting range?

All of these questions and many more will be answered during the next annual Citizens Police Academy, which begins on Feb. 6. This 10-week program will provide all who participate with firsthand information on all kinds of topics, ranging from how department units function to law enforcement and community policing.

"The academy promotes understanding between citizens and the police through education," said Sgt. Terrie Wisniewski, who heads the Crime Prevention Unit. "We acquaint citizens with the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system and provide insight into the operations of daily police work."

The instructors are department officers and personnel who teach their own areas of expertise. These instructors bring their training and experiences into the classroom, and officers share their street experiences as well.

The first session includes an introduction, an orientation and the history and organization of the police department.

If you would like to participate, there is a commitment of one night a week for the 10-week period. Classes are held from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

This part is really cool!

At the end of the 10 weeks, all participants will ride in a patrol car for one shift to experience what officers see and hear and how they apply their training.

Interested?

Well, you need to be a Wheeling resident and at least 21 years old to apply. If you want to apply, you can call 459-2632 or go the village's Web site at www.vi.wheeling.il.us under the Reference Desk page.

You will be notified if you are selected for the next session. The best part is that there is no charge for the academy.

Reaching out

The Pavilion Senior Center has asked for help from local churches to improve the quality of life for older citizens. Pavilion social worker Jan Christiansen recently met with the leaders of local churches who volunteered to recruit members of their congregations to reach out to those over age 65.

The clergymen will ask their congregations to provide either one-time or occasional services such as visiting seniors, helping in transportation needs, going grocery shopping or even contributing to a Giving Tree for seniors who need help. Christiansen will assess the seniors in need and refer those people to the churches.

Christiansen pointed out that seniors now account for 13 percent of the population.

"They're living longer and staying at home," she said.

The churches involved include Amazing Grace Fellowship, Calvary English Chapel and the Korean Christian Reformed Church.

For more information on this program, you may call Jan Christiansen at 459-2670.

Countryside 1/03/02

Keep me posted

Got anything special happening? I would love to include you in my next column. Phone or fax me at (847) 229-7045. Or send an e-mail to:

Marcy80090@aol.com

2001 had its fine moments

COUNTRYSIDE 1-10-02
A consensus has emerged, reinforced by a blizzard of year-end summations in various media outlets, that 2001 was not a year that will be remembered fondly.

The year began with a controversial presidential election decision and ended with the first recession in almost a decade. Troubles in the Middle East escalated throughout the year. At home, disturbing stories like the missing aide from Rep. Gary Condit's staff and the unusual massing of sharks off Florida in summer kept our attention.

Then the Sept. 11 attacks, and their aftermath, trumped everything else with the sheer scale of its audacity and the heartfelt worldwide response.

This was a year people needed to focus locally to find solace. Fortunately, 2001 was a pretty good year for Wheeling.

The Village Board finally put the dreadfully tacky Millennium Plaza to rest and replaced it with a bucolic fountain design appropriately named Friendship Park. And, unlike the sloth-like progress made on the former project, the new proposal for the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road is on schedule and should be gracing the village by the expected completion date of July 4.

Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment, a topic of discussion for more than a decade, made significant progress with the addition of a Ram Restaurant, the purchase of the Wheeling Nursery site that paves the way for a new residential development and the completion of One Milwaukee Place, which has brought a new vitality to what was an underused, unattractive corner.

Village officials also launched a long-overdue review of Wheeling's comprehensive plan, the official guide for future growth. The new plan includes designs of developing a new town center, cleaning up blighted properties, improving flood control and making streetscape improvements.

The mantra after Sept. 11 has been that we have to resume our normal lives. In that sense, 2001 really wasn't so bad — here, at least. Best yet, 2001's achievements hold the promise of making 2002 even better.

Wheeling board plans to take look at tree law

1/10/02
BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees expressed support for a change in the village tree ordinance that would leave, if you will, homeowners alone.

The trustees agreed on Monday they should revisit an ordinance that governs tree preservation after a request from the Northwest Association of Realtors. The association asked trustees to alter village rules to allow homeowner removal of a tree if they want to build a driveway, patio or similar project on their property.

Mike Scobey, government affairs director for the 4,000-member association, told trustees the change is needed to give homeowners the ability to improve their properties. He called the change consistent with the intention of the existing rules to preserve standing trees in the village.

"The flexibility is needed where the homeowner may want to add a deck or addition," he said.

Some association members have encountered problems with similar ordinances in other municipalities, which is what sparked the group's interest, he said.

Village trustees unanimously agreed to take up the issue formally at a future meeting.

"I don't think anybody would cut down a shade tree in their backyard if they don't have to," said Trustee Michael Horcher.

Existing exemptions in the rules allow trees to be removed if the tree is dying, constitutes a hazard to people or property, or its removal enhances the health of other trees nearby. The proposed change would not affect commercial or industrial properties.

"They (homeowners) should have the right to do what they want in their backyard," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

On residential properties, the current rules prohibit the removal of, or damage to, trees greater than 8 inches in diameter that are within 25 feet of a street right-of-way. If trees are removed, they must be replaced with trees that have a total diameter that measures equal to 1½ times the diameter of what was removed.

Wheeling commissioners like plan for townhouses

BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A plan for a 14-unit higher-end townhouse development received a warm welcome from the Wheeling plan commission Thursday.

Representatives from Capital Homes pitched their plan for three or possibly four multi-family buildings on 1.8 acres off Cornell Avenue near VIP Apartments on Hintz Road.

While the commission decided to continue its review of the proposal at a future meeting, commissioners unanimously said they approved of the basic plan, specifically the general look of the building designs and the density of the property, which at 7.7 units an acre is a little less than the village's maximum of 10 an acre.

"It probably is the one of the better things that could go on this property," said commission Chairman Ken Brady.

Ken Frank, vice president of Capital Homes, said the townhouses would sell for between \$260,000

and \$310,000 and have two or three bedrooms and a basement. He described the townhouses as at the high end of the Wheeling townhouse market.

A number of residents spoke during the meeting to express their concern about the proximity of the buildings to their property line. They told the commission they wanted visual screening between their single-family homes and the development. About a dozen residents attended the hearing, many of whom live in the Abourndale subdivision just south of the site.

The residents also wanted assurances that the developer would deliver exactly what they've proposed.

"Part of the concern is the quality of the buildings and the scale," resident Carmine Trombetta said.

For their part, commissioners told the developer they wanted to see more brick on all sides of the buildings. Some commissioners also told Capital Homes it should consider a sprinkler system for the property.

1-11-02

Residents needed as commissioners

Wheeling village officials are seeking dedicated residents to fill some holes on the village's commissions.

Openings exist on the village's Plan Commission, Economic Development Commission and the Senior Commission.

Plan commissioners meet regularly to review proposed industrial, commercial and residential development plans and then give recommendations to the Village Board. The Plan Commission is also working on plans to overhaul the village's comprehensive plan. The commission also acts as the Sign Code Board of Appeals and Appearance Review Commission. Plan commissioners are appointed to a three-year term.

The Economic Development Commission promotes economic growth in the village by identifying and evaluating business development and redevelopment. It also helps prepare promotional materials for local businesses and develops marketing strategies to help existing Wheeling businesses and to attract new ones. Commissioners are appointed to a three-year term.

The Senior Commission guides activities at the Pavilion Senior Center and oversees the needs of Wheeling's older residents. The commission serves as an advisory body to the Village Board, village manager and other government agencies to promote the welfare of seniors. Commissioners are appointed to a two-year term.

All commissioners are appointed by the village president. Applications are available on the village Web site at <http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us/>

ReferenceDesk/FormsAndPermits.htm#Municipal. Then click on Municipal Forms. Forms also are available at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

1/17/02 Countryside

Trustees approve Wolf Road upgrades

BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Continuing their push to improve the village's roadways, Wheeling trustees agreed to go forward with a plan that will enhance the Wolf Road area.

They decided to construct a sidewalk, more street lights and signals along Wolf Road as well as install decorative bricks in the parkway areas along Milwaukee Avenue and along Dundee Road, just east of Milwaukee Avenue.

The Wolf Road work will cost almost \$840,000 and the decorative bricks will cost an additional \$400,000.

Village board members decided to pay for the Wolf Road improvements with little debate. However, they split over a plan to install street lights or bury power lines along Route 83 from Lake-Cook Road to north of Dundee Road.

A majority of trustees decided against the Route 83 projects because of the cost — estimated at \$1.2 million for utility line burial alone.

"I really can't spend \$1.2 million when I don't know what tomorrow means to the village," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, referring to the economy.

However, trustees Trevor Lehmann and Dean Argiris pushed for the work on Route 83, saying the village had the opportunity now to do the project while the Illinois Department of Transportation was working on the street, meaning the village could save money by doing the project then.

"If you're going to do something, do it right," Argiris said.

Trustee Mike Horcher abstained from voting on the Route 83 work because he owns land by the road. His son, Trustee Patrick Horcher, voted against doing the work.

The work will be completed when IDOT improves Wolf Road to add a turn lane, bringing its total number of lanes to three. The projects could start by the end of this year. For Route 83, IDOT will widen the road to four lanes, similar to Route 83 immediately south of Dundee Road.

1/17/02

Wheeling seniors to see lower garbage pickup fee

All customers get a break in part's first year

After a push by village trustees, Waste Management will give Wheeling seniors a 25 percent discount on their curbside garbage disposal service.

The Wheeling village board approved a two-year contract extension with Waste Management this week that also will mean no rate increase in the first year for all customers who use the company for refuse, recycling and landscape waste pick up.

In the second year, customers will see an increase tied to the Consumer Price Index, which measures the inflation rate for consumers, or by 3 percent, whichever number is less.

"The extension takes effect March 1, but with no increase it will be a seamless transition as it has been in the past," said James Grabowski, Wheeling's assistant village manager.

The disposal rate, \$10.33 a month for a single-family, curbside customer, doesn't include the \$4.48 a month fee for the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

While similar senior discounts in other communities have resulted in a slight increase for Waste Management's non-senior customers, Grabowski said this will not be the case in Wheeling.

"Waste Management is absorbing this discount as a good-faith showing to the village," he said.

To be eligible for the discount, households must have at least one person aged 65 or older who is the primary resident. Thus, a couple younger than 65 who has an elderly parent staying with them would not be eligible.

To get the discount, people also will have to fill out a form from the village and present identification proving that they are 65 or older.

The forms will be available from Wheeling starting in February at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, or eventually on the village's Web site.

The village signed the existing contract with Waste Management in 1997 and has used the company before then.

BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1/16/02

No one injured during fire in Wheeling apartment

BY RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Fire heavily damaged a second-floor apartment in Wheeling Tuesday night, leaving the family who lived there homeless.

The fire broke out in the second floor unit at the Pine Hill Apartments, 400 Manda Lane, just before 7 p.m., said Wheeling fire Lt. Jim Callanan.

There were no injuries, but the unit was heavily damaged by fire, water and smoke.

The apartment's residents, Tae Yong Lee and Hye Suk Lee, and their

two children are staying with family friends, Callanan said.

About 50 firefighters responded to the fire from departments from Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Long Grove, Lincolnshire, Mt. Prospect, Northbrook, Palatine, Countryside, Deerfield, Rolling Meadows, Lake Zurich, Des Plaines and Barrington.

Fire and smoke alarms in the building alerted apartment residents and most evacuated the building before firefighters arrived.

The fire was believed to have started when cooking oil on the stove ignited.

1/23/02

HERALD 1-16-02
Palwaukee lands national honor: Palwaukee Municipal Airport has drawn kudos from a national accounting standards board this month. The Connecticut-based Governmental Accounting Standards Board has praised the airport for being among the first government agencies in the United States to make its financial reporting procedures consistent with its guidelines. The standards board is an independent, nonprofit organization that issues financial accounting and reporting standards for state and local governments. The airport is owned by the city of Prospect Heights and the village of Wheeling.

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COUNTRYSIDE 1-10-02
A consensus has emerged, reinforced by a blizzard of year-end summations in various media outlets, that 2001 was not a year that will be remembered fondly.

The year began with a controversial presidential election decision and ended with the first recession in almost a decade. Troubles in the Middle East escalated throughout the year. At home, disturbing stories like the missing aide from Rep. Gary Condit's staff and the unusual massing of sharks off Florida in summer kept our attention.

Then the Sept. 11 attacks, and their aftermath, trumped everything else with the sheer scale of its audacity and the heartfelt worldwide response.

This was a year people needed to focus locally to find solace. Fortunately, 2001 was a pretty good year for Wheeling.

The Village Board finally put the dreadfully tacky Millennium Plaza to rest and replaced it with a bucolic fountain design appropriately named Friendship Park. And, unlike the sloth-like progress made on the former project, the new proposal for the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road is on schedule and should be gracing the village by the expected completion date of July 4.

Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment, a topic of discussion for more than a decade, made significant progress with the addition of a Ram Restaurant, the purchase of the Wheeling Nursery site that paves the way for a new residential development and the completion of One Milwaukee Place, which has brought a new vitality to what was an underused, unattractive corner.

Village officials also launched a long-overdue review of Wheeling's comprehensive plan, the official guide for future growth. The new plan includes designs of developing a new town center, cleaning up blighted properties, improving flood control and making streetscape improvements.

The mantra after Sept. 11 has been that we have to resume our normal lives. In that sense, 2001 really wasn't so bad — here, at least. Best yet, 2001's achievements hold the promise of making 2002 even better.

Wheeling board plans to take look at tree law

1/10/02
BY FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees expressed support for a change in the village tree ordinance that would leave, if you will, homeowners alone.

The trustees agreed on Monday they should revisit an ordinance that governs tree preservation after a request from the Northwest Association of Realtors. The association asked trustees to alter village rules to allow homeowner removal of a tree if they want to build a driveway, patio or similar project on their property.

Mike Scobey, government affairs director for the 4,000-member association, told trustees the change is needed to give homeowners the ability to improve their properties. He called the change consistent with the intention of the existing rules to preserve standing trees in the village.

"The flexibility is needed where the homeowner may want to add a deck or addition," he said.

Some association members have encountered problems with similar ordinances in other municipalities, which is what sparked the group's interest, he said.

Village trustees unanimously agreed to take up the issue formally at a future meeting.

"I don't think anybody would cut down a shade tree in their back yard if they don't have to," said Trustee Michael Horcher.

Existing exemptions in the rules allow trees to be removed if the tree is dying, constitutes a hazard to people or property, or its removal enhances the health of other trees nearby. The proposed change would not affect commercial or industrial properties.

"They (homeowners) should have the right to do what they want in their backyard," said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

On residential properties, the current rules prohibit the removal of, or damage to, trees greater than 8 inches in diameter that are within 25 feet of a street right-of-way. If trees are removed, they must be replaced with trees that have a total diameter that measures equal to 1½ times the diameter of what was removed.

Realtors' group asks for change to tree ordinance

1/17/02

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
Courtesy

The Wheeling Village Board is looking to amend its tree-preservation ordinance after being approached by a regional real estate firm asking that the law be softened.

Michael Scobey, director of government affairs for the Arlington Heights-based Northwest Association of Realtors, appeared before the board Jan. 7 and asked that the ordinance be amended to provide more latitude to owners of single-family homes who want to cut down trees in order to make improvements to their homes.

Scobey asked the board to allow residents to cut down trees in their yard to build patios, decks, additions or driveways, as long as the resident proves "reasonable efforts have been undertaken in the planning and design of the proposed site improvement to minimize tree damage and/or removal."

Board members unanimously agreed to alter the ordinance and instructed Village Attorney James Rhodes to draft the amendment for approval. Board members said they believe residents should have the right to cut down trees on their property.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said his only concern was who determines what is a "reasonable effort." Scobey agreed that the word "reasonable" is a subjective term, but he believes appropriate language can be included in the ordinance that would provide a "fair standard" for homeowners and the village.

"Realtors are looking out for their clients who might want to enhance the enjoyment of their property," Scobey said. "Trees are an asset to property, too, but we want to look out for the homeowner's interests, too."

Scobey also said the amendment might make it easier for Realtors to sell homes in Wheeling.

"I don't think our members would be happy if clients couldn't enhance their property," he said.

Scobey said he learned about the village's ordinance this past summer and brought it up to his organization's

membership.

"We debated it and found it too restrictive," Scobey said.

Scobey said the realty association is mostly concerned about corner lots and those lots that may back up to a street or have a street running along the side of the yard.

The Village Board passed the tree-preservation ordinance in January 2001. The ordinance is geared toward protecting trees at least 8 inches in diameter within 25 feet of the street. When any tree within that right of way measuring 8 inches or greater is torn down or damaged, it must be replaced by new trees. Trees within that right of way that are dead, diseased, have severe insect problems, are a hazard to property or whose removal helps others in the vicinity grow, can be cut down without being replaced.

While the ordinance as it stands outlines specific conditions for the removal of trees without them having to be replaced, it does include some flexibility, according to village attorney Rhodes. Language in the ordinance states, "Permits authorizing the removal of such trees may be issued by the director in accordance with, but not limited to, the ... conditions."

Rhodes also said that those trees not inside the 25-foot zone are not affected by the ordinance.

"People are free to do what they want with trees beyond that 25-foot right of way," Rhodes said.

Wheeling resident Gary Cohn worked for five years to get the ordinance passed, and he is disappointed to hear the board is willing to relax some of the restrictions.

"It's a horrible amendment, and (the board) will probably pass it," he said. "It means people will be able to cut down any tree they want."

Cohn also argued that "reasonable" is in the eye of the beholder, and depending on who deems the efforts were reasonable will depend on which trees are saved and which ones are destroyed.

Rhodes said he expects to present any suggested ordinance changes to the board in February.

The call is out for volunteers dedicated to their community. Wheeling leaders are looking for people to fill an open seat on three village commissions.

The terms would be for two years on the Senior Commission, and three years on the Plan Commission and Economic Development Commission.

As a commissioner, a person serves an advisory panel that makes recommendations to the village board. The Senior Commission guides the activities of the Pavilion Senior Center, while the Economic Development panel aims to promote economic growth in Wheeling. The plan commission, which just started revamping the village's guide to future growth, reviews proposed developments.

After an application is submitted,

Village President Greg Klutecki will submit nominations to the village board for confirmation.

Applications for the positions can be obtained on the village's Web site, www.villageofwheeling.il.us, by clicking on the reference desk button, then on



Steve Zalutsky & Fred Woodhams
Local Beat

the forms and permits link to find the municipal forms link. People also can pick up applications during regular business hours at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Relay update: Buffalo Grove Village President Elliott Harstein announced last week that both Stevenson and Buffalo Grove High School students will be working together on this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Last year's event was hosted by Buffalo Grove High School. This year's relay will be held at Stevenson High School June 21 and 22.

Doggin' around: At Monday's meeting it was announced that Buffalo Grove Park District Executive Director Michael Rytko will meet with Lake County Forest Preserve District Executive Director Steve Messerli next week about a possible dog exercise area at the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve.

Getting to know them: The Buffalo Grove Singers will be filming a segment of "People You Should Know" with reporter Harry Porterfield for WIS-TV. They will perform an original song scheduled for the April concert, which will benefit the American Cancer Society.

The Cancer Society was chosen as the charity because many of the Singers have been touched by cancer over the years. The segment will be filmed Jan. 23 at Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove.

Fuelin' around: The Buffalo Grove Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on the controversial Dominion's fuel center at Chase Plaza on Wednesday. It promises to be a busy agenda for the commissioners, who will also hold a workshop on the proposed St. Mary Parish rectory at the northwest corner of Lake-Cook Road and Buffalo Grove Road.

Squad cars purchased: The Wheeling village board on Monday approved spending up to \$150,000 to buy six new police cruisers from Materson-based Sutton Ford Inc. through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative.

The vehicles, which the department will begin using in the spring or summer, will be 2002 Ford Crown Victorias.

Send comments or news items to: szalutsky@dailherald.com or woodhams@dailherald.com.

WHEELING *TRIBUNE*
Street repair work request declined *1/23/02*

Trustees have declined a request by two homeowners associations to take over maintenance of streets in their subdivisions.

Meeting as a Committee of the Board on Tuesday, the Village Board upheld Village Manager Crale Anderson's recommendation to leave residents of the Lake of the Winds Estates and Brookvale subdivisions on their own for street maintenance.

Maintenance would be extremely expensive because the streets are of "less durable construction" than roads elsewhere in the village, Anderson said.

Erin C. Herrmann, president of the Lake of the Winds Estates Homeowners Board, asked the village to take over maintenance of Harbour Drive and Homeowners Lane because people are using the street as an access route to Lake Arlington.

"There's a constant flow of traffic and we feel the village is responsible," Herrmann said.

John Maus

Wheeling among first to offer wireless 911

1/22/02

By FRED WOODHAMS

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Many mobile phone subscribers in Wheeling probably didn't realize that, until late last month, not all of them could dial 911 like they do with their landline phone at home.

Now, wireless phone users in Wheeling have emergency help at their fingertips.

The villages of Wheeling and Glenview together have started a wireless 911 service that can direct police and firefighters to the caller reporting an emergency.

Previously, if a person dialed 911 on a wireless phone they would hear a recorded message telling them the service wasn't available in their area. Instead, they would have had to call their wireless operators who then would have tried to call the correct public safety agency.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the service, without even being much publicized, already has been used by the village police and fire departments to respond to a fire, reports of suspicious activity and other typical 911 calls.

"People are so used to 911 service they didn't even think about wireless," he said.

The system works by detecting the nearest transmission tower of the wireless phone user and sending that information along to the 911 dispatcher, MacIsaac said.

"It happens literally in fractions of seconds," he said.

The dispatcher also will know the phone's registration and the telephone number.

Eventually, mobile phone users in Illinois will have wireless 911 service statewide. Until then, Wheeling is among the first area communities to have it.

The system incorporates the seven wireless service providers in the village — AT&T Wireless, Cingular, Nextel, Primeco, Sprint PCS, Verizon and Voicestream. Some companies have allowed their customers to use the 911 service for some time now. Until just recently, not all of the companies had reached agreements with the villages.

The system is paid for with a 75-cent monthly charge on each wireless phone with a billing address in the village. Of that amount, 48 cents goes to the village, as required by state law.

The rest of the fee goes to the wireless companies to maintain the system.

Wheeling moves ahead on park:

The Wheeling village board on Tuesday unanimously approved spending \$1.27 million for plans to build a park area on the northern corners of the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. Interested in moving forward quickly, trustees voted to waive the regular competitive bidding requirements and authorized Harding ESE, an architectural firm, to prepare final design and construction plans for Friendship Park. Almost all of the money for the park will come from tax increment financing district funding. The project is planned to be completed in June.

1/23/02 Herald

Village to purchase flood-prone homes

Countryside

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1/24/02

Five Wheeling families living in flood-prone homes on South Wolf Road and Highland Avenue will soon be relocated.

The village's Community Development Department received a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources worth more than \$1 million to relocate residents and demolish five homes that are located in flood-prone areas.

Mary Weidner, administrative analyst for the Community Development Department, said the initiative will eliminate the headaches for homeowners and also save time, money and manpower of the Public Works Department, which pumps water out of those homes when they flood. The department also conducts evacuations of those properties when such measures are necessary.

"Those five homes were chosen because they have the

most number of flooding incidents," Weidner said. "It was also based on topography, location in the flood plain and since they're in natural low areas."

The Village Board unanimously elected to amend the 2002 budget in order to fund the purchase and demolition of the five homes. The state will reimburse the village after the homes — 146, 151, 158 and 172 S. Wolf Road, and 100 Highland Ave. — are destroyed.

The parcels will remain vacant once the homes are demolished, Weidner said. The village may build a park in that area, but no residential or business structures can be built there in the future, according to the state grant agreement.

The land will be able to flood and drain naturally if it is kept vacant, Weidner said. It also will provide the village with some additional water storage during storms.

The village has been working with the homeowners

throughout the process, and officials say most have been cooperative so far.

Peter Gurba owns the home at 172 S. Wolf Road, and he said he would be willing to sell his property to the village if the price is right. Gurba said he likes where he is living, despite the fact his home floods regularly.

"Where else can I get an acre lot with a river and ducks and geese," he said. "It's a nice area."

Gurba purchased the home three years ago. He said it was neglected when he bought it, and he had hoped to repair it. He said he could probably alleviate the flooding problems on his own.

"The ground gets soaked, and water seeps into the basement," he said. "It needs maintenance. I think with some sump pumps and modern technology, it probably wouldn't flood."

The village must get appraisals for the homes, make offers to the owners and close on the sales before demolition,



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

The village hopes to purchase and level these homes on South Wolf Road, which are prone to flooding.

Weidner said. The state must approve the appraisals before the village can proceed with

the acquisition process. Weidner said the grant is expected to cover all expenses.

It's almost cookie time

1/24/02

Girl Scouts in Wheeling will be winding up their door-to-door cookie sale this weekend.

Girls around the community have been busy visiting with neighbors during daylight hours and making phone calls to former cookie-lover customers. It was wonderful to hear from fourth-grade Junior Troop 1405. **Katie Anderson** from Walt Whitman Troop 1405. **Lisa Hickman**, from the fourth-grade Junior Troop 1776 at Booth Tarkington School, was another delight to hear from. **Amelia Corcellius**, a fifth-grade Junior Girl Scout in Troop 189 at Mark Twain was prepared when she phoned.

Amelia reminded me of my order from last year so I was sure not to miss any of my favorite cookies. And order the favorite is what I did!

Thank you to all the girls who participated in the Girl Scout cookie sale. Through the product sale, the girls have learned to set goals, work toward that end and plan the use of funds they raise and so much more. A big thank you from the girls to each member of our community who helped them toward their goal. Now we wait until March to sample those delectables!

AARP news

The AARP January meeting will be held Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. in the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St. A bonus this month will be two speakers.

Red Cross programs for seniors will be addressed by **Jan Christiansen**, social worker at the Pavilion Center. Officer **Thomas Pilewski** of the Wheeling Police Department will talk about the Wheeling Safe Community Program. Both items provide significant information for all seniors. Plan to attend. The programs are open to everyone. Additional information is available by contacting the Pavilion

Center at (847) 459-2670.

Police Academy

Have you ever been curious about the operations of the Wheeling Police Department? Do you know how the evidence patrol technicians play in the daily operations? Did you know that officers are required to qualify at a shooting range?

The eighth annual Citizens Police Academy will provide the answers to these and many more questions during a 10-week program beginning Feb. 6. The academy is intended to promote an understanding between citizens and the police through education. Participants are acquainted with the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system and provided with insight into the daily operations of police work. Police officers and personnel teach their own areas of expertise. Those who instruct the program sessions have broad training and experience, including the street experience that they bring into the classroom.

The first session will be an introduction on the history and organization of the Wheeling Police Department. Then you learn about department units such as patrol, traffic, crime prevention/community relations, DARE and investigations. Issues will include domestic violence, child abuse, use of force, major crimes and community policing.

The Citizens Police Academy requires a commitment of one night each week for the 10-week period. Classes are held at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The academy concludes with participants sharing a ride in a patrol car for one shift so they can experience

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firsthand what officers see and hear, and apply their training.

Village residents over the age of 21 are eligible for the program. Applications are available at the Police Department or the "Reference Desk" on the village Web site at <http://www.vi.wheeling.il.us/ReferenceDesk/FormsAndPermits.htm#PoliceDepartmentForms>.

For additional information contact **S. Wisniewski**, head of the Crime Prevention Unit. After the application is submitted, you will be notified if you are selected for the next session. This is your opportunity to get an inside perspective on the operations of our law enforcement agency.

Keep me posted

That about wraps up the news and e-mail. Drop a note or give a call to share happenings in your life, organization, or whatever.

Phone me at (847) 541-7001, fax to 847-541-7002. E-mail is addressed to TLDean7001@cs.wheeling.il.us. Snail mail is delivered to 489 McHenry Street, Wheeling. Keep in touch. It is great to hear from you!



Friendship Park a go, work to begin

Countryside
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
1-31-02

The contract has been signed, and village officials are optimistic that the new \$1.27 million Friendship Park will be open come the Fourth of July.

The contract has been signed, and village officials are optimistic that the new \$1.27 million Friendship Park will be open come the Fourth of July.

The park, for now called Friendship Park, is a bit more costly than trustees had originally wanted. The board set a \$1 million budget for a park or plaza on the corner when it originally agreed to build one there over three years ago. Some board members mentioned their surprise at the price tag, but trustees unanimously voted to accept the the contract nonetheless.

"I'm interested to see the price is up to where the old (project) would be," said Trustee Robert Heer.

The futuristic Millennium Plaza, with its fountains and

overhanging tubes over all four corners of the intersection, was expected to cost \$1 million when first proposed. The current project, which includes waterfalls, fountains, a gazebo and landscaping, will be built on only two corners.

Trustee Patrick Horcher also noted the contract did not include any funding for possible remediation on the site. Harding ESE engineers said a gas station once occupied the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, where Cole Taylor Bank currently sits. The station left behind some contamination. Harding engineers are in close contact with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency about the degree of contamination at the site. Claus Dunkelberg, an engineer with Harding ESE, said he spoke with IEPA recently, and so far the agency does not believe any remediation is necessary.

Harding ESE also submitted a construction schedule with the contract. According to that schedule, the park should be built and ready to

open by the end of June. Grading could begin as early as this week. Trustees said they wanted to open the park during Fourth of July celebrations.

Village President Greg Klatecki asked Dunkelberg if he believed construction could honestly be completed according to the schedule. Klatecki said his son, who is a construction manager, told him the schedule is tight.

"The schedule is very tight, nearly unrealistic," Klatecki said. "Are we going to find ourselves in a situation where we're not going to meet the schedule?"

Dunkelberg said he believes the park will be open on time. He said he has spoken with the manufacturers of the gazebo, the water pumps and other equipment, none of whom indicated a problem of delivering the materials on time.

Friendship Park costs
The Wheeling Village Board approved a contract for construction of Friendship Park last week. The project, which will cost about \$1.27 million, will be paid for by a \$50,000 state grant and about \$1.2 million in village development funds.

Anticipated construction costs	
Earthwork: excavation, soil, grading	\$100,630
Paving: sidewalks, ramps, stairs	\$98,225
Landscaping: trees, shrubs, flowers	\$73,050
Hardscaping: walls, curbs, fountain basins	\$243,930
Furnishings: benches, gazebo, signs	\$77,200
Electrical: conduits, transformers	\$64,500
Mechanical: fountain, piping, connections	\$186,300
Lighting:	\$57,000
Remaining concrete:	\$20,000
Fees:	\$304,168
Construction contingency:	\$48,100
TOTAL	\$1,271,103

Source: Harding ESE, Inc., Village of Wheeling. Photos: Frank J. Cicci

grant for the project from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

The park will feature a 7.5-foot waterfall on the east side, along with a 4,600-square-foot fountain basin and a seating wall. The west side will feature a fountain with a 1,250-square-foot basin and stone benches with a stone perimeter wall behind

them. A total of 32 trees and 150 shrubs are expected to be planted between both corners. The plan also calls for the use of 15 tons of boulders.

Trustees said the name of the park may change upon further discussions with Cole Taylor Bank officials. Cole Taylor donated the land on the northeast corner to the village for the park's construction.

Wheeling OKs day-care center in

By CASS CLARKE
Duch Herald Staff Writer
1/29/02

Wheeling will allow a home day-care center to open on the village's northwest side, despite concerns about setting a precedent that would encourage families to open child-care businesses in their homes.

The village board voted Monday to approve a day-care center at 1400 Marcy Lane in a neighborhood made up of single-family homes.

Trustees agreed to the special land-use permit only after requiring that the homeowner demand that parents park in her driveway and walk children to the door of her home, limit traffic to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and watch no more than six children, including her own two kids. Homeowner Jamie McInerney

also had to agree to comply with national fire safety guidelines and let the fire department do regular inspections.

Yet one trustee said home day-care centers leave their neighbors with few options if the facilities disrupt the neighborhood.

If there are violations, how well will they be enforced? Trustee Robert Heer said. "If they don't comply, what we're doing is forcing the neighbors to come forward, even though they (the day care) are the alleged violators."

Heer asserted that the process for reviewing code violations or confirming complaints lodged with police might not be effective.

"There have been situations in the village where there have been problems and the village has been slow to act, and it affects the well-being of

a neighborhood." The majority of the fire department do regular inspections.

McInerney assured her license through department of Child Services opens her inspections to assess.

"Usually, I would have three children, she have to be here. When I have to be here, I have to be here. When I have to be here, I have to be here."

The village's application would allow home day-care for up to 12 children

Trustees wrestle with road improvements

Countryside
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
1-31-02

Trustees are realizing that their desire to improve Wheeling's look ultimately comes down to one important factor: money.

The cost of making improvements along two major roads in the village is forcing the Village Board to make some difficult decisions. As the Illinois Department of Transportation plans its own improvements along Wolf and McHenry roads within the next two years, trustees also are hoping to incorporate some village-funded improvements while IDOT crews work. Discussion among board members continues as to what improvements can be made now and which may need to be delayed.

"We're talking about a lot of money," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. "We don't have to do everything to-

morrow. We need to take a good look and see what needs to be done."

The board is hoping to install sidewalks and street lights on Wolf Road, as well as bury utility lines and add street lights and sidewalks along McHenry Road. But after discovering it would cost the village \$1.2 million to bury only Commonwealth Edison lines and not other utility lines, and another \$840,000 for Wolf Road improvements, the board is taking a closer look at burying the power lines and installing the McHenry Road street lights.

"It's going to mean tightening our belts," Trustee Patrick Horcher said Monday. "It's a nice idea, but it's got to be paid for."

Monday night was the second time in the last two meetings that the board has addressed the street improvements. Horcher stressed at the prior meeting that the board has to set priorities.

"I don't feel it's necessary," Horcher said about the street lights on McHenry Road. "It would be nice to have lights (on McHenry Road). It's not as well-lighted as it should be, but it's too much money."

Village President Greg Klatecki said the board will make a decision on burying the utility lines after staff members provide a more specific cost for doing so. The street lights might not be able to be installed if the utility lines are not buried.

"Burying the power lines is the largest cost," he said. "I don't think the board is willing to spend it."

IDOT will pay half the cost of building the sidewalk on McHenry Road, and the village will pay the other half, making the village's cost an estimated \$26,331, said Guy Kolberg, acting public works director.

The proposed Wolf Road and McHenry Road im-

Wolf

Continued from page 5
provements are not included in the village's five-year capital improvements program. Kolberg said public works will have to re-examine the plan in order to make sure the Wolf and McHenry roads work will not drain funds from projects already in the plan.

Kolberg said the Wolf Road improvements are not sched-

uled until 2004, giving the village some time to find money for the work while keeping other projects in the plan.

"It's a question we're going to be facing," Kolberg said. "We do have some time to re-schedule or shuffle projects to free up some funds. Or we may not need to do that, depending on the financials."

(Continued on page 9)

Board rejects street maintenance

By Fred Woodhams
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1/29/02

Wheeling trustees denied a request from residents of two subdivisions that the village take over the maintenance of the streets that lead to their homes.

Residents of Brookvale and Lake of the Winds subdivisions requested the village maintain their main streets, Brookvale and Harbour drives. The village took over the maintenance of some private streets in the late 1970s through 1980, such as in the Tahoe Village and Harmony Village. In 1980, however, the village board voted to stop taking over the maintenance of any additional private streets due to escalating costs.

The residents of Brookvale and Lake of the Winds, through their homeowners associations, must pay for repair to the streets, which are not built to the village's standards for public streets. The streets are built like a commercial parking lot.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said he was concerned about the rapid pace the project is expected to take. He said his son, who is the project manager for a phase of the Wacker Drive reconstruction, believes the time schedule proposed by Harding could be unrealistic.

"How can we hold the architect or the people doing it responsible for this," he asked.

Harding representatives told trustees they were working with a select group of contractors to get the job done and agreed that the plan was ambitious.

"The schedule is aggressive," said Claus Dunkelberg, of Harding. "We've always said that from the outset."

Dunkelberg said the plan was designed to ensure a great deal of water fall action.

The project still must get reviewed and approved by representatives of One Milwaukee Place, Walgreens and Cole Taylor Bank because of agreements made with them when they were developed. Cole Taylor paid for most of the cost of land that the park will use for its northeast side.

Trustees agreed with Anderson's recommendation that the board not take responsibility for the streets but of their "less durable construction right-of-way width, utility power pavement width, utility non" and the distance of the roads from the streets.

If the roads would have been built to village standards, the trustees would have had to raise the price of what would be constructed, Anderson said.

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Work starts soon on Wheeling park

1/25/02
By Fred Woodhams
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An aggressive plan to start work on Friendship Park got the go-ahead from Wheeling trustees this week.

The village board Tuesday unanimously approved spending \$1.27 million to pay for the project that would build a park on the northern corner of the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees OK'd waiving the regular competitive bidding requirements and authorized Harding ESE, an architectural firm, to prepare final design and construction plans of Friendship Park.

Harding will get \$120,000 for its work, while construction costs are expected to be about \$1.1 million. The trustees approved about \$46,000 to pay for any cost overruns.

Almost all of the money for the park will come from TIF district funding. In addition, the project received a \$50,000 state grant.

The project is planned to be completed in June.

Village President Greg Klatecki

Town houses on hold

A proposed Avalon-Sienna town house project remains under review as village officials await the final report from an environmental consultant on contamination issues at the site.

The village hired its own consultant to see if a gasoline spill on the site has contaminated it too much for a residential development, according to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards. The IEPA is currently unwilling to sign a letter stating no further remediation to the site is needed.

Avalon-Sienna hopes to build a 55-unit town home development at the intersection of Willow Road and Foster Avenue. The Plan Commission first opened the docket on the proposal March 8, 2001. The project is scheduled for the commission's March 14 agenda to allow the village consultant enough time to finish the report.

Greek home to open

The Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Center, located across the street from the Pavilion Senior Center, will be opening by the spring, according to Jan. 12, 2001. Our first service was held a

communities. African-American and Jewish building bridges between the King weekend to the theme of Service of the Martin Luther the Friday night Sabbath Eve mission. I decided to devote Eve, I felt an urgency to this descendants of Adam and are all the human African-American or Asian, Jew, Christian, Muslim,

2002 could be a busy one for Village Board

By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer

Countryside 1-31-02

With a month of the new year already past, members of the Wheeling Village Board are setting their sights on a productive 2002.

President Greg Klatecki said a more dynamic Village Board will set the tone for a lot of the work that he and other trustees would like to see get done.

"I'd like to hold a team-building session to clear the air," he said. "We all need to make sure we're all on the same page. Unless we go away and sit together to talk about things, it will never get done in an open meeting."

Cleaning things up

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she wants to continue to clean up the "dreck" on Milwaukee Avenue and improve the aesthetics of the street to complement the famous Restaurant Row.

"When you turn right off the corner of Dundee Road to Milwaukee Avenue, there's a building that's half standing up, and we have to get rid of things like that," she said. "We have the (tax increment financing) funds, and now's the time to use them to get the area developed."

Abruscato said the village has been working to redevelop Milwaukee Avenue for years, and it's time to start finishing up what the village started so

long ago. She also said building and opening Friendship Park will help make the area look a lot better.

Trustee Dean Argiris also said he is excited to see the park get built. He also looks forward to completing other redevelopment projects throughout the village.

Argiris said the future of the village will come into clearer focus as the village works on its new comprehensive plan. The plan will be the definitive planning document and include ways to clean up other areas besides Milwaukee Avenue.

A new downtown?

One area Argiris wants to improve is the intersection of Wheeling and Dundee roads. Trustees have been talking about transforming that area into a downtown-style development with residential and commercial buildings.

"We've done a lot of work lately, and we've got some good stuff going," he said.

Argiris also said the board needs to work on getting good people to fill some department head seats. The village is looking for new people to head the community development and public works departments, as well as a new airport manager.

Trustee Robert Heer said he would like the board to keep looking at renovations to Village Hall, which is too cramped for village employees. The village has been looking to renovate

Village Hall and the Public Works building to make more office space for village departments. Officials also would like to move the Community Development Department and Finance Department out of the Wickes Furniture building on Dundee Road into Village Hall. The board has talked about moving the Public Works Department onto a village-owned parcel on Hintz Road.

As much as Heer would like to keep looking at the issue, he admitted it could be difficult for the village to make any changes to its facilities in the coming year.

"With the economy the way it is now, it may have to take a back seat," he said.

The welcome mat

Trustee Michael Horcher said he, too, plans to work to make the village more enticing to business interests. He wants to help businesses in Wheeling continue to thrive and expand, as well as attract new businesses into the village.

"The new comprehensive plan will help a lot there," he said. "We also have to work on wetlands and floodplain issues. That should be a big goal for the village as a whole."

Improving the village's image will also help in attracting new business to the village, Horcher said, and Friendship Park should help in that area, too.

"People should know it won't be

business as usual," he said. "We're going to make a few changes, and the people will see those changes."

Cable guy

Trustee Patrick Horcher said a pet project would be getting another cable television company in the village to provide some "serious competition" to AT&T.

"I first got cable about eight years ago, and I was paying about \$25 to \$30 a month," he said. "My package hasn't changed, and now I'm paying \$60."

AT&T just increased cable rates, and Patrick Horcher said residents aren't getting anything more from the cable company with those rate hikes. Wide Open West, a cable television provider based in Denver, has taken over Ameritech's cable infrastructure and is expected to begin providing services to Wheeling residents in April.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he has a number of goals for the new year, including continued work on the comprehensive plan, building Friendship Park and continuing to look for areas to redevelop.

One of the biggest issues facing the village, he said, is to evaluate village personnel and fill vacancies with people who share the same goals and visions as the board.

"I want to see the best people possible to fill those vacant spots," he said. "We need to put together a team with the same goals the board believes in."

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Board rejects street maintenance in 2 subdivisions

By FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1/29/02

Wheeling trustees denied a request from residents of two subdivisions that the village take over the maintenance of the streets that lead to their homes.

Residents of Brookvale and Lake of the Winds subdivisions requested the village maintain their main streets, Brookvale and Harbour drives. The village took over the maintenance of some private streets in the late 1970s through 1980, such as in the Tahoe Village and Harmony Village. In 1980, however, the village board voted to stop taking over the maintenance of any additional private streets due to escalating costs.

The residents of Brookvale and Lake of the Winds, through their homeowners associations, must pay for repair to the streets, which are not built to the village's standards for public streets. The streets are built like a commercial parking lot.

Village Manager Craig Anderson recommended the board not accept responsibility for the streets because of their "less durable construction, narrower right-of-way width, narrower pavement width, utility location" and the distance of the houses from the streets.

If the roads would have been built to village standards, the developments would have had to be designed very differently, thus greatly raising the price of what would have been constructed, Anderson said. Trustees agreed with Anderson's recommendation and cited the added cost to the village and how accepting the private streets would encourage other present and future subdivisions to make similar requests.

"It's just going to become a financial burden on us at this time," said Trustee Trevor Lehmann. Enid Herrmann, of Lake of the Winds, argued Harbour Drive already has become a public street because of the number of people who use it as a cross-through.

"It's no longer a private street," she said. Mitchell Fox, of the Brookvale subdivision, said the subdivisions' residents should be treated the same as other village residents because their taxes pay for others' streets. "We feel that since we are paying we should get the same service," he said. Village leaders also suggested that Lake of the Winds erect some kind of barrier on Harbour Drive to prevent access to nonresidents.

Work starts soon on Wheeling park

1/35/02
By FRED WOODHAMS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An aggressive plan to start work on Friendship Park got the go-ahead from Wheeling trustees this week.

The village board Tuesday unanimously approved spending \$1.27 million to pay for the project that would build a park on the northern corner of the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees OK'd waiving the regular competitive bidding requirements and authorized Harding ESE, an architectural firm, to prepare final design and construction plans of Friendship Park.

Harding will get \$120,000 for its work, while construction costs are expected to be about \$1.1 million. The trustees approved about \$46,000 to pay for any cost overruns.

Almost all of the money for the park will come from TIP district funding. In addition, the project received a \$50,000 state grant.

The project is planned to be completed in June.

Village President Greg Klatecki

said he was concerned about the rapid pace the project is expected to take. He said his son, who is the project manager for a phase of the Wacker Drive reconstruction, believes the time schedule proposed by Harding could be unrealistic.

"How can we hold the architect or the people doing it responsible for this," he asked.

Harding representatives told trustees they were working with a select group of contractors to get the job done and agreed that the plan was ambitious.

"The schedule is aggressive," said Claus Dunkelberg, of Harding. "We've always said that from the outset."

Dunkelberg said the plan was designed to ensure a great deal of water fall action.

The project still must get reviewed and approved by representatives of One Milwaukee Place, Walgreens and Cole Taylor Bank because of agreements made with them when they were developed. Cole Taylor paid for most of the cost of land that the park will use for its northeast side.

Town houses on hold

A proposed Avalon-Sienna town house project remains under review as village officials await the final report from an environmental consultant on contamination issues at the site.

The village hired its own consultant to see if a gasoline spill on the site has contaminated it too much for a residential development, according to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards. The IEPA is currently unwilling to sign a letter stating no further remediation to the site is needed.

Avalon-Sienna hopes to build a 55-unit town home development at the intersection of Willow Road and Foster Avenue. The Plan Commission first opened the docket on the proposal March 8, 2001. The project is scheduled for the commission's March 14 agenda to allow the village consultant enough time to finish the report.

Greek home to open

The Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Center, located across the street from the Pavilion Senior Center, will be opening by the spring, and center officials say the new facility will have a positive impact on the local economy.

The center will employ more than 165 professional staff to care for 200 men and women. The staff will include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, therapists, trained Alzheimer's disease care specialists and activities personnel. The center also will have to hire a support staff in dietary personnel, maintenance, housekeeping, accounting and office personnel.

2

Officials of the center estimate the center will add close to \$20 million into the local economy through job growth and purchases for food, medical supplies and equipment. It is also assumed newly hired personnel will spend money at local businesses.

Countrywide 1/24/02

A dynamic Village Board will set the tone for a lot of the work that he and other trustees would like to see get done.

"I'd like to hold a team-building session to clear the air," he said. "We all need to make sure we're all on the same page. Unless we go away and sit together to talk about things, it will never get done in an open meeting."

Cleaning things up

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It will be a busy one for Village

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"People should know it won't be

Snow crews show mettle in their very public works

Someone out there was singing, "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow," and it finally did.

The village of Wheeling was prepared Thursday, and drivers remembered how to navigate through the white stuff, leaving the police department to handle only a couple of fender benders.



Cass Cliatt
Wheeling

Unfortunately, motorists didn't have as much luck on Friday. People were slipping and sliding on the ice that day, and there were almost 50 accidents in town.

Still, that was through no fault of the plowing brigade. Wheeling's Acting Director of Public Works Guy Kolberg said the village had its snow plows out at 1 a.m. last Thursday, and then again at the beginning of the morning rush.

"If there was a problem, it was the fact that most of the heavy snow didn't fall until between 4 and 6 a.m.," Kolberg said. "So we had everything very, very clear."

"We spread, I think, 100 tons of salt in the storm," he said.

That sounds like a large amount, but the village typically lays down about 50 tons of salt per covering during storms.

Quite an athlete: One of Wheeling's very own competed in the National Football League and Gatorade's Punt, Pass and Kick Contest in Pittsburgh last month.

Nine-year-old Bridget Urbanus competed before the AFC Divisional Playoff game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens on Jan. 20.

She won the trip to Pittsburgh by first winning local contests in the Chicago area. She was one of four girls who competed for the national honors, but we haven't received word yet on the outcome of the half-time contest. We'll let you know when we find out.

CRC gets funding nod: Wheeling trustees have voted to continue supporting the Multicultural Community Resource Center, known as the CRC.

OMNI Youth Services and the village had to pledge partial financial support of the center so the CRC can be considered for community development block grant funds from Cook County.

OMNI asked for the money to continue providing services to Wheeling's families that don't speak English.

Wheeling will give the resource center \$27,000 for the next fiscal year, which begins May 1.

Wheeling upgrades computer technology

2/01/02

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling's information system is changing with the times.

Wheeling trustees have approved software that will allow the village to track customer complaints, their requests and payments for building permits, code violations and service requests for pothole repairs and street light replacements.

The new technology also will prepare the village to eventually establish a Geographical Information System. That will allow staff to review information geographically to help shed light on which parts of town are generating the most improvements or problems. Trustees initially had some concerns about the \$219,559 price tag of installing the new Sun-gard Pentamation Enterprises Inc.'s Open Series software. But they decided the benefits justified the expense.

"One of the biggest issues we wanted the Pentamation to do is track Joe Citizen," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "So if he visits the village and goes to the front desk, and then the next week he goes to public works, they can bring him up on the computer and see he has complained about his water quality every week for the past year."

The software will alert the village to chronic problems, as well as allowing the village to tell residents the status of their requests, Lehmann said.

Village administrators for the past five years have used an older version of Pentamation software for budgeting, payroll and managing Wheeling's finances, which led some trustees to question why they will pay \$84,300 for training on the new system as part of the overall costs. Travel expenses to bring trainers from their offices in Pennsylvania will add to the training costs. Because the village is an existing customer, it will not be charged additional licensing fees usually associated with newer customers. Luca Ursan, the village's computer systems coordinator, told trustees.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said estimates of \$20,000 to \$25,000 in travel costs seem "tremendous."

"But if we need it, we need it," Abruscato said.

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

At first, Consolidated Consulting Engineers could not succeed, but the Wheeling firm tried and tried again.

The result was to win approval from Wheeling's village board to move forward with expansion plans at its facility near a residential area on Milwaukee Avenue.

Consolidated Consulting made it through thorny meetings where a

plan commissioner suggested that the firm move out of town. But the company, at 212 S. Milwaukee Ave., now can add parking on the south side of its building.

The approval came with the conditions that the company plant trees, ensure screening of rooftop equipment and add a flowerbed to the front of its buildings.

The firm will not be able to construct the addition to its building that had originally been planned to

deal with a company growth.

"I've encouraged development, and I don't have a problem with it," Trustee Patrick Horcher said in approval of the revised plan.

Before voting, however, he did have concerns about the size and shape of the lots, one of which is triangular.

Horcher wanted to know why Consolidated wouldn't use adjacent vacant lots to develop the entire parcel hosting its building uniformly.

"We were negotiating at one point to develop the entire parcel as one," said Rickey Arment, attorney for the developers. "But that fell through."

Plans also fell through to build an addition onto the Consolidated facility after plan commissioners expressed concerns about the 26 trees that would be damaged or cut down and the insufficient number of loading zones and parking spaces for a larger building.

Also, homeowners next to the property complained that a second-story addition would look into their home.

Consolidated returned to the plan commission with a revised plan after Commissioner Stuart Shapiro suggested that the firm's difficulty expanding on the site might mean it was time to move.

Shapiro later retracted that statement, and commissioners said it was the village's job to work with businesses to keep them in town.

Business reaches deal with village to add parking lot

2/04/02

person for the job anymore," Trustee Dean S. Argiris said.

Anderson's dismissal was because of "failure to meet goals" given him by the board, Trustee Trevor R. Lehmann said.

James Grabowski, assistant village manager, will assume Anderson's duties until a replacement is named, officials said.

Anderson said it was a "mutually agreeable separation."

John Maes

PALATINE

Local gun dealers may need license

Village officials are drafting an ordinance to regulate home-based gun dealers by requiring them to have a local business license.

The Police, Policy and Code Service Committee Monday recommended that the Village Council ask Village Manager Michael J. Cassidy to craft an ordinance. The council is expected to vote on the proposal Monday.

"It would be a benefit so police and firefighters and people know if their next-door neighbor is selling guns out of their garage," Mayor Rita L. Mullins

WHEELING Tribune Update Village manager fired by trustees

The Village Board fired Village Manager Craig G. Anderson, citing unhappiness with his performance.

On Monday trustees approved an agreement with Anderson, who will be on paid leave until March 31.

Anderson, 51, who was village manager for 13 years, will also receive six months' severance pay, three months of unused sick time and continuation of health insurance until Dec. 31.

"The entire board agreed that Mr. Anderson was not the right

Wheeling village manager too nice to keep job, trustees say

By CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-6-02

Wheeling's lead administrator served his last day on the job Tuesday after being ousted Monday by trustees who blame him for stagnant development in the village.

The dismissal of Village Manager Craig Anderson, who was on the job 13½ years, adds to a pileup of vacancies in Wheeling's top administrative jobs.

But trustees said they feel confident residents won't miss out on any services because Anderson leaves a legacy of highly qualified employees.



Craig Anderson

Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski will fill the position of acting village manager. Anderson's downfall was that he was too much of a Mr. Nice Guy, trustees said.

Many accused him of losing control of village department managers, which led Wheeling to lag behind in proposals to complete a new economic development district on the village's north side and a

\$50 million townhouse project on the east side.

"We are holding up a \$50 million Kimball Hill development because an annexation was not carried out," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said of a proposal for the Wheeling nursery along Milwaukee Avenue.

Trustees also complained that two years have passed since the village made use of studies for a special taxing district to help revitalize the northern part of town around Milwaukee Avenue.

"All the other towns around us have moved up the ladder—become more affluent, more upscale,"

Lehmann said. "We haven't his job, and this guy isn't doing his job," Lehmann said of Anderson.

"But a leader is to lead." Wheeling's population grew 15 percent between the 1990 and 2000 census, and trustees have pledged to bring a more open and positive government to the village's estimated 34,500 residents.

After last April's election brought changes in the village board, trustees waited to see if Anderson's leadership style would mesh with the more aggressive approach the board wanted to take. It didn't, trustees said.

"We have a lot on our plate right now, and we needed someone who would take a leadership role," Trustee Dean Argiris said.

Wheeling is developing its first new comprehensive plan in more than 13 years, exploring the redevelopment of its train station and planning an extensive street lighting program, Argiris said.

See WHEELING on PAGE 12

Wheeling: Manager defends achievements in the village

Continued from Page 1

Anderson Tuesday spoke highly of the staff he leaves behind and pledged to look for a new job managing a city or a village.

He would not comment on the trustees' reasons for dismissing him but described his tenure in Wheeling as successful.

"If you kind of took a picture of what the village looked like 10 or 12 years ago, you'd see a lot of changes, especially along Milwaukee Avenue, where the road was realigned and widened," Anderson said. "It made a big difference in the community in terms of traffic flow and appearance."

Anderson said he also is proud of the commuter rail service that came to town during his tenure, the extended water service to southern Wheeling and the quality of the village's services.

"When you turn on your faucet, you get water, the paramedics come when you call, and the sidewalks get patched," Anderson said. "We have good people here."

Trustees said residents can expect

the same level of services under the village's new leadership.

"The real challenge is to fill the open spots right now," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

She and Trustee Robert Herr were the only board members to vote against Anderson's dismissal.

"We now not only have no village manager, we have an acting public works manager, an acting airport manager and an acting community development manager," Abruscato said. "These acting positions are very capable, no question, but I know I'd be hesitant to fill a position with no village manager."

Wheeling plans to hire a consulting firm to begin a national search for a new administrator, trustees said.

"An ideal manager is one who can command the respect of his subordinates and still have a degree of camaraderie with them," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "You cannot allow push to come to shove, and that's where we had trouble."

Grant might be first step toward redevelopment

Countryside
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
2/07/02

"This is excellent for the village."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann

Plans to redevelop and revitalize land around the Metra station received a shot in the arm as village officials learned a \$75,000 grant is on the way for a planning study.

The Regional Transportation Authority notified the village that its application was approved for the Regional Technical Assistance grant, which will be used to hire a consultant to develop a planning strategy and a land-use study near the train station, said William Whitmer, economic development director.

Members of the Wheeling Village Board have been pushing for redevelopment of that area. Trustees have said they would like to replace some of the industrial and commercial businesses that are there with residential buildings and more retail shops.

"We know with Metra's plans to double track the station, there's going to be a whole lot more opportunity for commuters, and therefore more use potential (for the land) than what's there already," Whitmer said. "We also have some under-utilized property on Dupree Road there that could have some commercial viability."

Laying a second set of tracks through Wheeling will mean more trains stopping, giving residents easier access to Chicago. Whitmer said that could attract more commuters to the station. Giving them a place to live near the station would cut commute times even shorter, he said, adding appeal to living in that area. Any new residential housing also would be near Wheeling Park District facilities.

"All the major features of the park district are there," Whitmer said. "The water park, the recreation center, the ball fields and the tennis courts are all right there, and that has an appeal to residents."

Hiring the consultant will help village officials determine exactly what can be built in the area. The village has already hired consultants to work on the comprehensive plan, a planning document outlining land use throughout the entire village. Whitmer

said any redevelopment plans for the train station area will be incorporated into the new comprehensive plan.

Trustees Trevor Lehmann and Dean Argiris asked Whitmer to pursue the grant. Both men campaigned last year, in part, on an initiative to redevelop the area around the train station.

"This is excellent for the village," Lehmann said. "The RTA likes to see downtown areas near train stations to increase ridership, and (the agency) makes money available for that."

Argiris said he was very pleased to hear the news the village would receive the grant. He said board members will meet with staff members and get a consultant hired.

"We've got to get a workshop together and take the next steps," he said. "I'm going to push to make sure this gets done."

Although the village has been informed the \$75,000 is on its way, a final application must be submitted to the RTA. Whitmer said the RTA gets much of its funding for grant programs through the federal government, which has its own list of requirements for awarding the grant money. Whitmer said submitting the final application is a formality.

Whitmer said the village will send out a request for proposals in order to find an appropriate consultant once the money is in.

"Once we get ... in step with the feds and the RTA, we'll find a good planner," he said. "I'm not sure how long that will take. It always takes longer than anyone wants, but that's because you want to do it right."

Whitmer said he expects the planning study to begin next summer. The village also will be required to contribute a 20 percent match of the grant, or \$15,000. Whitmer said that money will be included in the budget for next fiscal year.

Countryside 2/07/02 Board approves garbage contract

The Wheeling Village Board agreed to extend its contract with Waste Management for another two years at its Jan. 14 meeting.

The contract calls for a rate freeze next year and an increase for the next year no higher than 3 percent. Waste Management also has agreed to a 25 percent rate discount for senior citizens who have curb-side service.

The current contract ends Feb. 28. The new one will be enacted March 1 and will run until Feb. 28, 2004.

The board agreed to an extension with Waste Management rather than going to bid for another contract. The current contract with Waste Management gives the board the option to negotiate an extension. Village president Greg Klatecki said other villages and cities in the area had gone to bid recently, only to see costs increase. Klatecki said he believed the village could negotiate a better rate with an extension rather than going out to bid.

Wheeling has wireless 911

Wheeling now has 911 service for cellular telephone and personal communication users, providing immediate access to the fire and police departments during emergencies.

Before the system was operational, cell phone users were required to call their wireless operators, who attempted to route the call to necessary emergency personnel. Now those people can dial 911 and get access to the dispatch center.

The system provides dispatchers with the caller's telephone number, name of the registered caller and the location of the cell tower from which the call came. The system may be tied into global positioning satellites as technology advances, allowing emergency workers to pinpoint the call from within a few feet instead of several yards, said Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac.

Wheeling shares the system with Glenview, where the primary equipment is installed. The system is funded with a 75-cent surcharge on each cellular telephone user with a billing address in the village. From that charge, 48 cents goes to Wheeling to pay for the dispatch service and maintenance of the dispatch center's equipment. The rest is kept by the wireless service provider to maintain routing equipment and continued enhancement of the service. The funding rate is stipulated by state law.

Library to host preschool fair

The Indian Trails Public Library will be hosting a free preschool fair, allowing parents to review and interview preschool providers in one location.

The library has invited 25 preschools and day-care providers to the fair, with each sending a member of the staff to answer questions and distribute literature about their programs. Parents also will be given a handbook prepared by the library to provide an overview of each provider at the fair.

The preschool fair will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road. The fair is free, and registration is not necessary. For more information, call (847) 459-4100.

Board considers brick pavers

The Wheeling Village Board agreed to go ahead with plans to install brick pavers along the parkways of Milwaukee Avenue and on Dundee Road just east of Milwaukee Avenue to enhance the aesthetics of the area.

The work, which will be done by Land & Brick Designscape, Ltd., will cost \$402,554. The money will come from the village's tax increment financing district fund, which is used to make improvements along specific portions of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Klatecki reaches out to businesses

Countryside

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
2/7/02

Village President Greg Klatecki said local government and the business community need to work together in order to create a healthy Wheeling.

Klatecki made the remarks during an address before members of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce last week. He was asked to deliver a "State of the Village" address before the business community at a chamber gathering at Hackney's in Wheeling Jan. 29. Klatecki was upbeat and optimistic in his address, which included an outline of business highlights over the past year.

He noted many businesses moved into the village last year, creating more jobs. Hospital Laundry Services, which moved to Hintz Road from Chicago last year, brought about 400 jobs alone into the village, Klatecki said.

He also talked about the expansion of Restaurant Row, with the Ram Restaurant and Brewery and Benihana opening restaurants on Milwaukee Avenue last year. Klatecki also praised the chamber for establishing a new Restaurant Association to promote the restaurant and hospitality businesses in the area.

"We need to push that to get out into the public," he said.

Residential projects also

took shape in Wheeling last year, including Kimball Hill Homes' purchase of the former Wheeling Nursery, Klatecki said. Park Point on McHenry Road also has started selling units.

"Park Point is a big plus," Klatecki said. "First of all, because it's a local business, Smith and Sons of Wheeling. They've raised the standard for building here that I cannot believe."

Some of the condominiums at Park Point are being sold for nearly \$450,000, Klatecki said, bringing in a new "clientele" for the village.

"It's invited a new element that has not been here before," he said, "older people with money."

Klatecki's outlook for the future is bright, as well. He told chamber members that the village is working to overhaul its comprehensive plan, the definitive planning document for development.

"We figure on tremendous growth in the village," he said. "It's hard to develop when you don't know what your dreams are."

Part of that plan will include redeveloping the area around the Metra train station, which trustees envision as a downtown area where people can live and shop. The village received a \$75,000 grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to study the area and determine redevelopment possibilities.

Nearly 70 people attended the event. Chamber President Jim Lederer, from Lovells of Lake Forest, said he was pleased to see so many people come out.

"It's a nice way to kick off the year," he said.

Lederer said he expects a big year for the chamber. Plans this year include establishing new committees to focus on certain elements of business, including an industrial committee, the Restaurant Row Hospitality Group, a retail committee, a membership committee and a community relations committee.

The chamber also will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Lederer said, and a committee has been established to plan for the event. Lederer also said the installation of new chamber Director Cathy Powers should mean positive change for the organization.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki addresses business leaders during a chamber of commerce function last week.

Lease accord lets Palwaukee host customs services

By CASS CLAVT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

2-8-02

Palwaukee Municipal Airport will take over hosting U.S. Customs services from a private company, now that Wheeling trustees narrowly approved a leasing agreement to provide airport space for the service.

Airport managers said corporations and business employees who use Palwaukee won't likely notice a difference in service at the airport, owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

The lease reconfigures airport office space to give customs agents a place to work that is not owned by private companies that provide fueling and other services to airport clients.

Yet, the Wheeling vote nearly nixed the lease agreement because trustees saw a chance to improve customs service. Prospect Heights had already voted to approve the amended lease, but Wheeling

trustees wanted to expand customs services to two stations in the airport, instead of one.

"I'm concerned we're kind of setting a precedent of monopolizing customs at one location," Trustee Dean Argritis said.

U.S. Customs agents had a station in Hangar 2 at the south end of the airport when the private company, Priester Aviation, sponsored customs. The new lease agreement will station customs in the same hangar.

any tax raises in their communities, Wheeling taxpayers will pay 12 percent more.

And, to top it off — your tax bill to Harper college will rise 28.5 percent. District 214 will go for 4 percent more. Our almost-bankrupt District 21 is raising your tax bill drastically. The Wheeling Park District is upping its tax rate. And even our library district is getting into the game and raising taxes.

So, my beloved Wheeling taxpayers, sit on your "duffs" — don't go to any public hearings on tax raises.

Don't let President Klatecki get off so easy — come to village meetings on Monday nights, 7:30 p.m., and start letting these "pickpockets" you elected hear what's on your mind, and don't let this one taxpayer be the

only one to complain.
Steven Telow
Northwest Tax Watch
Wheeling

12/10/01

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580
or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

about being laid off work.

Yes! Your taxes were raised 12 percent while you watched your interest on your savings accounts go down to 1 1/2 percent.

Yes! Your taxes were raised 12 percent. Yes! Your pockets were picked for an additional 12 percent tax revenue, and President Klatecki orchestrated his six other trustees to vote yes to a 12-percent tax raise.

Supposed to go to infrastructure, but while other village presidents and mayors were vetoing or abating

To the editor: On Monday, Nov. 12, a public hearing was convened in the Village of Wheeling hall to address the tax levy to be imposed on Wheeling taxpayers. The gavel administered by President Klatecki was exactly 7:30 p.m. Citizen input and concerns were allowed five minutes of "free speech" time to address this tax levy. Thirty-five thousand people reside in Wheeling and only one person signed in to speak to this subject.

Yes! While you lounged on you sofa, your taxes were raised 12 percent.

Yes! While you went shopping, your taxes were raised 12 percent.

Yes! While you were watching the Monday night football game.

Yes! Your taxes were raised 12 percent while you were complaining

Village manager, board part ways

Anderson out after 13 years as Wheeling's top administrator

Courtesy
By DAVID KIRKPATRICK
MANAGING EDITOR
2/07/02

Craig Anderson, Wheeling's top village administrator since 1988, said his departure from the village "is not a resignation."

Trustees Monday night approved a separation agreement with Anderson that closes the book on his tenure as village manager. His leaving comes after an annual performance review process that began last month.

"They indicated to me they wanted to part company," Anderson said.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the board felt it was time for a change.

"A majority of the board felt the village should go in another direction," Klatecki said.

The Village Board has not yet decided who will serve as acting village manager. Klatecki said the village will use an executive recruiting firm to find candidates for the job.

Anderson, who was earning \$105,640, received a severance package that includes six months pay, two months vacation pay, pay for unused sick days and health benefits for the remainder of the year. The 51-year-old Wheeling resident said he will pursue another job in municipal management.

"This is not a resignation; I am not retiring," Anderson said Monday.

Anderson was hired as village manager June 1, 1988, after working as assistant village manager in Glenview. Friday was his last official day on the job. It was the same day that at least two trustees made Anderson's departure public.

"I think he is a great guy, but it is time for a change," said Trustee Dean Argiris. "A

Progress, going from A to Z, doesn't always happen as quickly as some people would like.'

Craig Anderson

majority of the board was clear that Mr. Anderson hadn't accomplished the things we hoped he would accomplish."

Argiris would not be specific about what Anderson did not accomplish. But Trustee Trevor Lehmann said the village will look for a new village manager who is "assertive" and who has a "more aggressive style."

Trustee Patrick Horcher shared the opinion that Anderson is "a great guy," but he added, "I think he was too nice."

Horcher said "it's a growth time" in the village, and he wants the new village manager to be "forceful ... and somebody who really commands the respect of his employees."

Although the Village Board unanimously approved Anderson's separation agreement, not all board members were eager for Anderson to go. Trustee Judy Abruscato said, "Mr. Anderson will be greatly missed. He is a great asset and a devoted person."

Lehmann said the village is now looking toward the future.

"We have a lot of potential. We need to move forward," he said. "People see Wheeling as a place of huge potential for redevelopment. We know we can improve our town. We need to do it. We have a lot of catching up to do."

Anderson cited redevelop-



Craig Anderson (center), pictured here in a 1998 photo, served as Wheeling's village manager for nearly 14 years. Trustees decided Monday night not to extend his contract.

ment as a highlight of his tenure here.

"We've had some real good progress along Milwaukee Avenue, particularly in terms of redevelopment," Anderson said, referring to the reconstruction of Milwaukee Avenue itself and the addition of residential and commercial developments along the thoroughfare.

Anderson also pointed to the village's improved infrastructure and its quality of services as examples of the staff's commitment to residents and business owners alike.

"I think our staff is tremendously dedicated and works very hard," Anderson said. "It takes a lot of hard-working people to make things run well."

Anderson said his departure comes after a "turbulent" past few years at Village Hall. And he said his efforts don't al-

ways result in shining new stores and residential subdivisions.

"Things don't have to be real showy to have purpose and meaning," Anderson said. "Progress, going from A to Z, doesn't always happen as quickly as some people would like. But we hold our own with most communities around here."

Working under an agreement — as Anderson does — that trustees can extend or rescind at any time is something village managers have to live with, he added.

"Being somewhat of a practical person, it didn't surprise me entirely," he said. "As a manager, you know it can happen at any time for any reason."

Anderson is the fourth top administrator to leave the village in recent months. Mike Klitzke left his position as community development director in October to go work

for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Wisconsin. Public Works Director Bob Gray also left in October. Gray retired from village employment after working with Wheeling for 28 years. Robert Fialkowski left his position as finance director in June. Fialkowski is now Deerfield's finance director.

Michael Mondschain has since taken over as finance director. The community development and public works posts are being temporarily filled by in-house employees.

Losing Anderson will cause "a little bit of a shake-up," said Trustee Horcher, "but nobody is irreplaceable."

Even though the community development and public works departments are understaffed, Horcher said, "All the departments are really well in hand."

— Staff writer Kimberly Fornek contributed to this report.

Police seek robbery suspect

Courtesy
By KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF WRITER
2/07/02

An armed robber stole about \$2,000 from a Citigo gas station in Wheeling Friday evening.

The lone clerk in the gas station at Dundee Road and State Route 83 reported a man about 18 years old came into the station at 7:45 p.m. Feb. 1. He held a black or blue steel revolver and demanded money. Police authorities said. Before exiting, he told the clerk to lie down on the floor behind the counter, Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes said.

When the clerk laid down, the robber went out the door toward Route 83. The suspect is described as an Hispanic male with a medium complexion, a faint beard and thin mustache. He was about 5 feet 9 inches tall with a thin build and wearing a dark blue hooded jacket, Hermes said.

Activist laments removal of trees

Countryside
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
2/07/02

It may look shocking now that there are no trees left standing on the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, but village officials say the corner will be stunning once Friendship Park is built.

Crews began grading the site Jan. 29 and cut down trees in front of Cole Taylor Bank to make way for a waterfall, gazebo, benches, shrubs and new trees, all of which are expected to be built and planted before the Fourth of July.

'I can't believe they're putting up a park, but cutting down all the mature trees.'

Gary Cohn

Wheeling resident Gary Cohn has made tree preservation a mission, and he worked on drafting the village's tree-preservation ordinance. He's upset to see that crews cut down so many trees.

"I'm outraged, to say the least," Cohn said. "I can't believe they're putting up a park, but cutting down all the mature trees."

Cohn said the park will look nice in the future, "50 years from now," but he is confused why the site was clear-cut.

"It's a ridiculous thing to do," he said. "You can't plant 80-year-old trees there. I thought they were going to be saving them."

Also upsetting to Cohn was the fact the board did not hold public hearings on the new park, like it did for the defunct Millennium Plaza project. Considering how much public input was allowed for that project, this new park has been fast-tracked by the Village Board, Cohn said. The board took comments from the public about the concept of the park at a regular board meeting. Most spoke favorably about the project.

(Continued on page 11)

Trees

Continued from page 7

Trustees said they wanted to take more control of a new project in order to get it built more quickly. The board spent nearly three years fiddling with Millennium Plaza, and no buildable plans came from it. The board did not want to repeat the same mistakes this time around.

If the board had held those meetings, the public would have had more say in whether all the trees had to go, Cohn argued.

According to Friendship Park plans, 32 trees will be planted at the new park to replace the ones chopped down. There will be 14 evergreens, five ornamental trees and five multistemmed trees planted, all to be 12 feet high. Also, eight shade trees with a 6-inch trunk diameter will be planted on the site.

Guy Kolberg, acting public works director, said his department issued permits to Harding ESE, the firm building the park, to remove 24 trees on the site. Kolberg said the department is following up on the tree removal to ensure Harding complies with the village's tree-preservation ordinance.

The ordinance requires protected trees that have been destroyed to be replaced with new ones, totaling one-and-one-half times the trunk diameter of the destroyed trees.

"Public works will certainly follow up and make sure that we are in compliance with our own rules," Village Manager Craig Anderson said before his departure this week. "That's certainly our intent."

Anderson acknowledged, however, that looking at the corner now will turn people's heads.

"It looks a lot different, there's no doubt about it," he said. "I drove by it myself, and there is a big difference. But the project moving forward is approved by the Village Board and all are aware of the changes going on there."

Kolberg said the trees had to be removed from the site. The site is being regraded to fit stairs and ramps that will lead to a gazebo sitting on top of a waterfall. Kolberg said if the land had been regraded, and the trees remained, they would have been killed from additional soil dumped on top of the roots. Trees were removed from the land in front of the bank that was designated for the park and donated to the village by Cole Taylor Bank.

Wheeling takes on new leadership in acting village manager

By Casey Moffitt
2-11-02

There's a new captain at Wheeling's helm, but many residents know little about him.

Acting Village Manager James Grabowski had sometimes remained behind the scenes as assistant village manager, but trustees said he knows his job well.

Grabowski, 32, worked in North Chicago as an urban planner for two years before arriving in Wheeling about four years ago.

He served as administrative assistant for former village Manager Craig Anderson for six months before being promoted to assistant village manager.

"I'm dedicated to the organization



Cass Clatt
Wheeling

trustees are expected to approve a resolution tonight officially appointing him as the acting village administrator.

While we're on the subject: Residents might be interested to know more about the sentiments behind the vote last week to oust veteran village Administrator Craig Anderson.

Trustees insisted we should point out that the decision to dismiss Anderson was not personal. Most agreed they consider Anderson a nice, well-meaning guy.

"He was a real good person, but he was probably too easy-going with his heads of departments," Trustee Michael Horcher said.

It was a question of style, Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

"He's a great guy, he's a gentleman

and he's intelligent, but I just felt he should have been much more aggressive," Patrick Horcher said.

If you haven't been keeping up with current events, Anderson served his last day on the job last Tuesday after trustees voted 4-to-2 to dismiss him.

The consensus was that projects didn't move along swiftly enough because Anderson was not a task master. Those projects include establishing a new economic development district and a \$50 million townhouse development.

Still, Trustee Judy Abruscato voted to keep Anderson because of his years of service.

Help solve a murder: Friends and family of murdered Wheeling businessman Michael J. Tuszy, 45,

and I'm certainly going to do the job in the best way I can," Grabowski said. "I've always had a good relationship with our board and our village president, and I don't see that changing."

Grabowski added that trustees are expected to approve a resolution tonight officially appointing him as the acting village administrator.

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Wheeling still considering Old McHenry street lights

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A split vote hasn't stopped Wheeling trustees from considering street light improvements along Old McHenry Road.

The village has sent a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation requesting that the department consider letting Wheeling install street lights while IDOT is widening the road, a part of state highway Route 83.

Wheeling estimates that installing lights from Lake-Cook Road to just north of Dundee Road, matching those on Milwaukee Avenue, would cost \$715,000.

Trustees last month approved lighting and sidewalk improvements to Wolf Road, but a narrow majority decided against burying utility lines and installing lights on Route 83 because of the estimated \$1.2 million cost for burying the utility lines alone.

The village board agreed Wheeling should install the lights but split over whether to bury the utility lines at the same time.

The village board reconsidered earlier this month, asking city staff to further investigate what it would take to make the project happen.

"You can't stick up light poles when you have overhead utilities right above it," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "We have to look at the entire package."

Lehmann and Trustee Dean Argiris asserted that the board would have to really sharpen its pencils at budget time to make it work.

Trustee Patrick Horcher disagreed, saying residents don't want to pay for the improvements now.

"When people list priorities, they want to be able to flush their toilets," Horcher said. "Street lights aren't what they think about. Yeah, people will be able to see the lights and say, 'That's where my money went,' but we're talking about tightening our belts," said Horcher.

The city has laid out an aggressive capital improvement plan that already accounts for city funds for several years, Horcher said.

The city staff presented the board with a variety of options for deferring construction for parts of the project through 2004.

• Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Clatt at (847) 427-4486, or e-mail cclatt@dailyherald.com.

Wheeling to go ahead with village projects

2/302
BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will continue its aggressive approach to capital improvements this year, moving to the next phase of the village's street lighting and water main replacement programs.

Village officials call it an ambitious project to replace aging cast-iron pipes with ductile iron water mains in the area known as the Dunhurst subdivision.

But residents who live in that subdivision on the southeast corner of Dundee and Elmhurst roads will appreciate the improvement to their quality of life, said Water Division Supervisor Scott Lark.

A contractor had defaulted on replacing the mains last year, completing only 13 percent of work scheduled as a two-part project.

"We'll complete the remaining work, as well as doing the next phase," said Guy Kolberg, Wheeling's acting public works director.

"The new pipes will last longer, it's more reliable and it's less prone to water main breaks that will take customers out of service for periods of time," he said.

The village hopes to finish replacing water mains that serve about 500 customers by November. The scheduling precedes pavement resurfacing and replacement that will take place next year, allowing crews to limit how many times they dig up the parkway.

For the street lighting program, the village is entering the fourth year of a 10-year program.

"The first phase was to light unlit subdivisions in town, and we're about complete with that," Kolberg said. "The next phase, which we're starting this year, is to replace Commonwealth Edison wooden poles with the village's poles."

Wheeling will install up to 54 aluminum poles that have a longer life and are more attractive, easier to maintain and safer in the event of an accident, Kolberg said.

"If a car leaves the roadway and strikes one of our aluminum poles, ours are equipped with breakaway bases," Kolberg said.

Residents also should appreciate the poles because their wiring is enclosed and out of sight.

Wheeling trustees say there's no need for new liquor store

02-12-02
BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The promise of developing a vacant storefront wasn't enough Monday to convince Wheeling trustees the village should have another liquor store.

The village board refused to issue a license for a new package-liquor store in the former Monkey Business tavern at 1750 W. Hintz Road. Trustees who voted against the plan said they had to weigh economic benefits against social concerns.

"It seems, the more liquor you have, the more problems you have," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

She questioned whether the store would add any real convenience to nearby residents.

"It seems we continue to increase these licenses, but do we really need another liquor store?" Abruscato said.

Wheeling already has A-1 Liquors on Wolf Road, B&L Liquors on Dundee Road and Wheeling Liquors on Milwaukee Avenue, in addition to grocery stores licensed to sell liquor.

The attorney for store owners A&A Inc., which also operates The Russian Kitchen restaurant near the proposed liquor store, tried to reassure trustees by describing the potential

owners as family men who would close their store at 10 p.m. every weekday.

"The business plan will not be a 7-11 type store that would invite minors to the space," attorney Dimitrios G. Christopoulos said. "It would be exclusively a packaged goods store in a small space — about 3,100 square feet."

The store's location facing the street would make it easy for police to monitor, Christopoulos said.

Trustee Michael Horcher was one of only two aldermen to vote in favor of issuing the liquor license.

"It used to be a bar, you're downsizing it to half the size, and it's a vacant building and we're doing something with it," Horcher said in support of the proposal.

Trustee Patrick Horcher also supported the plan, saying it isn't government's job to regulate values. But he was outvoted.

"I don't think our denial of this request is anything against these two gentlemen," Village President Greg Klatecki said of potential owners Albert Aushlumov and Alexander Mavlyanov. "It's the question of whether we need another liquor store. The consensus of the board, and I will make it a 5-2 vote, is no."

Board doesn't want streets

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
COUNTRYSIDE - 2-14-02

Members of the Wheeling Village Board sympathize with residents living on private streets and drives, but they are not ready to take over ownership of them and maintain them.

Residents from the Lake of the Winds and Brookvale subdivisions recently asked the board to make the private streets public because the streets are in need of some major repairs. They said their homeowners associations are having a difficult time affording repair costs.

Enid Herrmann, president of the Estate Homes Board for Lake in the Winds, said a changing neighborhood has increased traffic on Harbor Drive. More neighbors have made garbage trucks heavier, school buses are now picking up students and people are using the private road as a short cut to get to Lake Arlington, she said.

"Things have changed," she said. "Like the Indians and a stagecoach, we've been surrounded."

Herrmann said garbage trucks have caused two parts of the road to collapse, creating \$10,000 in damage this past year. She said the association has tried to get the refuse company to pay for the repairs, but company officials deny any responsibility for the damage.

Herrmann also said the association has put speed bumps along Harbor Drive to prevent people from using the private road as a short cut, but it has not worked.

Mitchell Fox lives in Brookvale, and he said

repairs to Brookvale Drive have become too costly for the association to bear. He claimed the village has a responsibility to fix the drive, because it was the village that allowed the road to be built below standards for a public way, even though Brookvale is a private drive.

"Some of us pay up to \$4,800 a year in property taxes," he said. "I feel since I'm paying it, I should get the same services as everyone else."

Lake of the Winds residents asked that only Harbor Drive be placed under village jurisdiction. They also said they would continue to pay for snow removal and maintenance of Harbor Drive if the village agreed to pay for the existing repairs. Typically, all costs associated with maintaining a public road fall on the municipality. Residents offered to pay for the maintenance themselves as a way to appease the board's concerns about costs.

Their pleas, however, fell on deaf ears, as board members were not ready to take on those responsibilities.

Trustee Dean Argiris said the board would "open up a can of worms with other developments" if the board decided to take on those streets. Trustees Trevor Lehmann and Robert Heer said they did not want the village take on the additional financial responsibilities.

The village took over ownership of private streets and drives in the Tahoe Village, Lakeside Villas, Harmony Village, Chelsea Cove, Shadow Bend and Lexington Commons subdivisions between 1979 and 1981. Since 1981, the village has a moratorium on taking over ownership of private drives in subdivisions.

Klatecki names commissioners

COUNTRYSIDE 2-14-02
Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki has named three residents to fill vacancies on three commissions.

Steven Boime, 47, formerly a member of the Human Rights Commission, will now sit on the Plan Commission. He is a former president and currently vice president of the Tahoe Village Condominium

Association. He is a member of the Willow-Palatine Road Community Mobilization Team. An avid bicyclist, Boime is controller of Des Plaines-based Inplex.

David Kolssak, 32, joins the Economic Development Commission. A Wheeling resident since he was 4, Kolssak attended Purdue University,

where he received a management degree in 1991. He is managing partner at Turnkey Network Systems in Wheeling.

Twenty-eight year resident Barbara Steinberg has taken a seat on the Senior Commission. Before retiring a year ago, Steinberg, 64, worked for 20 years at Love Controls.

Despite department vacancies, show goes on

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

2-14-00
Courtesy

Wheeling trustees are confident that an already existing leadership vacuum enlarged by the departure of Village Manager Craig Anderson will not negatively impact residents or interfere in following through on key projects.

The village has been without permanent directors for public works and community development since October. A search also is on for a Palwaukee Municipal Airport manager, and the Village Board decided to part ways

with Anderson Feb. 4.

Trustees said Anderson was let go after he failed to meet specified goals and showed a lack of leadership in developing and initiating new projects. Despite a lack of people in key positions, losing Anderson should not hinder the village's ability to provide services to its residents.

"Nothing will be disrupted or set back," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "We are still taking care of business."

Lehmann said the village has qualified people in place as acting department heads right now. Dan Ozanich is

acting as the head of the community development department and is the village's building director. Guy Kolberg, Wheeling's capital improvements manager, is acting public works director. Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski has taken on the duties of the village manager.

"We've got good people in those acting positions," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "They will be stretching themselves, no doubt. If we keep them comfortable mentally, and let them know they have (the board's) support, we will be fine."

Some trustees said many of the interim department heads could be promoted as full-time department heads because of their qualifications and skills.

Village President Greg Klatecki said interviews had been set up with candidates for the public works and community development department heads before Anderson left, and those interviews will take place. The village manager typically conducts interviews for those positions, and Klatecki said Grabowski will conduct those interviews.

(Continued on page 10)

Village wants input on redevelopment plan

2-15-02
BY GASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

on issues relating to the appearance of streets and the creation of a downtown business district, as well as where Wheeling should concentrate its commercial, industrial and residential areas.

The comprehensive plan will help Wheeling set its development agenda for the next 20 years, and the village is setting up dates for community input sessions in March or April.

Officials said, "The comprehensive plan will help Wheeling set its development agenda for the next 20 years, and the village is setting up dates for community input sessions in March or April."

Wheeling has an estimated \$98,000 agreement with Chicago planning firm Camiros to finish work on the plan by February 2003. The plan will be the first since Wheeling last went through the planning process in 1985.

"Obviously you have residents come in with some very blue-sky ideas, like every home should be torn down and everyone should live in mansions," Harris said. "But we think most residents will have reasonable expectations."

"In terms of boundaries, Wheeling is basically land-locked and there's not a lot of undeveloped land," Village Planner Jeffrey Harris said. "But Wheeling is entering a phase where a lot of land will be redeveloped. You certainly don't want to do something that the community doesn't want."

Residents will be able to weigh in

"But the involvement of the plan commission and the community as a whole is certainly important and we invite everyone to participate."

The exact date for the community sessions hasn't been set, but it should be soon because a consulting firm has begun analyzing census figures and land surveys to cre-

ate a digital map to track Wheeling development, Harris said.

Wheeling has an estimated \$98,000 agreement with Chicago planning firm Camiros to finish work on the plan by February 2003. The plan will be the first since Wheeling last went through the planning process in 1985.

During the span that the village lost those key people to retirement, job changes or otherwise, the Village Board has initiated a number of new plans, including revamping the comprehensive plan and redeveloping the area around the Metra train station. The board also has been active in acquiring property in the Milwaukee Avenue Tax Increment Financing District for redevelopment.

Staying the course

Patrick Horcher said the system is running smoothly, but he recognizes it will be difficult to keep the village on track without some of those high positions filled.

"I think everybody's up to the challenge," he said. "It'll be difficult, but we can do it."

Klatecki said it is unlikely there will be much progress on new initiatives with so much on the board's plate.

"Anything new, to a certain extent, will be put on hold until those vacancies are filled," he said.

Trustee Robert Heer also said it should be a priority to fill those spots soon to bring a sense of stability back into Village Hall, as well as to keep projects on schedule.

"It's important to fill those positions quickly," he said. "The quicker we fill them, the better off we'll be."

Heer said losing Anderson could bring morale down among village employees. He also suggested some would-be candidates for department heads could be scratching their heads and asking themselves about the Village Board's intentions.

"The question is, will there be people who trust the Village Board enough to work with them," Heer said. "I equate it to a vacuum effect."

Trustee Judy Abruscato did not support Anderson's dismissal, and she also didn't like the timing. A lack of leadership could pose a problem in finding people to work for the village, she argued.

"We don't have a public works director, no community development director, a new finance and assistant finance directors, and now no village manager," she said. "(The interim directors) are very capable, but I think it presents a problem in finding new people."

Despite her objections, Abruscato said she is committed to helping the village move forward.

"We have to concentrate on moving ahead," Abruscato said. "We can't let this damage the village or damage the residents. We have to work together as a team."

Teamwork essential

Assistant Village Manager Grabowski said most Village Hall employees are coping with the situation well. He said some assignments have been shifted to spread the work around.

"A lot of people liked Craig and were friends with him," Grabowski said. "Some took (his departure) hard but understand we need to move on."

"There's a lot on the plate. The board understands now may not be the time to create new initiatives, but to make sure what's on the plate gets done."

Trustees said they are willing to give staff all the support they need in order to keep moving ahead.

"It's going to be bumpy for a while," Lehmann said. "But if we all work a little harder, a year from now, we're going to be better off."

Wheeling planners support parking waiver

2-15-02
BY GASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners disagree whether a decision they made Thursday will hamper development along a short stretch of Dundee Road in the future.

The plan commission voted 4-2 with one abstention to recommend that the village board allow the owner of property in a shopping center at Dundee and Elmhurst roads to operate unhindered by the village's minimum parking requirements.

The owner of B&L Liquors, PS Pub and a neighboring vacant storefront asked Wheeling to waive the parking

requirements after realizing the limits would prevent anyone from leasing the vacant space.

Heeding the seemingly small request has large implications because allowing the owner to do whatever she wants with the property offers no incentive for her or future owners to redevelop it, commissioners said.

Still, Grace Bastone insisted she spent three years improving what was once considered a problem property. She learned she didn't have enough parking spaces only after a tenant who operated a music store moved out and she couldn't lease the space because of the restriction.

"I have a facility that's 1,800 square

feet that's sitting empty," Bastone said. "I don't understand why I can't have the parking variation for a problem that was given to me."

Commissioners praised Bastone for turning her property around, but some argued at length that the village would be stuck with its decision to allow the parking variation forever.

Ultimately, commissioners were swayed by Bastone's commitment to her property and assurances that, if allowed to lease her space, she would not rent to a business that would monopolize the 35 parking spaces she has. However, they cautioned Bastone that she faces another hurdle convincing village trustees.

COURTNEY 2-14-02
Grabowski named acting manager

The Wheeling Village Board officially named James Grabowski acting village manager until a permanent manager is hired.

The board voted on the measure at Monday night's regularly scheduled meeting. Village President Greg Klatecki said the board is required to pass a resolution to name an acting village manager.

Grabowski, the village's assistant village manager, has been performing the duties of the village manager since Craig Anderson was fired last week. Under Grabowski's job description, he is to take on the manager's duties in his or her absence.

The Village Board passed a resolution at the Feb. 4 meeting to dismiss Anderson from the post after he served there for over 13 years. The board is seeking a suitable search firm to help find a permanent replacement for Anderson.

Commission limits home day care centers to 8 kids

2-25-02

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission is sending a message to elected officials that commissioners would like to see changes in the village's home day-care ordinance, said commission Chairman Ken Brady.

Commissioners this month gave their stamp of approval to plans for a Wheeling mom to operate a day-care center in her home, but they put a limit on the number of children she

can care for.

They recommended to trustees that Linda Claver be allowed to care for eight children, including her own, at her new home, 705 Greenview Lane.

The day-care center would be the second for Claver, who was the first resident to approach Wheeling about operating a home day care about three years ago. She had to reapply because she moved.

This month's visit to the plan commission was easier for Claver than

the first go-around, which required a series of hearings with social workers, city staff, elected officials and residents. Yet the return visit was not as cut and dry as Claver would have liked.

"I have a real big problem with someone watching 12 kids, even with one helper," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro told her.

Claver had a permit to watch the village limit of 12 kids, but commissioners wanted to know the maximum number she has ever cared for

and limited her to eight based on her answer. Claver objected.

"But the eight I care for doesn't include my son," she said.

But Claver didn't sway commissioners. Three of them said they would like to see the village change its ordinance to set up a limit of six.

It was the second time in two months the commission recommended a decrease in the number of children for home day-care facilities. The first was for a home at 1400 Mar-

cy Lane the village board approved for six kids last month.

The commission hopes its recommendations send a message, chairman Brady said.

"I've always felt, always felt that 12 was too many," he stressed. "In the past, the feeling on the board was about 50-50 about it, but now we have some new commissioners and the majority seems to agree. So we'll see what the board of trustees does when Mrs. Claver's docket comes before them."

Blood drive set for March 13

The Wheeling Board of Health is sponsoring a blood drive March 13 in Fire Station 24, right next to Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Board of Health is requesting donors make reservations before giving blood. Although walk-ins are welcome, those with appointments will be given priority.

To make a reservation for the blood drive, contact Health Officer Michael Boyle at (847) 459-2621, or send an e-mail to him at mboyle@v.wheeling.il.us. Reservations are being made for 2:30 p.m. through 6:45 p.m. in 15-minute intervals. Boyle requests all reservations be made by March 6.

COUNTRYSIDE

Board turns down liquor store requests

The Wheeling Village Board says there are enough liquor stores in the village, and it isn't ready to let another open.

The board heard petitions from two different people in as many weeks about opening a liquor store at 1750 W. Hintz Road, where the Monkey Business bar was located.

On Feb. 4, the board heard a petition from Paul Chohan to open the store. Chohan did not show up to the meeting, but board members said they did not want to see another liquor store in the village.

On Feb. 11, the board heard a petition from Alex Mavlyanov and Albert Aushumov. Mavlyanov owns the Russian Kitchen restaurant located in the same strip mall. Trustees said they believed opening another liquor store will only add to social problems associated with the sale of alcohol.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said the "more liquor stores we have, the more problems we'll have." Trustees Patrick and Michael Horcher were the only two who were in favor of letting the store open.

Village studying customer fee to bury power lines

By Casey Moffitt

STAFF WRITER

COUNTRYSIDE

Village officials have discovered a way to pay for the costly burying of electric power lines. All they have to do now is decide whether they want to follow through with it.

Acting Village Manager Jim Grabowski told trustees that a fee can be assessed to electricity users in order to bury Commonwealth Edison power lines. Grabowski said ComEd can charge about one-third of a cent per kilowatt hour in order to pay for utility line burial.

The provision to charge electricity users for line burial is found in a rider in the Illinois Public Utilities Act, Grabowski said.

Staff learned about the provision at the same time ComEd is looking to put more power lines on the west side of Wheeling Road, south of Hintz Road and north of Palatine Road. ComEd representatives informed the village of the rider when staff members asked if the lines could be buried.

"The cost can be paid for by the village in a sum of \$295,000, or it could be charged to each user in the village," he said.

The fee would not appear on a customer's bill under construction started, Grabowski said.

It would cost the average household about \$5 to bury the proposed lines along Wheeling Road, Grabowski estimated, which would be spread out over a period of three months.

It may also be possible to assess that fee for other burial projects. The village board has been trying to find money to pay for a burial project along McHenry Road. The Illinois De-

partment of Transportation has plans to widen the road to four lanes, and the board is hoping to bury the utility lines there while IDOT works on the project.

ComEd estimated burying those lines would cost \$1.2 million. If the village pays that cost, it could mean deferring or postponing other capital improvement projects. Grabowski estimated the total cost to residents with the rider fee to bury those lines could be about \$20.

"Of course, the more power you use, the more it would cost," he said.

The fee would be assessed to all power users, Grabowski said. That would include residents and businesses. Grabowski said he was not sure if churches, schools or other taxing bodies would be assessed the fee.

Trustees were eager to find out more about the rider and how it works. The board asked staff to further investigate the particulars.

"I'm in favor of it," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "It would improve the entire village."

Other trustees were a bit more cautious about the idea.

"I think we should talk to residents first," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

Trustee Dean Argiris said he wanted a better definition of what the village and what ComEd would be responsible for before approving the plan. Other trustees said they needed more information about the program.

"I think we need to see more solid figures for this," Trustee Michael Horcher said.

Grabowski said it would only take a resolution passed by the Village Board in order to assess the fee.

Wheeling invites you to 'Passport to the World'

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

From Hindu magicians to African dancers, a world of cultural diversity will open to Wheeling residents this weekend at "Passport to the World."

The free winter festival sponsored by the Wheeling Park District will include crafters, ethnic cuisine and bands that represent the flavor of various cultures and countries.

The village has hosted Wheeling's multicultural festivals in the past,

West African drum and dance troupe Dahui.

Attendees also can participate in hourly prize raffles, carnival games, children's contests and giveaways.

"This is an educational, as well as a fun event," Schapiro said. "People can be educated as far as learning about different cultures through their crafts and entertainment."

There will be fees for food vendors Wa-pa-Ghetti's Pizza, Bob Chinn's Crabhouse Restaurant and others.

Passport to the World, though the village could still decide to hold its spring festival, Schapiro said.

The park district simply decided to apply a different theme to the winter events the district has hosted since celebrating the one-year anniversary of its recreation center in 1995.

Entertainers for Passport to the World include Hindu magician Shreyash Palkishar, the Barefoot Hawaiians, the Mexican band Mariachi Continental, the German polka and yodeling band Phoenix, and

If you go ...

What: Passport to the World winter festival

When: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

Where: Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling

Information: (847) 465-3333

Wheeling approves townhouse development

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After two months of design revisions and delays, a wall of trees was all that stood between a developer and his plans to build townhouses in Wheeling.

The plans received unanimous approval Monday after representatives for Capital Homes Inc. agreed to increase the size of almost 20 trees that will become part of a townhouse development on the west side of Cornell Avenue, south of Hintz Road.

The village's plan commissioners earlier this month put their stamp of approval on the plans only after the developer said he would use maple trees measuring 4 inches in diameter, rather than the proposed 2 inches.

It was one of many parts of the plan that Capital Homes has had to change to address Wheeling's concerns over privacy for neighboring single-family homes and aesthetic appeal of the townhouses.

However, Capital Homes Vice President Ken Frank tried to back out of the tree requirement Monday, saying that quality 4-inch maples would be hard to find.

"There is a shortage of trees because the building boom has lasted such a long time," Frank said. "So if we have to go with a 4-inch tree, you end up with lower quality."

A landscape engineer speaking on behalf of Capital Homes told trustees the survival rate for the larger trees would be low because of the shock of transplanting them and the longer time it takes them to take root.

Trustees were not swayed.

Wheeling looking to force annexation in four areas

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are expecting a fight as they develop plans to annex four unincorporated areas into the village.

The village board decided this week that Wheeling should move aggressively to annex residential and commercial pockets along southern Milwaukee Avenue to pick up the pace on village beautification efforts.

Trustees said the areas north and south of Hintz Road are commonly mistaken for being part of Wheeling and have some problems with crumbling roads and unsightly businesses.

However, the village attorney warned that residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of Cook County have made it clear they don't want to become part of the village.

Trustees therefore decided to ex-

lore "quick-take" options to take over about 118 acres, whether property owners want to join the village or not.

"In hearing the village attorney, voluntary annexation is not the way to go because they're going to fight us," Trustee Robert J. Heer said. "I think we need to take a big step forward."

Heer said Wheeling has waited too long to fill in the "puzzle" the village presents on the map.

Earlier this month, the lagging pace of annexation and beautification efforts was one of the reasons trustees gave for ousting Village Manager Craig Anderson, who held the post for nearly 14 years.

Most of the areas targeted for annexation are surrounded by the village on all sides. They are subject to involuntary annexation by law be-

See BOARD on PAGE 12

Board: Move might clean up blighted areas

Continued from Page 1

cause they measure 60 acres or less.

One area consists mostly of apartments and condominiums, while three parcels host industrial and commercial areas that many trustees criticized as being blighted.

Describing the Industrial Drive area along southern Milwaukee as "frightening," Village President Greg Klatecki said it "needs to be grabbed up immediately."

"I think their freedom has caused an aesthetic problem for the village, and in some cases, a pollution problem," Klatecki said.

Klatecki said the most obvious use for the Industrial Drive parcel would be to incorporate it into Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"The truth is, I don't think we want any of those businesses in there," Klatecki said of the potential to gain new revenue sources. "And I don't see us developing it."

Trustee Patrick Horcher cautioned his fellow trustees, saying Wheeling has to be prepared to make some concessions to make any annexation plan work.

"If the board feels it's in the best interest of the village to clean these up — and these industries think it doesn't trouble their business to keep them as they are — then it's going to cost the village something," Horcher said. "We need to put something out there, maybe doing some road improvements. If the board needs to exercise control over these properties, it is going to be a budgetary concern."

Village Attorney James Rhodes reminded the board that property owners in unincorporated areas

Wheeling annexation proposal

Wheeling is developing a plan to annex four out of seven areas of unincorporated Cook County that create gaps in the town map, hoping to speed village beautification efforts. A policy to address the three other areas will be developed at a later date.



made it clear during a series of meetings in 1998 they didn't want to annex into the village without getting something in return.

"People want to know what they're going to get in terms of sewer and water, but those are costly," Rhodes said. "They want to know what they're going to get for the increase in taxes. So that is something this board is going to have to address."

Trustees initially looked at seven areas they considered annexing into the village, narrowing the list to four because of concerns about cost and the difficulty of extending sewer and water lines.

Klatecki said he's confident the village can hold off on annexing the three areas of Jackson Drive, Vera Lane and Wolf Run Estates because residents there will inevitably want village water and sewer service.

"If the village waits, it's better to

have them pay to hook up themselves," Klatecki said. "We don't want our current residents already paying taxes to pay for it."

Forcing a residential area to annex could cost the village up to \$20 million to extend utilities, trustees said. Cost will remain a major concern as the village develops its policy for annexing the four areas that trustees prioritized.

"I think what we need to do first is find the cold hard facts, and the cold hard facts is about cash," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "We have to find a place to start and put the rest into the five-year plan."

Wheeling's village board next will decide whether to seek voluntary annexations before taking over the four selected areas, how to complete public improvements within the parcels, the annexation schedule and the cost.

Capital Homes had already agreed to put more brick in the design of the homes, build a 6-foot fence to shield them from concerned neighbors and to irrigate all landscaping. The developer plans to begin building in May, finishing in six months.

The three-bedroom homes will have a private street, sit on a parcel measuring just under 2 acres and be marketed for \$250,000 to \$310,000.

Annexation may lead to redevelopment

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

CountrySide

2-28-02
Wheeling trustees are working on bringing some areas along South Milwaukee Avenue under village control so they can spearhead a possible redevelopment and clean up.

There are seven areas within Wheeling's borders that remain in unincorporated Cook County. The properties do not receive village services, are not tied into village sewer or water lines and do not pay property taxes to the village. They also are not subject to the village's zoning laws.

Village officials have listed four unincorporated areas as annexation priorities. One area includes Industrial and Sumac lanes near Palwaukee Municipal Airport. The Plum Creek subdivision and Hunt Club Apartments also have been targeted, as have two small parcels on South Milwaukee Avenue just north of Hintz Road.

The industrial businesses in those areas, the outdoor storage yards and public storage facilities all can be aestheti-

cally improved, board members said. Trustees want to clean up those parcels because new developments like River Mill Crossing and Astor Place are being built in the same area.

"The problems there become our problems in the way they affect our village," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "This is a way to clean up some of the mess down there."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the village cannot simply go in and close the businesses down once the properties are annexed. The village will be able to restrict any growth of those businesses, and trustees would have greater control over the properties if the businesses are sold to new owners.

"We have to complete the puzzle on Milwaukee Avenue," Trustee Robert Heer said. "If (the properties) are annexed and we do nothing but hold onto them for redevelopment, it will only benefit the village in the long run."

Annexation can be done with or without the support of



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Industrial Lane is one area the Wheeling Village Board is trying to annex into the village from unincorporated Cook County.

the property owner. Only areas that are less than 60 acres in size can be forcibly annexed.

The area around Industrial and Sumac lanes is 66 acres, and cannot be forcibly annexed, said James Grabowski, acting village manager. It is also the area that has the most industrial activity and some of the worst roads. Grabowski said the village can negotiate with some individual property owners to see if they would like to be annexed voluntarily.

Rhodes said the village asked many of the industrial

owners in that area if they would be interested in being annexed into the village in 1998. Most of them, he said, were not interested, mainly because they have a degree of freedom from village ordinances to run their businesses and pay less property taxes.

The Plum Creek and Hunt Club area is 48 acres. The South Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road parcel is only 2 acres. The other South Milwaukee Avenue parcel is surrounded by River Mill Crossing and is about 1.5 acres.

A majority of the board is in

favor of annexing those areas. But Trustee Patrick Horcher pointed out that the village will be obligated to improve the areas with water, sewer and better roads. He warned the taxes collected on those properties would not cover the cost of improvements. And Trustee Judy Abruscato also was wary of the costs.

"I would like to see it all annexed," she said. "But we have to find out the hard, cold facts. How much cash is the bottom line? We should make a plan based on cost."

Board chooses gazebo design

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

CountrySide

2-28-02
The Wheeling Village Board continues to move forward on the design of the new park

on the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Board members last week chose a gazebo, lighting and stone style for the park.

Gary Lehman, of Harding ESE, the firm hired to design and build the park, asked the board to consider a gazebo that was subtle in nature and gave respect to the land and features around it.

"This is going to be something to complement the waterfall," Lehman said. "This is going to be the crown of the waterfall. We don't want this crown to dominate the waterfall."

Trustees selected a smaller version of a gazebo standing in Palatine's Town Square.

Since the park will be in a heavily traveled area, Lehman suggested the board pick a style that would be more visual than functional. Trustees said they liked the subtle style of the gazebo, which they said could be used for host-

ing such events as small jazz concerts.

Most of the lighting in the park will be used to highlight the landscape and the water features. Some pedestrian lighting resembling street lights also will be installed.

Claus Dunkleberg of Harding ESE had some good news for the board when he told trustees that no mitigation will be necessary to clean up the site, which was once occupied by a gas station.

"Everything looks very positive," he said.

The northeast corner has already been cleared of trees in preparation for grading on the site. The board still has to decide on sign design for the park and work on a formal name. Cole Taylor Bank's name will adorn the new park, because the bank donated land to the village for the project. The board hopes to open the park for the village's Fourth of July celebration this year.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

The Wheeling Village Board chose a gazebo similar to this one standing in Palatine Town Square for the new park to be built on the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Rolling Meadows nixes tax hike:

Rolling Meadows aldermen Tuesday shot down a proposal to raise the city's home-rule portion of the sales tax by a quarter of a cent. The change would have meant people making purchases in the city would have paid 8.5 cents on the dollar rather than the 8.25 cents on the dollar they're paying now. Arguments for the tax hike included the increased revenue the city could generate without relying solely on its residents. But the majority of aldermen said this is not the time to be reaching deeper into people's pocketbooks. They say they'd be willing to reconsider the proposal later — possibly once the economy improves. The increase was suggested as a way to generate more money for city projects. Second Ward Alderman Merton Staley voted in favor of the increase. Third Ward Alderman Suzanne Jungmann was not at the meeting.

Teen club charges mostly stand:

Thirty-four of the 39 people arrested outside the Music Factory teen dance club in Des Plaines earlier

this month pleaded guilty Tuesday to city ordinance violations. They each were each fined \$75 and given four months of court supervision. Three people pleaded not guilty. Of those, two were found guilty of underage drinking and were each fined \$150; one was acquitted. Two others did not show up for court at the Skokie branch of Cook County Circuit Court. They each face a \$200 fine and an April 1 court date. The city law charges, mainly for underage drinking, resulted from arrests police made on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 outside the dance club at 1428 Lee St. The number of type of arrests led the city to suspend the club's license, and the club has been closed since. *Herald 2/21/02*

Village manager search begins:

Wheeling has taken the first step in finding a new village manager, deciding to hire a Lake Bluff firm to conduct a nationwide search. The village will pay The PAR Group about \$14,000 plus expenses for a search process that includes meeting with elected officials to find qualification requirements for a

new village manager, searching for the candidates and interviewing them. The PAR Group presentation was similar to those presented by the Mercer Group of Atlanta and Bennett Associates of Northbrook. Village officials chose PAR because of its local ties and its reputation placing managers in towns similar to Wheeling. The PAR Group told trustees the company could have a new village manager in place within 90 days.

MWRD OKs school addition plans:

A project to remodel and add onto Holmes Junior High School in Mount Prospect has the support of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The agency has agreed to issue the necessary permit for the \$2.56 million project for the school's library media center. Last month, the agency expressed problems with the water retention plan of the Elk Grove Township Elementary District 59 project. But the agency has agreed to back the district's plan to provide water retention to the south of Holmes, officials said. Construction is set for this summer.

Herald 2/27/02
**Wheeling
may spend
more on
projects**

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As Wheeling leaders surge forward in their efforts to beautify the village, they are looking for ways to help residents avoid a future of steady tax increases.

Village officials eyeing the 2002-2003 budget are proposing a 25 percent increase in spending for capital improvements as part of a \$53.7 million overall budget.

A long list of proposed projects includes breathing new life into the South Milwaukee Avenue tax financing district by spending \$8.7 million to buy land for redevelopment.

The village also wants to spend \$3 million for lighting and other streetscape improvements along Milwaukee.

It all translates into a proposed 3.4 percent increase in the property taxes levied on Wheeling residents, said Finance Director Michael Mondschain. The average home owner with property assessed at \$150,000 would pay about \$18 more a year in taxes, totaling \$427.

The increase is far below the unpopular 12 percent tax hike trustees approved last year.

Still, Mondschain said Wheeling's "aggressive" approach to capital improvements could be laying the groundwork for a future spike in property taxes.

Wheeling intentionally created a budget last year that has the village spending more than it receives in revenue, relying on large reserves the village has built up over the years for capital improvements, Mondschain said.

The village did the same thing in creating the 2002-03 budget draft.

"In future years, they (trustees) may have to consider the possibility of issuing additional debt to pay for improvements, and that could translate into a higher property tax levy," Mondschain said.

Trustees have charged city staff with finding alternative ways to raise money for \$20.4 million in proposed projects to expand and improve village buildings, roads sewers and other infrastructure.

Funding options could include raising permit and licensing fees that have not increased in 10 years.

Also, Wheeling expects a 25 percent jump in sales tax revenue in 2002-03 will help relieve the burden on home owners.

The extra revenue would mostly come from a Target store slated to open next month on Lake Cook Road and from a 0.25 percent increase in Wheeling's home rule sales tax that took effect Jan. 1, officials said.

Trustees next will review the revenue alternatives and then tell village staff how to incorporate them into a budget the board will vote on in April.

**Dundee
repaving
project first
on long list**

Herald 3-4-02
As winter supposedly winds to a close, it's almost time for the Chicago area's other season: road construction.

Wheeling sent us a note, giving us the quick run-down of how this season will affect the village.



Cass Cliatt
Wheeling

First, the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to begin work on repaving Wheeling's stretch of Dundee Road in late April or early May.

The plans call for patching, milling and repaving Dundee from Kennicott Road east of Route 53, to Milwaukee Avenue and on to Waukegan Road in Northbrook.

The project will complete the resurfacing of Dundee as it connects to a job finished last year from Waukegan Road east.

Because it is not a village project, Wheeling doesn't have control over construction schedules, officials said.

"But we recognized the deteriorating condition of Dundee Road and encouraged IDOT to resurface the roadbed as soon as practical," acting Public Works Director Guy Kolberg said in a statement.

"There will be temporary dislocation of traffic, but the resulting improvements will provide motorists with smoother driving."

Construction is expected to start in early spring, with a completion date of July 28.

Traffic in the construction zone will be limited to one lane in each direction.

Left turns will be prohibited at various times, but right-in, right-out turns will not be affected.

Permanent overnight lane closures will be in effect until July 1. After that, crews will work days only.

In another state project, the McHenry Road bottleneck is about to be unblocked.

Construction will begin in late summer or early fall on Illinois Route 83 from Dundee Road to Lake Cook Road, with utility work involving ComEd and Nicor Gas.

The \$8.1 million project will replace the present drainage ditches with underground storm sewers, replace the two-lane road with four lanes and include traffic signal improvements.

The project should be finished by late fall 2003, with the exception of tree and shrubbery planting.

For more details about these projects — and also a Wolf Road project planned for fall — read the March edition of the village newsletter.

**Wheeling
divides plan
to build fence
into two parts**

3-4-02
BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling learned a great deal from its project two years ago that placed wood fences along residential areas on Route 83.

Village leaders learned it was a good way to beautify the area and that they could improve on the concept.

This week, village trustees decided Wheeling should embark on another fencing project to install a barrier along a stretch of Dundee Road, this time using concrete fencing.

The concrete barrier would last longer, require less maintenance and have the added benefit of being a sound barrier for residents, in addition to an attractive visual shield, said Tony Stavros of the village's engineering division.

"It can be concrete with the look of wood," Stavros said.

"Actually, when I went out to look at the project, I had to go and tap on it to make sure I was in the right place," Stavros said of a similar fencing project in Naperville.

The fencing would cost about \$112,500 to install in Wheeling. It would begin next to the residential area on Dundee Road, west of Route 83, and run west along the homes to the village limits, village officials said.

The wooden fencing along Route 83 also runs along homes, having been built to shield property owners from air and noise pollution after a state road widening project.

One of the only disadvantages of the concrete fencing is its initial installation cost is higher than the \$101,250 estimated for wood panels, Stavros said. Over a 14-year period, though, the concrete fence should require no additional cost to maintain, while wood has to be sealed every two years.

"The problems with construction of either wood or concrete is it will cost about \$40,000 to do sidewalk removal," Stavros said. "There will have to be extensive tree and shrub removal. We'll need to get permission from residents to install the fences on private property."

Those factors prompted trustees to decide on a two-step process for installing the fence. The first step will include engineering and gaining permission for the fencing work, while construction would occur in the 2003-2004 budget year if all the permits come through.

Board hires search firm

The Wheeling Village Board elected to hire the PAR Group, an executive search firm, to help in the search for a new village manager.

Trustees said they liked the fact the Northbrook-based PAR Group was a local firm, making it easier to maintain steady communication. The board had received proposals from four search firms.

The PAR Group is charging the village \$14,000 plus expenses for its services. Firm officials said they believe they can find a new manager within 90 days.

Board members are eager to find a new village manager. Besides needing to fill the village's top staff position, the village has vacancies for other key department heads, including public works and community development. The village also is working to find a new manager for Palwaukee Municipal Airport. The board elected to part ways with Anderson Feb. 1.

Board meetings to air March 11

Wheeling residents will be able to watch the Village Board's meetings on cable channel 17 beginning March 11.

The meetings will be broadcast live on Monday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. They also will be taped for rebroadcast.

SoundVision of Elgin began installing two cameras, lights and audio equipment in January.

Village staff is looking for volunteers to direct the cameras and handle other tasks. Those interested should contact Acting Village Manager James Grabowski or executive secretary Connie Gervase at (847) 459-2617. Those interested will be contacted after a schedule for training has been determined, Grabowski said.

Board erred with Anderson

Wheeling/ It was with great regret that I read of Craig Anderson's decision to leave his position of Wheeling village manager.

As a former village trustee, I had the privilege of working with him and can attest to both his professional ability and fine character. It's unfortunate the majority of the board was too blinded by their own ambitions to see the value of his service to Wheeling.

I give credit to trustees (Judy) Abruscato and (Bob) Heer for their support of Mr. Anderson, contrary to Trustee (Dean) Argiris' claim that the entire board agreed that it was time for him to leave. Any dissatisfaction the community might have had with the speed of progress certainly wasn't directed at the village manager. It was only the board that unfairly shifted the blame from themselves to him and his staff.

Residents should be aware that it was Craig Anderson who did the thankless job of holding things together, despite the board's constant efforts to usurp his authority. In addition, Wheeling would not have been represented at the Northwest Municipal Conference or the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County without him. The residents and employees of the village, as well as his colleagues in the region, hold him in the highest regard.

Many staff members left the village shortly after the 1997 election. In the past few months, Wheeling has lost its directors of finance, public works and community development, the manager of Palwaukee Municipal Airport

and now its village manager. The majority of this board considers this "moving forward." They're moving all right, but in the wrong direction.

Elizabeth Hartman

Power users to pay costs to bury lines

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents can expect a small increase in their electric bills to pay for the burying of power lines along Wheeling Road.

The Wheeling Village Board elected to exercise a rider in the Illinois Public Utilities Act that allows Commonwealth Edison to charge customers for the expense of burying power lines. ComEd is building new feeder lines along the west side of Wheeling Road from Willowbrook Drive to Hintz Road this spring to improve the reliability of its electrical network.

ComEd applied for a permit to install 15 utility poles for the project Jan. 2, but village staff members, aware of the Village Board's desire to bury the lines instead of having them run above ground, urged utility officials to honor the board's request.

Mike Radziewicz, external affairs manager for ComEd, said burying the new lines will cost about \$295,000.

Radziewicz said the cost to customers will most likely be an additional 32 cents per kilowatt hour on their electric bill. The average residential customer will pay about an additional \$4.80 for the burial. Radziewicz said that total will be spread out over the course of construction, which he expects to be three months. That means the average customer will be charged an additional \$1.60 per month for the work.

Radziewicz said the charge will be applied to all ComEd customers, including businesses, churches, schools and other taxing bodies. He said ComEd hopes to have the new lines installed by June 1, in time to meet summer electricity demands. He said construction could begin in April.

Trustees unanimously passed the resolution to exercise the rider.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said a number of residents said they would support the extra fee.

"All the residents I spoke to didn't see a problem with it," she said.

(Continued on page 9)

Power users

Continued from page 8

Other trustees said they favored exercising the rider since it will improve the aesthetics of the village at a marginal cost to residents and businesses. Trustees decided to institute the rider fee instead of using tax dollars to

pay for the burial. James Grabowski, Wheeling's acting village manager, said the rider was put into the Illinois Public Utilities Act as a response to many communities' desire to bury utility lines for appearance and function.

Wheeling ready to send message to District 21 on school crowding

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

The decision is out of their hands, but Wheeling trustees plan to weigh in on debates over how to fix crowding problems at Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling.

Trustees want the leadership in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 to know that the village would oppose any solution that involves a skewing of the balance between ethnic groups at Whitman, trustees said.

Asked Tuesday whether the village's input would be welcome, District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie would only refer to district policy.

"The board of education is the sole legal authority to make decisions for the school district," DesCarpentrie said.

Wheeling resident and Plan Commissioner Stuart Shapiro pressed the village board into action, saying a decision to send more Hispanic children to Whitman would decrease property values and the quality of education.

The village board at its meeting Monday evening decided to draw up a resolution that sends the district a clear message on the village's stance, even as Dist. 21 was also holding a meeting Monday evening with parents to propose solutions for crowding.

"My concern is that our schools

are trying to encourage an unhealthy diversity," Village Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "I would encourage a resolution that would state politely that they not do that, and that we keep a balance of diversity and not segregate it all into one school."

Trustees were unanimous in their agreement. Village President Greg Klatecki abstained from any discussion on the matter because he is a teacher at Holmes Middle School in District 21.

Among its options to fix crowding, the district has suggested changing its boundary lines and spending about \$1.65 million to expand Whitman to accommodate more students.

Search for outside firm causes friction

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

CountySide

The Wheeling Village Board wants to find an outside law firm to help Village Attorney James Rhodes with specific tasks, but President Greg Klatecki is not ready to work with the firm chosen by the board.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann requested the board sign a letter of engagement with Holland and Knight LLP that would allow the village to ask the firm to work on specific projects. The agreement does not call for any money to change hands between the village and the firm until services are provided, and the letter is not an exclusive contract.

However, Klatecki said he takes issue with the letter since Holland and Knight also represents North American Jet, which has a fixed-based operation at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. The village and the city of Prospect Heights jointly own the airport.

"It's my name on the let-

ter," he said. "If there is a conflict, then I'm the one held liable and I don't want to be held liable."

The board is looking for outside firms to help Rhodes with issues outside of his expertise. Those issues could include annexation, establishing tax increment financing districts, land acquisition or utility franchise agreements. If there are legal issues with village employees, trustees said an outside firm may be able to step in to help keep Rhodes from an awkward situation.

"We've talked about annexation, for an example," Lehmann said. "That's something that takes a lot of hours. We might be better off to get a third party in and get it taken care of, so we don't lose track of what else is going on."

Trustee Dean Argiris also backed the measure calling for the letter of engagement, and he said it could only help the village.

"We need sources outside of Mr. Rhodes to get some things done," he said. "We definitely

(Continued on page 12)

Search Continued from page 10

need a firm. Other towns do it, so why shouldn't we?"

Lehmann questions Klatecki's reasoning in refusing to sign the letter. He said conflicts of interest are always an issue when dealing with village business, but there are ways to avoid them.

"You are going to cross paths from time to time, but you disclose it and move on," he said. "You have to draw the line, but where is the line? You do the best you can."

The letter from Holland and Knight was drafted by attorney Mark Burkland, who represented Lehmann in his Ethics Board hearing in August 2000. Lehmann insisted that his use of the firm had no bearing on his request for the agreement to be signed by the village.

"I called the firm and asked who there has worked with municipal affairs before, or who represents other towns in the area," he said. "The deal is they assign you someone. ... (Burkland) spoke with (former village manager) Craig Anderson, and that's the way it went."

Lehmann said Holland and Knight is a reputable firm,

and he was pleased with their work. He said the firm has more than 40 attorneys in its Chicago branch and over 1,600 nationwide. He said a firm with those kinds of resources could be beneficial to the village.

Both Lehmann and Argiris said they would not be opposed to soliciting requests from other firms to see what they can offer the village in order to find an outside firm to help Rhodes.

"Let's do it," Lehmann said. "It doesn't hurt to sign more than one (letter)."

Argiris said he would be willing to solicit more requests in order to find a firm to help the village.

"We can sign an agreement with another firm," he said. "It doesn't matter to me."

Rhodes declined to comment on the board's desire to work with outside firms.

In the meantime, Klatecki said he has no intention of signing the agreement with Holland and Knight, unless the conflict-of-interest issue is addressed and settled. He also said he does not object to finding an outside firm to work on specific projects.

Wheeling will soon bid village attorney farewell

By CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-14-02

Wheeling will soon have yet another vacancy in one of its top administrative positions.

Village Attorney James Rhodes announced this week he plans to take early retirement after serving 21 years in helping Wheeling draft its laws and forge a path of development.

The decision comes six weeks after village trustees ousted former Village Manager Craig Anderson. That left Wheeling without a permanent manager, public works director, community development director and manager of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Rhodes' retirement also comes in the midst of a conflict between village trustees and Village President Greg Klatecki over hiring a separate attorney to represent trustees in development matters.

Trustees voted in January to retain outside counsel to help fast-track redevelopment projects they complained have been lagging, but Klatecki has refused to sign the contract for the corporate law firm. He

said it's the village attorney's job to work on development projects.

However, Trustee Judy Abruscato said Rhodes told the village board that the conflict didn't factor into his decision to leave Wheeling.

Rhodes did not return calls seeking comment Tuesday and Klatecki was unavailable for comment, but Abruscato said Rhodes had been considering retiring since the village offered employees a chance at an early retirement package that expires in June.

"I just didn't think Mr. Rhodes would leave us," Abruscato said. "We have some projects going on, but ... he said some of the things we're looking into would all be in place by the time he left."

Rhodes will remain with the village until June 28, continuing efforts to help the village acquire land for its redevelopment district along Milwaukee Avenue, Abruscato said.

It is the village manager's responsibility to manage Wheeling's administrative staff and to fill staff vacancies. However, Acting Village Manager James Grabowski did not return calls seeking comment.

Wheeling Kmart on hit list

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

CountySide

3-14-02

The Wheeling Kmart store appeared on a list Friday of 284 stores the company will be closing across the country.

Kmart filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in January, and the announcement of closing underperforming stores was not a surprise, Julie Fracker, spokeswoman for Kmart, said the stores slated to close were not performing up to corporate expectations.

"The stores chosen were not meeting profit requirements," she said. "It was a difficult decision, and we regret the impact on our associates and customers."

Fracker said all 80 people employed in the Wheel-

ing store will lose their jobs.

"We're working with local and state agencies for services for those employees," she said.

Kmart is scheduled for a final hearing on its store-closing plan before the bankruptcy court for the Northern District of Illinois March 20, Fracker said.

the company expects a decision that day, and officials anticipate the court will accept the plan. Fracker said stores will remain open between 60 and 90 days after the court ruling.

Wheeling Economic Development Director William Whitmer said he was not surprised to hear the published by Crain's Chicago Business had the store on a closing list a while ago.

"We've tried to pre-think the situation," he said.

"I've been talking with the store owner and looking for new tenants for the building."

Whitmer said he is not sure if the space will be filled by one or multiple tenants. Both are an option for the site.

"We're definitely looking for one large retailer," Whitmer said. "But we have to be realistic, too, because of the market. The potential for change at the site is real, and we're hoping to find someone. Whether it's one use or multiple uses, we're not sure. Redevelopment is part of the game plan."

Kmart corporate headquarters in Troy, Mich., reports the closing will increase the company's cash flow by \$50 million this year, and \$45 million annually after that. Closing the stores is an "integral part of the company's reorganization effort."

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes will be the latest high-ranking village official to leave his post. Rhodes and the Village Board agreed to a retirement deal in which Rhodes will take his leave at the end of June. The deal was finalized at Monday's board meeting.

Village President Greg Klatecki said Rhodes approached the board with his desire to retire. Klatecki said Rhodes will receive the standard annuity from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund when he retires.

Friday will mark Rhodes' 20th anniversary as village attorney. Telephone calls to Rhodes were not returned Tuesday.

Rhodes follows many other high-ranking village officials who have left in the past year. Since last June, the village has lost its finance director, public works director, community development director and village manager. Only one of those positions, finance director, has been filled with a permanent replacement. The village also is looking for a new manager for the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Towns get Palwaukee noise study

By Cass Clatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-21-02
After two years of waiting and spending and committee meetings, Palwaukee Municipal Airport is finally ready to send recommendations from its noise study to Wheeling and Prospect Heights for approval.

On Wednesday, the consultants that helped conduct Palwaukee's Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study presented a list of alternatives to reduce airport noise before a crowd of residents and town leaders from Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

The towns, which share ownership of the airport, have to decide whether to approve the recommendations for reducing noise surrounding the airport before sending the recommendations to the federal government for review.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights spent \$400,000 on the noise study, hoping the Federal Aviation Administration will find Palwaukee eligible for \$5 million a year for noise abatement efforts.

The study includes detailed suggestions for banning certain types of jet aircraft from flying at night, sound-proofing some homes and providing money to residents unable to sell their homes close to the airport at market prices. It also outlines options for installing noise monitoring equipment and designing flight paths to minimize noise.

Most Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen seemed to support the recommendations, but they questioned whether their towns would ever see the programs in action.

"I and (Prospect Heights) Mayor (Edward P.) Rotchford have been listening and waiting on noise studies for the past 10 years, and money is always the overwhelming factor," Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "I wonder if we're going to be around after the next 10 years go by."

Abruscato and Rotchford recalled 1988, the last time Palwaukee conducted a noise study. That did not result in federal support. Study consultant Ryk Dunkelberg explained that the FAA has made airline safety a priority since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and Palwaukee might have to wait a year before learning if the FAA accepts the airport's noise reduction plan.

Dunkelberg and representatives for TAMS Consultants of Chicago presented the results of the noise study during the special meeting of the Palwaukee Airport Commission.

Two Prospect Heights aldermen criticized the study process.

First Ward Alderman Timothy Hattendorf said the commission should establish a routine review process to see what progress has been made on noise reduction. Fourth Ward Alderman Gerald T. Anderson offered his own recommendations for noise reduction and berated airport managers, accusing them of inaction.

Officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights are expected to vote on whether to approve the study at their meetings in coming weeks.

Developments have to wait

COUNTRYSIDE
By Casey Moffitt
STAFF WRITER

3-21-02

Two developers looking to build on different sites off North Milwaukee Avenue will have to wait for the comprehensive plan to be overhauled if they want to continue with their projects.

The Wheeling Village Board

said it would rather wait for the plan to be finished before allowing any more development to progress on North Milwaukee Avenue. The area is being considered for a new tax increment financing district, and the board also wants to hear from its hired planners as to what might be the best development for the area.

Both developers, Paul

Swanson of Paul Swanson and Associates, Inc., and John Green, an architect working with Tantillo Homes, pitched separate residential developments to the board at its March 4 meeting.

Swanson proposed to build 180 condominiums on the former Johnson property, located
(Continued on page 10)

Milwaukee

Continued from page 9

on the southwest corner of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue, directly behind the Ram Restaurant. The site is 48 acres, but because of the presence of floodplains and wetlands, only 5.8 acres can be used for development.

Swanson hopes to build three, eight-story buildings, with one floor of below-ground parking. Swanson said he would be willing to donate any unused land to the village and the Wheeling Park District.

Green proposed a 215-unit development that includes town homes and condominiums on a 9.6-acre site at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road. The site would abut the Wedgewood Riding Center Farm from the south. Green said Tantillo Homes owns the vacant lot just south of the farm and is in negotiations to purchase the Wonder Bread outlet and AAA Auto Sales for the development.

Although trustees said they were intrigued by the two developments, they would rather wait for the comprehensive plan to be completed before approving any projects for the area. Officials expect the plan to be ready sometime next year.

"It looks nice," Trustee Judy Abruscato said of the Tantillo proposal, "but in not having the comprehensive plan yet, I think we should wait and see what the plan would indicate for the area. We've waited this long. Waiting another few months wouldn't upset this plan."

Trustee Dean Argiris said he always welcomes development in the village, but he also wanted to wait.

"With all the stuff we've got going on, we've got a lot on our plate," Argiris said. "We need to finish up some of that first."

Both developers requested TIF dollars for improvements on the sites. Tantillo Homes requested \$4.7 million. Swanson did not request a specific figure. Trustees had concerns about the requests, especially since the TIF district has not even been established yet.

Trustee Patrick Horcher was the only board member ready to let both developers proceed with their projects.

"I like the concept, and I have no problem with the use," he said of the Tantillo proposal. "I don't think one acre of the site will be affected by the comprehensive plan."

Search for another firm

COUNTRYSIDE
3-21-02
Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki refuses to sign a letter of engagement approved by the Village

Board that paves the way for an outside law firm to work for the village when Village Attorney James Rhodes needs help outside his expertise or is too busy.

But not just any firm — a firm that has ties with the village-owned Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

While the idea of using an outside firm on an as-needed basis has merit, we support Klatecki's position that bringing in Holland and Knight LLP could pose a conflict of interest. The firm represents North American Jet, a business operating at the airport that has to deal with the village on such matters as lease agreements and building permits.

It would be improper for a law firm to represent the village when that same firm represents a business operating at a village-owned facility.

Another disturbing aspect of the issue is Trustee Trevor Lehmann's relationship with the firm. Lehmann recommended the village sign up Holland and Knight, the same firm that represented Lehmann in his village Ethics Board hearing in August 2000. The firm defended Lehmann during the hearing against charges of impropriety leveled by former trustee Bill Spangenberg. The Ethics Board cleared Lehmann of any wrongdoing.

Selecting Holland and Knight, in light of its relationship with a trustee, creates the appearance of favoritism. This is another reason why Klatecki should stand his ground.

So where does the board go from here? Klatecki refuses to sign the letter. And Lehmann and other trustees are committed to hiring a law firm.

The answer is obvious.

Scrap the idea of hiring Holland and Knight, and seek proposals from other firms through a formal process that would assure fairness in selection and avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

It would be improper for a law firm to represent the village when that same firm represents a business operating at a village-owned facility.

Specialty liquor store put

3-21-08

BY GASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The would-be owners of a Russian liquor store proposed for Hintz Road tried a different approach this month to get Wheeling officials to approve their plans. They were stymied again. The owners of The Russian Kitchen

Restaurant appeared before the plan commission to explain how their specialty liquor store would fill a niche in the Eastern European community surrounding the Garden Fresh Plaza shopping center. They explained how offering kosher wines, kosher vodka and specialty liqueurs would give immigrants a familiar place to buy goods that are part of their culture.

Last month, Wheeling decided against issuing license for the proposed store. Former Monkey Business ta W. Hintz Road, after lister abbreviated version of the Potential owners Albert A and Alexander Mavlyanov gain the plan commission before making another visi

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Trustees eye new taxes

Courtesy

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

3-28-08

The Wheeling Village Board is debating new taxes and possible delays in capital improvement projects that are included in next year's budget.

The board is considering implementing four new taxes next year. Trustees will not vote on the tax increases until village staff members draft the necessary documents. While they have yet to formally approve the new fees, discussions held last week indicate that the majority of the board favors them.

Trustees are unanimous in their desire to pass a 5 percent hotel/motel tax, which could add between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to village coffers. They also are in agreement to increase water activation fees, which the village levies when water is returned to a residence after being cut off for failing to pay water bills. The fee will increase from \$25 to \$50 when water is returned between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., and from \$50 to \$100 when water is turned on any other time.

Discussions on charging ambulance fees and a utility use tax were more contentious.

The board came to a consensus to begin am-

balance fees based on a National Fee Schedule developed by the Health Care Financing Administration. Those costs are covered by Medicare and most health insurance plans, and the board agreed in principle to start charging fees based on the HCFA schedule. If an insurance plan will not cover the entire ambulance fee, the village will accept what the plan covers and not collect the remainder.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she was against the ambulance fee and called it "a sad thing" to charge people for ambulance service.

Trustees also agreed to implement a 5 percent use tax on electric bills. The new tax would add about \$4.40 a month to the average resident's electric bill and generate an additional \$1.4 million a year for the village.

"This is a no-brainer," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "We tell the utilities what we want, and they send us the checks."

Abruscato said she worried what effect the new tax would have on businesses. She said businesses already pay a higher property tax and use the most electricity.

"It's going to make business unhappy and put small businesses out," Abruscato said. "Then we'll have a problem."

(Continued on page 8)

Wheeling further limits home day-care provider

BY GASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Concerns over quality of life in Wheeling's neighborhoods prompted village trustees Monday night to further limit home day-care centers.

A contingent of day-care advocates from throughout the Chicago area appeared before the village board to try to persuade officials to allow a Wheeling mother to care for up to 12 children in her home.

However, trustees unanimously voted to limit Lynda Claver to caring for eight children, including her own, at her home at 705 Greenview Lane.

"If you go out in the summer and you have 12 kids running around in the yard outside next to yours, it affects your enjoyment," Village President Greg Klatcheck said.

Officials also disapproved of the

number of adult day-care assistants that would have been required, saying Claver's home would be too much like a business operating in a residential area.

Trustees said the village is not taking a step backward in its treatment of home day-cares — as day-care advocates suggested before the meeting — because Wheeling's laws allow trustees to adjust the number of kids according to what's appropriate.

What made Claver's case the subject of intense debate was that she helped establish Wheeling's home day-care ordinance with a 1998 request to operate a center.

After numerous hearings, the village decided to follow Department of Children and Family Services standards and allow Claver to care for up to 12 children.

Claver had to appear before the vil-

lage again Monday night because she moved. Trustees also took issue with the fact that she reapplied for a permit after being caught operating a day care in her new home.

Trustees toyed with the idea of fine-tuning the day-care ordinance later and allowing Claver to care for up to 12 kids during school holidays. They ultimately decided against it.

A Chicago attorney, a representative of the Children's Home and Aid Society/Child Care Resource and Referral, and Iris Kaitschuck of the Illinois Association of Family Child Care didn't sway trustees by saying that changing demographics have created a need for qualified day-care providers.

"My concern is that additional restrictions will drive people underground," Kaitschuck said of the potential for more unlicensed home day-cares.

Trustee Michael Horcher said the tax would add about \$20 a month to his electric bill for his floral business, which he said he could afford.

Trustee Robert Heer and Village President Greg Klatcheck do not support the utility tax, saying it would hit retired people and low-income families the hardest.

"All we're doing is taxing, taxing, taxing," Heer said. "It rubs me the wrong way. When this is implemented, I'm telling you, they're going to tar and feather you."

The village has an aggressive capital improvements plan, which is helping to drive expenses up. Trustee Patrick Horcher said the reason the village needs such an aggressive plan is from "negligent government" in the past. The village now has to pay for new water mains, new roofs on municipal buildings and sewer improvements.

The board also is hoping to build a new public works facility on Hintz Road, add onto the Pavilion Senior Center and renovate Village Hall. Building a new public works facility is estimated to cost \$6.6 million. Other projects on the list include tearing down the pedestrian bridge between London Middle School and Field Elementary School on Dundee Road, and installing fences along Dundee Road.

"We have an aggressive

board now," Argiris said. "We've brought all these plans to the table. But guess what? It all costs money."

Building a new public works facility is not included in next year's budget. However, \$750,000 to draw plans and design the public works building, the Pavilion addition and Village Hall renovations are. Trustee Trevor Lehmann questioned whether that was a necessary expense, especially considering the village would have to borrow the \$6.6 million in construction costs.

"I'm not in favor of adding \$6 million to our \$17 million in outstanding bonds," he said. "We should try to reduce our debt. I don't want to go \$23 million or \$24 million in debt."

Heer said he wanted to see the new facility go forward. Village employees are already working in cramped offices, and the village is currently renting space for the economic development, community development and finance departments at the Wicke's Furniture building. It is also a project the board has been considering for years, he said.

"Things will only get more expensive in the future," he said. "And I know I would not want to work in that environment."

The board did not make any decisions on which capital improvements to cut.

Specialty liquor store put off by plan commission again

BY CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The would-be owners of a Russian liquor store proposed for Hintz Road tried a different approach this month to get Wheeling officials to approve their plans. They were stymied again. The owners of The Russian Kitchen

Restaurant appeared before the plan commission to explain how their specialty liquor store would fill a niche in the Eastern European community surrounding the Garden Fresh Plaza shopping center. They explained how offering kosher wines, kosher vodka and specialty liqueurs would give immigrants a familiar place to buy goods that are part of their culture.

Last month, Wheeling trustees decided against issuing a liquor license for the proposed store at the former Monkey Business tavern, 1750 W. Hintz Road, after listening to an abbreviated version of the request.

Potential owners Albert Aushlarnov and Alexander Mavlyanov hoped to gain the plan commission's approval before making another visit to the vil-

lage board.

Yet, plan commissioners asked for detailed architectural plans of the shopping center, despite declarations from attorney Dimitrios G. Christopoulos that it would pose a financial hardship for his clients.

The village's planner told commissioners Wheeling already has a site plan on file for the shopping center,

and the restaurateurs technically weren't required to submit new ones.

But commissioners said the old plans don't meet today's standards.

"You want a plan of the shopping center outside ... my clients have nothing to do with the outside," Christopoulos said. "I don't know what I can do to convince this commission under these conditions."

Before requiring the architectural plans, commissioners wanted to require landscaping at the shopping center. The village planner told them they could not require landscaping, unless they felt the packaged liquor store could not operate in a desired manner without it. The store request was continued until commissioners could see new site drawings.

Trustees eye new taxes

CountrySide

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-28-02

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Further limits on day-care provider

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New faces in the firehouse

Countyside 3-28-02

Hello! I got that "ready-for-April Fool's" feeling as I have been "Wheeling Around Town." Here's what's happening!

The Wheeling Fire Department is fortunate to have added three firefighter/paramedics to staff a new ambulance. This is the first phase of a three-year expansion. Once the expansion is complete, it will raise the total emergency personnel in the department to 51 from 42.

"Recent growth in the community and an increase in medical emergency calls has caused paramedics from other departments to fill the gap when our existing ambulances were occupied," said Fire Chief **Keith MacIsaac**. "Additionally, future developments will be of greater density, and we need to be prepared."

I would like you to meet the newest firefighter/paramedics.

John Bielik, 30, of Arlington Heights, has been a certified firefighter in Prospect Heights for the past 10 years. **Brett Oftedah**, also 30, previously had been a certified firefighter/paramedic in Tinley Park. **Matt Pierce**, 27, is from Chicago, and he served with the U.S. Navy before accepting his new position in Wheeling.

The remaining three personnel will be hired starting in May, when Wheeling's new fiscal year begins. The final three will be added later.

This marks the first expansion of the department in 10 years, according to MacIsaac. In addition to the ambulance, personnel also will help staff the department's ladder truck.

Welcome to the village of Wheeling, gentlemen!

Stuff of legend?

When one thinks of what can go on at your typical college campus and on the ever-popular Spring Breaks, college binge drinking may

come to mind. Is this more myth than reality?

Armed with a survey of 33 colleges and universities, a team of professionals and students from Eastern Illinois University took that message to the senior class at Wheeling High School March 19. In a first-of-its-kind program in an Illinois high school, Safe Communities members from the Wheeling Police and Fire Departments arranged for a team of six EIU students to present the findings of a study known as the Illinois Core Baseline 2000, which indicated that stories of heavy drinking on campus are greatly exaggerated.

The study led to the development of an EIU program called SONOR (for "social Norms"), in which students provide entertainment and recreational activities as alternatives to risky behaviors. Members of the SONOR program also discuss campus social norms, pointing out that incoming freshmen shouldn't base their actions on misleading media portrayals.

"Many high school seniors will move on to college campuses next year with a misperception about how college students really act," said Wheeling Safe Communities Coordinator **Tom Pilewski**. "These incoming college freshmen often get into trouble trying to live up to false expectations."

Pilewski singled out annual media depictions of college students partying during Spring Break.

"The reality is that 90 percent of all students work during Spring Break to help pay for their education," he said, "but that isn't the picture most people see."

In fact, Pilewski said, 35 percent of those responding to the survey said they either did not drink or had fewer than six drinks a year. Another 42.7 percent reported moderate use, meaning no more than once a week. Averaged across

(Continued on page 70)

03/28/02 Countyside

Trustees less keen on Wolf Road plan

Village officials are rethinking their desire to take control of Wolf Road now that it is clear the Illinois Department of Transportation will only resurface the road when it is widened in 2004.

Officials originally thought IDOT would rebuild the road before turning over its permanent ownership and maintenance to the village.

IDOT's plans include widening Wolf Road and adding a left-turn lane in the center of the road between Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue. IDOT wants to turn the road over to the village once the project is finished.

Resurfacing, rather than rebuilding the road, has village officials wondering if taking ownership would be prudent. The village would be responsible for all maintenance of the road if its jurisdiction becomes local.

"The road is old, and we don't know what's under there," said Anthony Stavros, engineer assistant with the Wheeling Public Works Department. "Fifteen or 20 years down the road, we don't want to be looking at a reconstruct."

Stavros said other roads turned over by the state or the Cook County Highway Department have typically been rebuilt beforehand. He said that is why the village assumed IDOT would rebuild Wolf Road in 2004.

Guy Kolberg, acting public works director, said the department plans to take core borings from the road in the next few weeks to get a better understanding of the soil and pavement conditions underneath the surface. Once that is done, he said the department will have a better idea of whether the village wants to take over the road without it being rebuilt.

"We'll have more information after that to assess and review," he said.

IDOT is willing to reconstruct Wolf Road at the village's expense, said area programmer Brian Carlson.

"We've discussed it with the village," he said. "Reconstruction would be an increase in the scope of the project. It would be an additional cost to the village."

Carlson said the jurisdictional transfer agreement between IDOT and the village states the resurfacing and widening project will be funded by IDOT. If Wheeling wants it to be rebuilt, the village would pay the difference between resurfacing and reconstructing the road. The village would also be responsible for additional engineering costs. Costs for rebuilding are not yet known.

"We're trying to give the village an idea of that cost," Carlson said.

Carlson also said changing the scope of the project could delay the scheduled 2004 starting date.

Casey Moffitt

Operation Safe Sidewalk begins

Wheeling police will be looking for parked vehicles that impede pedestrian travel as part of Operation Safe Sidewalk.

Police officers this week will begin enforcing local laws prohibiting vehicles from blocking sidewalks. The enforcement effort will last through the summer.

Police will be ticketing vehicles blocking sidewalks between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day. Tickets for the violation carry a fine of between \$20 and \$35. Officers also will be ticketing commercial vehicles parked in residential areas, as well as recreational vehicles parked on residential property.

Village ordinances prohibit parking class A or B commercial vehicles in residential areas. Recreational vehicles more than 8 feet wide, 22 feet long or 10 feet high may only be stored in a garage in residential neighborhoods. Smaller recreational vehicles may be stored in the side or back yard.

Police Chief John Popadowski said Operation Safe Sidewalk is designed to provide safe and clear sidewalk access to pedestrians as warm weather approaches. The program is funded through the Wheeling Safe Communities Program, with a grant from the Illinois Department of Safety, Division of Traffic Safety.

■ SURVEY (Continued from page 2)

the students who responded, the survey shows that students in the study consume less than four drinks per week.

More than 8,000 Illinois college students participated in the survey by anonymously completing a lengthy questionnaire about many facts of their campus lives, including alcohol use.

The survey found that binge drinking is the exception, not the norm, on campus. (Binge drinking is defined as four drinks at one sitting for women and five or

more drinks for men.)

More than 1.4 million students nationwide have participated in the Illinois Core Baseline 2000 survey since it began with similar results from around the country. The Wheeling Safe Communities Program is funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

Two men hold up currency exchange in Wheeling

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two men left a woman tied up inside a Wheeling currency exchange Wednesday after robbing the business at gunpoint, police said Thursday.

Investigators released a description of one of the two men as police sought leads to help find the men who accosted an employee of the Dundee & Milwaukee Currency Exchange at 267 E. Dundee Road. The men confronted the employee



Suspect sketch

around 6 p.m. Wednesday in the back parking lot of the exchange after she had closed the business and was walking to her car. One man wore dark clothes and a knit cap. The men used a gun to force the woman back into the currency exchange, where they demanded she open the safe. They tied the woman's hands and feet and

left her in the business' bathroom while they robbed the safe of an undisclosed amount of cash.

Police learned of the robbery at about 6:25 p.m., Cmdr. Jim Kuzynowski said.

"She was able actually to get the alarm," he said of the store employee.

Police arrived and found the front door of the currency exchange slightly ajar. They discovered the woman in the office area of the currency exchange with her hands tied behind her back and her feet bound together.

Officers wouldn't say whether the woman was injured, but she didn't have to be taken to the hospital, police said.

Investigators suspect that the robbers ran from the area, though officials didn't know whether the suspects drove to the exchange.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Wheeling police department at (847) 459-2632.

"If someone wants to call in with a lead, any information, we're always open," Kuzynowski said.

Palwaukee noise study is ready for Washington

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a thumbs-up this week from Prospect Heights aldermen, a noise study conducted by Palwaukee Municipal Airport is ready for a trip to Washington, D.C. Elected officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights approved a list of recommendations for reducing noise outlined in the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study the airport began two years ago.

The recommendations included detailed plans for prohibiting some jets from flying at night, sound proofing homes and schools buffered by the most noise, and installing noise-monitoring equipment as part of a fly-quiet program.

The study also recommends flight path designs to minimize noise and offering money to residents unable to sell homes close to the airport at market prices.

The Palwaukee Airport Commission, and then Wheeling and Prospect Heights — which share ownership of the airport — had to approve the noise abatement recommendations as part of a three-step local approval process.

The Part 150 Noise Study goes to the Federal Aviation Administration for review.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights authorized Palwaukee to spend \$400,000 on the noise study, hoping the federal government will find the airport eligible for \$5 million a year for noise abatement.

Elected officials from both towns had a chance to question consultant about the study late last month, but Prospect Heights' 4th Ward Alderman Gerald T. Anderson still complained that Palwaukee could have arrived at 60 percent of the recommendations without spending any money.

"Now we're finding out that the federal government doesn't have the money for this," Anderson said.

Consultants told officials it could be a year before Palwaukee knew whether the FAA will accept any of the study recommendations.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward J. Rotchford pointed out the city council approved the spending for the study.

NEWS BRIEFS

Board limits home day care

The Wheeling Village Board granted a special-use permit for a home day-care business at 705 Greenview Lane, but they also imposed some restrictions on the operation. Lynda Claver, the day-care owner, held a license at her former Wheeling home that allowed her to care for up to 12 children. When she applied for a new permit after moving to a new home, trustees limited her to only eight children, saying 12 children was too many. They expressed concerns about the traffic generated and noise created by the children when they play outdoors.

The Plan Commission, which heard Claver's proposal before the Village Board took formal action, also recommended that only eight children be allowed. Village Board members said they believed eight was a fair number of children to care for at once. Claver said she typically cares for five or six children at a time, but she wanted permission to care for more, as she typically has more business during summer months and school vacations.

IDOT to host Dundee Road meeting

Illinois Department of Transportation representatives will hold a public meeting at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 West Dundee Road, about this summer's Dundee Road construction project. IDOT staff will present the plans and answer questions from the public about the project, which will stretch all the way across Wheeling, into Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights. The meeting will be held from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. April 12. Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights village staff members also will be at the meeting, as will representatives from local chambers of commerce. All business owners and residents in the Dundee Road corridor are encouraged to attend. The meeting was set up by State Rep. Sid Mathias of Buffalo Grove. Those with questions about the meeting can call Mathias' district office at (847) 222-0061.

Donations help to make Fourth a sparkling event

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Independence Day is still three months away, but Wheeling officials already are brimming with pride over the extravaganza planned this year.

The high-flying acrobatics of the Jesse White Tumblers, a \$30,000 fireworks display scheduled to light up the sky at dusk, and several new kids' activities are among the expanded offerings for July Fourth.

The theme this year is 2002 Celebrate: Hands Across Wheeling. Members of the village's Special Events Committee say they have been working hard since last July planning the big day.

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato announced last week various groups and individuals have promised \$10,675 in donations so far.

"And I want to remind everybody that our spaghetti dinner will be

Sunday to benefit the Fourth of July," Abruscato said. "People can get delicious Wa-Pa-Ghetti's pizza and meatballs and it's all you can eat, and it's helping the village have a great Fourth of July."

The special events committee will add the proceeds from the pasta fund-raiser to the proceeds from a Knights of Columbus Regina Council pancake breakfast to help pay for the bands, fireworks and guest appearances on Independence Day. Trustee Robert Heer said the

totals for the money raised during the pancake breakfast were not available. What village leaders do have in hand, however, is a commitment from the Knights of Columbus to strap on their aprons again to provide Polish and Italian sausages for the July Fourth menu.

Sauer's Bakery will add something new to the food vendor list this year, offering funnel cakes. Children's activities include a 26-foot slide, a moonwalk, a caterpillar ride and a Dino the dinosaur ride.

The Jesse White Tumblers will appear during the parade, along with Mrs. Illinois 2001 Melissa Kolssak, Larry Bember's Big Band Orchestra and other musical acts. The parade will march along Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway.

To help pay for it all, the spaghetti dinner is 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Am Vets Hall, 700 Old McHenry Road Wheeling. The cost is \$7 per person, with children 5 and younger free.

Discussion centers around home day-care providers Herald-4-1-02

The day-care advocates who visited Wheeling last week didn't get what they wanted, but they say they didn't leave empty handed. Lynda Waycie, outreach coordinator for Children's Home and Aid Society/Child Care Resource and Referral, of Arlington Heights, said she had a valuable discussion with Wheeling's fire chief and director of economic development after the meeting.



Cass Cliatt/Herald

The discussions gave Waycie background into the village's concerns about safety and neighborhood character related to home day-care centers, Waycie said. She and other advocates hoped to persuade trustees to allow Wheeling mother Lynda Claver to care for 12 children at her home day-care center, but trustees limited Claver to eight.

Still, Waycie's conversations with Wheeling officials gave her hope that someday the process for applying to run home day-care in Wheeling can be amended.

"After the meeting, I spoke to Mr. Ozanich, who suggested that we get together with a few others and talk," Waycie said of the village's acting economic development director.

"I explained to him that the hearing process was intimidating and difficult and asked if we could talk about it. I will call him at the end of April to set up a meeting."

Never too early 4/13/02

Hey, it is time to start thinking about your participation in the July Fourth festivities in Wheeling.

Entertainment, games, food vendors, parade participants and sponsors are signing up to make this an event to remember. Many of the familiar and favorite restaurants from last year will be returning, with the addition of Polish and Italian sausage from the Knights of Columbus and funnel cakes from Sauer's Bakery. My mouth is watering just thinking about it.

You are welcome to become a festivity, float or band sponsor also. Businesses and individuals are invited to share in the support for our community July Fourth celebration. Contact Trustee **Judy Abruscato** at (847) 459-2666 ext. 4107 for more information on the sponsorship opportunity.

To all those groups, teams and organizations out there who like to show off your patriotic spirit on the Fourth of July, you are invited to contact **Randy Kloeke** at (847) 537-0574 to get signed up for parade participation. The parade organizers would like to know how many participants to expect for the assembly of floats, bikes, vehicles and marchers. So give a call ASAP to get the best position available.

Airport noise relief carries hefty price tag

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission discovered it will take a lot of money and time to ease airplane noise that continues to bother residents.

Commissioners heard a list of a dozen recommendations from TAMS Consultants' final report of the Federal Aviation Administration Part 150 Noise Study. Some are more easily implemented than others, the consultants said, but the most effective measures will be expensive.

The recommendations include soundproofing homes, banning certain jets from using the airport at night and implementing voluntary fly-quiet programs.

One recommendation was to ban older, stage 2 jets from using the airport at night. Ryk Dunkleberg, a consultant working on the study, said trying to ban stage 2 jets would require another FAA study at a cost between \$500,000 to \$2 million. The airport would have to pay for the study.

Dunkleberg also said getting the FAA to approve the study, known as a Part 161, is a long shot. In the 12 years the

FAA has required the study when talk of aircraft bans surface, it has yet to approve a single one.

"I would rather see you all spend your limited resources for people affected now," Dunkleberg told the commission, "and that would be attenuation."

Attenuation, or soundproofing, would include replacing windows, doors and insulation in homes that are subject to excessive noise levels. Dunkleberg said about 700 single-family homes and 3,300 multifamily units are affected in Wheeling and Prospect Heights. Dunkleberg estimated it would cost about \$100 million to soundproof all those homes.

Although 90 percent of that cost is eligible for FAA funding, the agency will only grant \$5 million a year for soundproofing. Funding also would be dependent on how much money the agency has available for such projects.

TAMS also recommends soundproofing Frost Elementary School and Holmes Middle School at a cost of about \$6 million, a portion of which would be covered by federal funds.

Airport commissioners said the costs for some of the recommendations were "unbelievable," but could still be accomplished.

"Those would be some staggering numbers," Commissioner Anthony Altieri said. "I don't know how quickly it will all get done."

Commissioner Trevor Lehmann said he was surprised by the high costs, but he believes the most important measures can be done.

(Continued on page 9)

Efforts to find a new Palwaukee Municipal Airport manager are at a standstill as Prospect Heights officials continue their search for someone to sit on the Airport Commission.

According to the intergovernmental agreement between Wheeling and Prospect Heights, each municipality is to send two representatives plus an administrator to join two members of the Airport Commission to form an ad hoc committee to recommend a new man-

ager. That recommendation will go to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and be approved by the governing bodies of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport.

The Wheeling Village Board appointed its two representatives, President Greg Klatchek and Wayne Wisniski, to the ad hoc committee about two months ago. Prospect Heights has yet to name its two representatives.

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford said he wants to fill an open position on the Airport Commission

before appointing members to the ad hoc manager committee. Prospect Heights is missing one representative on the Airport Commission.

Rotchford said he wants to work out with Klatchek whether it would be appropriate to appoint an elected official or a resident to the Airport Commission before seeking a nominee's approval.

"I'm not going to appoint a civilian to the Airport Commission only to find out they are going to be turned away in a few weeks," Rotchford said. "I have a meeting with President Kl-

atchek scheduled (April 11) about this."

Rotchford said he has nominees in mind to appoint to the Airport Commission. Once that person is in place, representatives to the ad hoc manager committee should be forthcoming.

However, Wheeling officials are getting antsy to find a new airport manager. Trevor Lehmann, who sits on the Wheeling Village Board and the Palwaukee Airport Commission, said he wants to get the process moving.

"We're further on our village manager search, and that happened three

(Continued on page 10)

Board wants action in airport manager search

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

PIONEER PRESS 4/11/02

Continued from page 5 4/4/02
Pioneer Press

"We'll have to use money wisely," he said. "We'll have to prioritize projects three months, six months, 12 months down the road. We should start to put away money now and be ready."

Prospect Heights Mayor Edward Rotchford said he thought the figures were "pretty standard" based on the results from the last Part 150 study done for the airport in 1988.

Not all the recommendations will come with a heavy price tag, however. The consultants recommended the airport devise a fly-quiet program, giving pilots advice on how to reduce noise during takeoffs and landings. The only costs for those plans would be in printing educational materials for pilots and staff of fixed-based operations on the airport.

Part of the fly-quiet program could include having southbound takeoffs over Cook County Forest Preserve land when possible. Dennis Rouleau, acting airport manager, said such flight paths are possible about 10 percent of the time, depending on O'Hare International Airport's air traffic.

Now that the the Wheeling Village Board and the Prospect Heights City Council have approved of the recommendations, they must still be accepted by the FAA. It could take about a year for the FAA to act on the report.

Rotchford is not "100 percent satisfied" with the consultant's report. He said the last study was more complete with its information and more up front with issues the city would have to face with some of the recommendations, especially with soundproofing buildings.

"In the old study, they recommended some of the buildings they want to soundproof be bought out," he said. "There was no mention of that in this report."

Rotchford said some of the apartment buildings TAMS recommended for soundproofing are not able to be insulated effectively because they were cheaply built and the sound could get through the walls even with new doors, windows and insulation.

Rotchford said he planned to meet with the consultants and FAA representatives himself to clear up some of the discrepancies between the two studies.

Board Continued from page 5 PIONEER PRESS 4/11/02

months after we got rid of (former airport manager) Fred Stewart," he said. "I don't understand what they're doing over there. It's imperative we get someone."

Lehmann said Wheeling has sent letters to the Prospect Heights City Council and Rotchford concerning the ad hoc committee, but officials have yet to receive a response.

The ad hoc committee will most likely choose a search firm to help find a manager. Lehmann said an airport manager is a specialized profession, and he would prefer to undertake a nationwide search. After the firm is chosen, the ad hoc committee would screen applicants, in-

terview candidates and make its recommendation.

Stewart was put on paid administrative leave last December until his official retirement Feb. 1. Dennis Rouleau, the assistant airport manager, has been named acting manager.

Lehmann said the airport has some capital improvement programs scheduled this year, including widening and resurfacing the main runway, and other issues that need to be dealt with.

"We have one person doing two jobs over there now," he said. "We should either elevate (Rouleau) or find someone else. Why not get together and get this going?"



Don't forget!

Daylight savings time begins this weekend. Clocks should be moved forward one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday morning/Saturday night.

Pioneer Press / rhr

Progress on manager: Even though the Wheeling village board didn't hold its regular meeting last Monday, board members did get together Tuesday as the first step on the path to finding a new village manager.

The board met with a representative of the Lake Bluff firm The PAR Group in a closed meeting so consultants could learn what types of qualifications Wheeling wants from the person who will hold the village's top administrative job.

* Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Claitt at (847) 427-4486, or e-mail cclaitt@dailyherald.com.

HERALD 4/18/02

Wheeling DUI arrests up, some notables down

PIONEER PRESS 4/4/02
By PATRICK CORCORAN
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Police Department made 204 DUI arrests in 2001, a 22.3 percent increase from the previous year.

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes attributes the increase to the department's Safe Communities Grant programs, one of which puts more officers on the road to find drunk drivers.

"Mainly, we put them out on particular weekends," he said. "We bring back officers on overtime, and (finding drunk drivers) is their specific job."

Safe Communities Grants are funded with federal tax dollars and are distributed by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety. Hermes said the department has been receiving the grant money for four years now.

"The focus (for the grant money) has been put on DUIs for the past year," Hermes said.

The Buffalo Grove Police Department continues to arrest more drunken drivers than most other municipalities in the state, but the village lost the number-one ranking it has held for the past three years.

Buffalo Grove police made 504 DUI arrests last year, 39 percent fewer than they did in 2000, and a far cry from the 911 DUIs the department booked in 1999. The village ranked seventh in 2001 among Illinois police departments that responded to an annual survey by

the Illinois Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists. Waukegan led the survey with 942 DUI arrests after finishing second to Buffalo Grove in 2000.

Despite the decline in arrests, keeping impaired drivers off the roads continues to be a "very high priority, because we are very confident it saves lives," said Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann.

McCann believes the drop in DUI numbers may actually be a tribute to the village's vigilant efforts over the past several years.

"Our reputation is a factor. People know we are out there," McCann said. "It has been such a big news item, people are being more careful. Perhaps there are some people who are avoiding Buffalo Grove."

Staffing changes also played a role in there being fewer DUI arrests village-wide and fewer arrests per officer. At times last year, the department was short as many as seven patrol officers due to people leaving the department, injuries and retirements. Once hired, it takes six to eight months to fully train an officer, McCann said. Currently, only the position of social worker remains open.

In 2000, the department had an average of 10.9 DUI arrests per officer. Last year, that average fell to 6.7 DUI arrests.

(Continued on page 10)

DUI arrests Continued from page 7

A scheduling change also took one established DUI enforcer off the night shift when most DUI arrests occur. Officer Chris Sehes, who had 117 DUI arrests in 2000, was taken off the midnight shift and put on days.

"That certainly was a factor," McCann said.

The department no longer has someone specifically concentrating on traffic enforcement during the night shift.

Only two police departments in the top 10 for 2000 did not remain in the upper echelon of the current survey. Rock Island and Lake Zurich fell out of the top 10 and were replaced by Hoffman Estates and Grayslake.

DUI arrests in Grayslake increased nearly 26 percent, to 527 in 2001, and Hoffman Estates officers logged 467 arrests, almost 17 percent more than the previous year. Charlene Chapman, AAIM's executive director, calls those numbers significant.

"That is a very good increase. That's the kind of increase we are looking for, especially since some of our best town's numbers are down," Chapman said.

Chapman and her organization have put out the annual report charting DUI arrests in Illinois for the last 11 years. The most recent report was released last week.

PIONEER PRESS 4/4/02

Old copier temporarily lands airport in hot water

HERALD - 4/10/02

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An old photo copier was the center of a conflict last week that a Palwaukee airport official feared could damage relations between Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Some aldermen in Prospect Heights questioned why Palwaukee Municipal Airport decided to donate a surplus Xerox copier to Wheeling's fire department. Prospect Heights and Wheeling share ownership of Palwaukee, so airport officials had to get permission from both towns to dispose of the copier.

Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said he chose to give the copier to Wheeling because Prospect Heights received a donated van from Palwaukee about seven years ago.

Wheeling trustees last month approved the transfer of the copier to the village's fire department without discussion. The vote didn't go as smoothly in Prospect Heights. "Everything that comes up should be known to both towns and it should be for open bid," Fourth Ward Alderman Gerald T. Anderson said.

Second Ward Alderman James Cagney asked why Prospect Heights city hall didn't keep the copier, considering that city staff members have long complained of problems with Prospect Heights' aging copying machine. Rouleau pointed out that the copier the airport is giving away is just as old as Prospect Heights' copier. It has no value for the airport because Wheeling and Prospect Heights already approved a new one for Palwaukee.

"If you vote against this, do you think you would be improving your relationship with Wheeling?" Rouleau asked Anderson. "The copier does not have a value to us. What I was trying to do was create goodwill."

Wheeling didn't get a chance to bid on the airport's old van and bucket still being used by Prospect Heights, Rouleau said. "This time, I thought it was only fair to go to the village of Wheeling to offer this copier to them," he said.

Aldermen Anderson and Cagney ultimately voted in favor of the transfer of the copier, along with the rest of the Prospect Heights City Council.

Wheeling fast-food restaurant evacuated after blast

Herald 4/10/02

BY RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Firefighters evacuated a Wheeling fast-food restaurant Tuesday afternoon after a small explosion in a back room injured two employees with minor burns.

The two employees were working in the back room of McDonald's, 1355 E. Lake-Cook Road, when they knocked over and punctured a can of bug spray.

The pilot light from a nearby water heater ignited the can into a small fireball, said Wheeling Fire Lt. Bob Leipzig.

The two employees were driven by another co-worker to Northwest Community Treatment Center in Buffalo Grove. The employees were treated and released, he said.

Firefighters were called to an activated fire alarm at the restaurant when an overhead sprinkler activated. When they got to the restaurant, there was no fire.

About 20 people, including other employees and customers, were evacuated.

Because of the toxicity of the insecticide, firefighters had to make sure the building was safe to re-enter, Leipzig said. "Our main problem was making sure there was no health problem," he said.

Following an inspection by the Wheeling health department, the restaurant reopened about 9:30 p.m., an employee said.

HERALD - 4/9/02

Wheeling to get rid of pedestrian overpass across Dundee Road

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling leaders Monday settled on a plan for doing away with the pedestrian overpass on Dundee Road near Jack London Middle School.

After reviewing three options for installing a signal-operated pedestrian crossing at the intersection, trustees decided on a proposal that incorporates crosswalks and lines up the exit to London Middle School with Cedar Drive. Trustees decided in December they wanted to demolish the pedestrian overpass they complained was unsightly and find a way to ensure that children at the school could still cross the street safely.

A representative from Strand Associates said that the driveway to the school will become a two-lane road at the southern end of the intersection leading toward Cedar Drive.

The only problem is the entrance to Cedar doesn't line up correctly.

Wheeling will have to purchase some land rights to prevent motorists traveling north from the school from having "to jog too much to the right" to enter the northern part of the intersection on Cedar Drive, said Jason Martin of Strand Associates.

Two other options that trustees discarded involved converting London Middle School's driveway to a three-lane road and removing some curbs and gutters to accommodate the streets.

"My biggest concern is how you're

going to have it be safe enough for the kids," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "I've been against getting rid of the bridge all along, as you know. I think it's safer how it is."

Village President Greg Klatchki insisted that the new intersection will be safe because crossing guards will help students cross the street.

"I've seen crossing guards get hit," Horcher said. Still, Horcher joined the majority of trustees in supporting the intersection plan, which will maintain the current on-street parking on Cedar Drive, require no curb or gutter removal and keep to a minimum how much land the village has to acquire.

Acting Public Works Director Guy Kolberg told trustees he already has spoken to the neighboring business owner about granting the land rights needed for the plan to work.

"He is not opposed to this plan," Kolberg said. "He is supportive of ensuring the safety of the school children, and I think his main concern as a business owner is to get fair value for his property."

The only regret most trustees expressed about the intersection plan was that the village will have to demolish the landscaped median along Cedar Drive. The median has to be taken down to make way for a three-lane road with a southbound right turn lane, a southbound left turn lane and one northbound lane.

Wheeling won't begin work until receiving final approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation,

Greek care center open to all

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

After years of hard work, the Greek American Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Center will be operating at full speed in about one month.

The building is now completely built and furnished. Its first 12 residents have been admitted. All the home has to do now is obtain its Medicare and Medicaid certification and receive accreditation before taking in more patients.

"I'd like to be full in six months," said Susan Barbian, the executive director of the center. "Projections are a little longer than that. We still need our certification, which should come in within the month, and we'll continue to admit more residents."

Although the fund raising and planning for the center was done by the Greek community, the center will be admitting patients of all backgrounds. Barbian said it would be poor business to admit only Greeks, and the center could also face discrimination issues if they admitted people based on ethnicity.

However, the Greek influence in the decoration of the center is prevalent. Greek columns are found in the lobby, as are many large prints of Greek landscapes. Wallpaper patterns also feature a Greek influence.

Barbian said the center will plan activities at the center to make those who aren't Greek feel welcome and at home. She said she believes many Greeks will move into the home at first, but expects people from other backgrounds to move into many rooms, too.

"They'll be the first to know about it, since they're in the (Greek) community," she said. "When we get our Medicare and Medicaid certification, more will hear about us. I'd be surprised if we started at 50 percent Greek."

The main goal of the center is to make its patients feel at home, Barbian said. Patients will be able to bring some personal items to the home, like furniture and decorations for their rooms. Each of three floors for patients has its own lounge, arts and crafts room, medical exam room and dining room.

The first floor of the center has a chapel, hair salon, ice cream parlor and a private dining room that can be reserved for special meals with family and friends.

Outside, patients can sit and enjoy the pond behind the building.

"When you get older, your world becomes smaller," Barbian said. "Our goal is to keep (the patients) doing as much as they can. It's good for their self-esteem."



Richard Bajajirah/Pioneer Press

Susan Barbian shows off the private dining room at the Greek American Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Wheeling. The room is available to residents who want a private meal with family or friends.

Having a nice building that looks more like a home than a hospital is also helpful to the family.

"Families need support," Barbian said. "It's a hard decision (to put someone in a nursing home). We end with two patients really: the patient and the family. We do all we can to help the families. We hope to keep the care as beautiful as the building."

Many of the hired staff speak English and Greek.

Barbian said she and the center's board of directors have been pleased in their dealings with the village. She said the center plans to work closely with the community. The Pavilion Senior Center is right across the street, and Barbian said she plans to work with Nancy Janssen, the Pavilion's director, on special events for the home's residents and the village's senior citizen community. Many of them have been to tour the center.

"They've been watching the building go up for last two years now," Barbian said. "They're very curious about us."

The home has 204 beds, which include 18 in a special Alzheimer's wing. The center will also provide long-term nursing care, as well as rehabilitation services. Barbian said the center is working on building relationships with area hospitals for referrals for rehabilitation care.

PIONEER PRESS 4/11/02
Airport recognized

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board recently praised Palwaukee Municipal Airport for streamlining its financial reporting procedures.

The Norwalk, Conn.-based board recognized the airport's efforts to make financial information more readily available to taxpayers.

GASB Chairman Tom Allen said the board was "impressed" by the Palwaukee Airport Commission's "ability to prepare the new financial statements in such a timely fashion."

The statements, Allen said, will help the public better understand the airport's financial position and the results of its operations.

The GASB is an independent, nonprofit organization that issues financial accounting and reporting standards for state and local governments. It is funded by the Financial Accounting Foundation.

PIONEER PRESS - 4/11/02
Board approves therapeutic school

The Wheeling Village Board recently approved a petition to allow a therapeutic day school to operate in Capitol Commerce Center on Capitol Drive.

The school, East Capitol High School, is a private facility that will house up to 40 special education students. The students will be sent to the school by 19 surrounding school districts.

The school will serve students between the ages of 13 and 18 who have emotional or learning disabilities. The students will attend the school with the hope of later returning to their home school.

East Capitol High School will be in the same complex as the Learning House, another therapeutic day school that has operated since 1992. Mark Fisher, owner of the Learning House, will be part owner of East Capitol High School. Students will be at the school from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for 240 days of the year. The school will operate year-round.

PIONEER PRESS 4/11/02
Highway Department Agreement

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove worked out an agreement with the Cook County Highway Department and the Illinois Department of Transportation to ease construction-related congestion through both villages this summer.

The Cook County Highway Department is widening the bridge over the Canadian National Railroad on Lake-Cook Road, and IDOT is repairing Dundee Road. Work was scheduled for the same time and would have clogged two main roads that run through the villages.

IDOT has agreed to push its schedule back. Work on Dundee Road between Milwaukee Avenue and Buffalo Grove Road will now begin in mid-July.

By that time, two lanes will be open on the Lake-Cook Road bridge.

Herald 4/11/02
The briefs

July 4 parade walkers, sponsors can join event

The Wheeling special events committee has been working since last July to put together a celebration for this year's Fourth of July festivities. With the theme "2002 Celebrate! Hands Across Wheeling," new additions to the parade include Market Square Restaurant sponsoring the Jesse White Tumblers; former Mrs. Illinois of 2001 Melissa Kolssak, signing autographs and posing for pictures; the Wheeling High School Marching Band; the Dixieland Band; Jake and the Money Makers; Greg Koeppen's "Melodies in Motion"; and Larry Bemben's Big Band Orchestra. For anyone interested in joining the parade, call Randy Klocke at (847) 537-0574 to receive a parade application. Businesses interested in becoming sponsors should call Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato, (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107.

Herald 4/11/02
IDOT to explain road project

Wheeling will join the Illinois Department of Transportation in answering questions about the Dundee Road project in a meeting at 2 p.m. Friday, All 143 Wheeling businesses with addresses on Dundee Road already have received letters informing them of what they can expect of the project. The work will begin late this month or early next month to repave Dundee from Kemnicott Road to Milwaukee Avenue in the village. Residents and businesses hoping to learn more about modified turn lanes and other issues involving the \$5.5 million project can attend the meeting at the Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The road project, which continues to Waukegan Road in Northbrook, is expected to wrap up around July 28.

Have you heard about RAD yet?

"Every woman over the age of 16 should take this course," says neighbor **Linda Bressett**.

RAD, Rape Aggression Defense, is a program offered by the Wheeling Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit. This is a four-week, 12-hour program that is taught by three officers and offered without charge.

It is estimated that hundreds of women have gone through the program since it's inception. Officer **Dorann Swanson**, one of the instructors, noted that the program does not teach the women to become martial artists. She said, "We do show them to become more aware of their surroundings. They also learn a few basic moves to surprise and escape from an attacker."

The participants have said they are more confident that they can defend themselves if the need arises. They also have noted a heightened sense of awareness about the people around them in public places.

RAD is a program taught nationwide and on many college campuses. In Wheeling, the class sessions are usually on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 until 9:30. It is free to all women who live

and work in Wheeling. Check it out! For additional information on the program or to sign up, contact Officer Swanson at (847) 459-2693.

HERALD - 4/15/02
Residents sought for Palwaukee committee

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is encouraging residents interested in helping shape policies at the airport to serve on its new community council.

Volunteer members of the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Plan group, to be called the PACE Council, will help resolve quality-of-life conflicts and shape the future of Palwaukee.

The council won't be a regulatory body, acting instead to find solutions to problems and send suggestions to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission.

"We believe citizens are especially well positioned to offer insight on the airport's impact and (we) encourage them to participate themselves or to nominate others who may offer significant value to the group," said acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau.

The deadline for the first round of nominations is Friday. To participate, call PACE Coordinator Robert Mark at (847) 537-2580, Ext. 160, or e-mail rmark@kpwk.com.



Cass Cliatt
Wheeling

Herald 4/11/02
Apartment development expansion questioned

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees would be willing to support the expansion of an apartment complex along McHenry Road, as long as the developer gives the entire complex a facelift in the process.

Reviewing a proposal to add a new building to the Fairway Greens Apartments, trustees said Wheeling has made efforts to raise its standards in recent years, and any new building would have to meet those standards.

A representative from Myefski Cook Architects told the village board that the property owner hoped to simply add a taller, larger version of the seven buildings that now are Fairway Greens.

However, trustees said the proposal in its current form would add too much housing density to the area, create parking problems and do little to beautify the space.

"Would one floor make such a drastic difference to the economics of this project," Trustee Patrick Horcher said as board members encouraged the architect to shrink the proposed building.

Fairway Greens has seven buildings with 36 units in each of them, and the design proposal is for a new building "of the same character" with 40 units, said Charles Cook of the architectural firm.

Trustees pointed out that current codes allow for 10 housing units per acre, but the complex averages 15.5 units per acre, and it would climb to a total of about 17 units with the new building.

"To make this economically feasible to build, we'd want the extra units," Cook said. "It becomes a make or break issue."

Cook said the expanded complex would enhance the streetscape by adding a new entrance to the east of the apartment development.

But while trustees agreed that expanding Fairway Greens is the best use of the 2.4 acres near the complex, most weren't convinced they should allow a larger building on the site, especially if there were no extra beautification efforts.

"There are ways to modernize the buildings, like changing the roofs," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

Board members encouraged Fairway Greens to present a revised proposal to the village's plan commission.

Wheeling wants vision for future: Wheeling trustees Monday praised a consultant for creating an accurate portrait of the village's current development and how residents view Wheeling. However, trustees attending a workshop to help develop Wheeling's new comprehensive plan said the consultant's vision for the village's future could use some fine-tuning. Representatives from the Chicago planning firm Camiros proposed that Wheeling use its assets of being livable, affordable and offering quality services to guide the formation of a comprehensive plan that will set the village's development agenda for 20 years. A May 16 forum at 7 p.m. at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, will allow residents to help

Herald 04/13/02
Official named permanent community development director

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents usually don't think about the village's community development department until they want to add an addition to their house.

It doesn't occur to them that there has to be someone in charge of ensuring their homes were safe before they moved in, that village restaurants meet

health standards and that long-range planning prevents new businesses from adversely affecting neighborhoods.

Now, the person officially responsible for it all is Daniel J. Ozanich.

Wheeling this month appointed Ozanich the village's permanent community development director. He had been filling the position on a temporary basis since Michael Kitzke

retired in November. "It's a great attribute for the village to have someone in Dan's position who is a licensed architect," said director of economic development William D. Whitmer.

"He's a knowledgeable guy in a lot of different realms in terms of having someone build something in a community and making sure those things are built right."

Ozanich's promotion also means the pile of vacancies in Wheeling's top jobs is dwindling. When trustees voted in February to dismiss former Village Manager Craig Johnson after he had served almost 14 years on the job, it left four of the village's management positions open.

Wheeling had no village manager, public works director, community development director or manager for Palwaukee Municipal Airport. A retirement announcement in March by Village Attorney James Rhodes was to bring the vacancies to five come June.

However, Ozanich's promotion and Guy Kolberg's promotion last month, which removed the word "acting" from his title of public works director, have increased the hands staffing Wheeling's helm.

Ozanich, who has been with the village since 1988, has worked in the private sector in manufacturing, construction, engineering and architectural design. He's a 1977 graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago. "Dan Ozanich brings a broad range of experience to the position," acting Village Manager James Ciribowski said. "His familiarity with the village ensures an orderly transition and a commitment to Wheeling's future."

PIONEER PRESS 4/18/2002
Explosion closes Lake-Cook McDonald's

A punctured insecticide can created a small explosion in the rear of McDonald's at 1355 Lake-Cook Road just before 2:30 p.m. April 9, sending two employees to the emergency room and causing the store to close for several hours.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the insecticide was knocked off a shelf by an employee. The fall caused the can to puncture near a gas supply to a water heater. The light from the pilot of the water heater caused both the insecticide and the propane in the can to ignite, causing a small explosion.

One employee suffered burns on his right arm and face. Another employee suffered burns to her face and eyes. Both were taken to Northwest Community Health Treatment Center and released, MacIsaac said. There were customers in the restaurant, but none was injured.

MacIsaac said the store had to be closed until the Health Department inspected the food preparation area and declared it safe for reopening.

shape the village's development priorities.

PIONEER PRESS 4/18/2002
Trustees approve Tuscany expansion

The Wheeling Village Board April 8 gave approval to Tuscany Restaurant, 550 S. Milwaukee Ave., to build a patio for outdoor seating.

Tuscany is planning to build a 1,100-square-foot patio to seat 62 diners. The patio will be built on the south side of the restaurant, near Manchester Drive. Tuscany will not have to build additional parking for the patio, because its current parking lot meets village codes for the additional capacity.

Tuscany is open until 11 p.m. during the week and until midnight on weekends. The Plan Commission attached a condition to its recommendation stating the restaurant will not seat people outdoors after 10 p.m. during the week or after 11 p.m. on weekends to prevent noise to the neighbors.

Where do I put it?

Wheeling does not host a specific spring cleanup period.

Residents can dispose of up to 10 cans of garbage per week year-round and one bulk item per week. Waste Management furnishes a bulk item and white goods pickup service as part of its regular service.

For more information on waste service in the village, visit Wheeling's Web site at www.vi.wheeling.il.us.

Budget will require dipping into reserves

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials may have to dig into their savings account to the tune of \$3 million to fully fund next year's \$55.3 million budget.

Trustees are expected to approve the 2002-03 fiscal year spending plan at their meeting Monday night. The budget also calls for increased revenue generated through new taxes and fees.

"The budget is technically balanced," said Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director. "The difference between revenues and expenditures is being made up with reserve dollars."

Mondschain will present a proposal calling for an increase in water turn-on

fees, and a hotel and motel tax to trustees Monday. The turn-on fees are collected from residents when the village shuts off water service for nonpayment of bills. Residents will be required to pay a \$50 fee if the water is turned on during normal business hours, instead of the current \$25. If water is turned on after business hours, it will cost residents \$100 instead of \$50.

Other new taxes include a use tax on electricity and natural gas. An ambulance fee also will be implemented. Mondschain said he plans to submit the use tax proposal to trustees next month. It will essentially be a 1 percent tax on electricity and gas use, and the amount will appear on residents' utility bills. Residents will pay addi-

tional money based on terms used in the case of natural gas, and kilowatt hours for electricity. The new use taxes also will be levied on village businesses.

Mondschain said proposals for increased ambulance fees will most likely be presented this summer. Most health insurance policies, as well as Medicare, cover ambulance fees. The village will collect what insurance companies are willing to pay to cover those costs. Mondschain said he wants to hear directly from Medicare as to what they will approve before the village acts on the measure.

Mondschain estimates the village will collect an additional \$628,000 from all new taxes next year. Currently, \$3 million of the village's

\$16.9 million in reserve funds will have to be used. However, Mondschain said he is meeting with Trustee Patrick Horcher to examine the budget and to make some cuts.

"The board has been discussing further cuts to the budget," Mondschain said.

Of the total budget, \$20.1 million is planned for capital improvements, which include water main replacements, street pavement improvements, sanitary and storm sewer improvements, completion of the water meter replacement program and the purchase and demolition of flood-prone properties.

The budget also includes the hiring of three more firefighter/paramedics and one more police officer.

Police reviewing tapes after locker room incident

PIONEER PRESS - 4/18/2002
by PATRICK CORCORAN
AND CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITERS

Wheeling police investigators are reviewing videotapes to determine if a man charged with taping girls showering in an Elk Grove Park District facility did the same at the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said the review is ongoing but has yet to turn up any concrete evidence that the man charged taped anyone here. The tapes police are reviewing were found in the man's home.

"It is very difficult because the

areas are similar at different places," Hermes said. "It is very tedious work."

Police began their investigation after learning that the man charged in the Elk Grove incident had suspicious videos in his home that may have been taken at the Aquatic Center on Dundee Road. The Aquatic Center has co-ed shower rooms similar to those at Elk Grove's Jack Claes Pavilion, where the alleged taping of naked girls occurred.

Lifeguards and a patron of the Pavilion called police when they saw a man allegedly videotaping young girls in the Elk Grove Village facility's shower room last week. Timothy P. Armstrong, 42, of 1934 N. Leavitt Ave., Chi-

cago, is being held on a \$150,000 bond and will be back in court April 26 on two counts of misdemeanor unauthorized videotaping and one count of felony possession of child pornography.

Police said Armstrong videotaped young girls showering nude in a co-ed family shower area at the Pavilion on at least two occasions. Police said the filming was done from a nearby shower stall using a hand-held camera with a flexible lens affixed to it.

Armstrong also is charged in connection with a similar incident that occurred April 13, 2001, in which a man believed to have been videotaping that day was reported to Pavilion employees. The suspect fled after a patron confronted him. The child pornogra-

phy charge stems from the discovery at Armstrong's home of what police said were three computer disks with pornography likely downloaded from the Internet.

Police said Armstrong may be linked with additional incidents at other pools and recreation facilities. Investigators reportedly found brochures for park district facilities in Oak Brook in his home. Elk Grove police also contacted Wheeling to further investigate suspicious videotapes found in the man's home.

Wheeling Park District Executive Director Karop Bavougian said the park district has never had any reports of anyone videotaping or acting suspiciously in the co-ed room.

Hearing set to get comments on proposed budget

By CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will hold a public hearing Monday to give residents a chance to comment on a \$55.3 million proposed budget that includes hefty spending for public improvements.

Since meeting in February to hammer out spending priorities, Wheeling trustees have agreed to add \$363,700 in additional spending to study flooding solutions,

salaries for a new police officer and full-time engineer and money to demolish the Hawthorne School Bridge over the Wheeling drainage ditch.

Other new spending will go toward new sewer work and paying part-time code inspectors.

The proposed budget still includes money for a water main replacement program in the Dunhurst area along Dundee Road, street and sidewalk improvements, and sanitary and storm sewer work,

among other projects.

The projects bring Wheeling's capital spending budget to more than \$20 million.

To help keep the budget in balance, the village board earlier this month tentatively agreed to create a new usage tax on gas and power, new ambulance fees, new hotel and motel taxes and increases in the village's water turn-on fees.

Acting village Manager James Grabowski told trustees the new fees should bring about \$628,000

into the village, more than making up for the extra \$363,764 in expenses.

Still, some trustees questioned the spending.

"When we met in February, we were about \$3 million higher in expenditures as we were in revenues," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "I would like to look at ways we could cut back some of this, maybe 20 percent to cut into the \$3 million."

Lehmann suggested postponing

spending \$750,000 to study and to design a new configuration of the village hall.

Grabowski said village administrators recommend using reserves to pay for capital projects "because the fund balance is healthy right now."

Residents with questions about the budget can call village hall at (847) 459-2600.

Residents can review a copy of the budget at Indian Trails Public Library District beginning in June.

6UNE 4/19/2002
PROSPECT HEIGHTS
& WHEELING

Palwaukee runway called inadequate

Palwaukee Municipal Airport must either rebuild or replace its northwest to southeast runway over the next several years, a consultant told airport commissioners Wednesday.

The deteriorating 4,100-foot runway will be inadequate to meet long-term needs, said Roger A. Austin, manager of aviation planning for Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, a Springfield consulting firm.

Airport commissioners have two choices, Austin said: rebuilding and widening the runway to 75 feet from 50 feet at a cost of about \$5 million, or building a new one for about \$12 million.

Funding would come from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics, he said.

Rehabilitating the runway would be cheaper but would require realignment of a section of Palatine Road and acquisition of several industrial and commercial properties south of the airport, Austin said.

Acting airport manager Dennis G. Rouleau said rehabbing appears to be more desirable because it could be done in phases, making federal funds easier to obtain. Commissioner Trevor R. Lehmann said the project would reduce traffic on the main north-south runway and lessen noise for residents north of the airport.

Commissioners are expected to make a decision in May. Officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, must then vote on the plan.

John Maas

Traffic light to replace Dundee bridge

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

A pedestrian overpass used primarily by London Middle School students to cross Dundee Road is coming down and will be replaced by a traffic signal.

The Wheeling Village Board approved plans to replace the bridge that connects Field Elementary School and London Middle School at its April 8 meeting. The bridge, while providing a safe crossing for students, is old and in need of costly repair or replacement.

The project also includes the realignment of the London driveway with Cedar Drive on the north side of Dundee. The new traffic light will be placed about 300 feet east of the where the overpass now sits. Pedestrians will activate the light by pushing a button. A device in the pavement that detects when vehicles want to turn onto Dundee Road from Cedar Drive also will be installed.

"The signal will stay green on Dundee Road unless it is activated," said Guy Kolberg, Wheeling's acting public works director.

The plan will require the village to purchase a small

strip of land from the Dunhurst Shopping Plaza in order to widen the London driveway to the east so it lines up properly with Cedar Drive.

A crossing guard will be stationed in the morning and afternoon at the intersection after the overpass is torn down. While the Village Board voted unanimously for the project, Trustee Michael Horcher said he was concerned that a traffic signal and the use of crossing guards provides less protection than the overpass.

"Crossing guards get hit, too," he said. "I've seen it happen."

Kolberg said there are already signs warning motorists of students crossing the street on Dundee Road. Those signs will be either replaced or reset when the overpass is removed, he said.

Jim Parker, principal of London Middle School, said he has no "violent feelings" of seeing the overpass go. Some students, he said, cross the street now even without a crossing guard or a signal.

"I'd say 90 percent of the students use it," he said of those who walk to school and live north of Dundee Road. "We do have kids who won't climb on (the overpass) and will dash across the street."



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Wheeling officials hope to tear down the pedestrian overpass between London Middle School and Field Elementary School this year. Trustees approved a plan to replace the overpass with a traffic signal.

Parker said the current situation of children choosing to not use the overpass is more dangerous than having children cross with a guard and a traffic light.

"The speed limit there is 35, but people drive faster than that," he said. "It's hard for kids to judge the speed of cars when they're standing still."

Parker also would like to see if the crossing guard could be on duty later in the day to help those children who stay late cross safely.

"Is the crossing guard going to be there at 5:30 or 6 at night?" he asked. "We do have kids that stay that late."

Lavonne Knapstein, principal at Field Elementary

School, said Field students do not need to use the overpass to get to school since they all live north of the school.

The project is still dependent on Illinois Department of Transportation approval. Kolberg said IDOT is well aware of the village's plans to tear the overpass down, and the (Continued on page 12)

Dundee bridge Continued from page 5

village has been working with IDOT to alleviate the agency's concerns about traffic congestion if the bridge is torn down and a traffic light is put up.

Kolberg said he expects the new traffic light to be installed and the bridge torn down by the beginning of next school year. He also said there

are no cost estimates for the project, but there is \$250,000 budgeted for it.

Trustees have been trying for years to get approval from IDOT to tear the overpass down. Village officials say the overpass is nearing the end of its expected life and is an eyesore. It also blocks motorists'

views when they are trying to turn onto Dundee Road.

If the village wanted to repair the overpass, it would have to meet standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There is not enough land to build a ramp, and building elevators would be too costly, board members argue.

WHEELING TRIBUNE 4/19/2002 Village seeks help to improve image

The village needs a comprehensive plan that will make the suburb a community of choice, not convenience, trustees told a consultant this week.

Trustees instructed planners from Camiros Ltd. of Chicago to

provide a strategy for inducing people and businesses to locate in Wheeling because of a variety of attributes, not just affordable housing and lower taxes.

The consulting firm has been hired to develop a comprehensive plan for improving blighted areas, planning land use and developing a town center.

"We need to take this community to the next level," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

William R. James, principal consultant for Camiros, urged trustees to get input from officials of Wheeling-based Community Consolidated School District 21 about the impact of new development on the district's crowding.

The consultants will seek public response May 16 at Village Hall.

John Maes

Wheeling leaders reject vision statement points

HERALD-4/19/2002

because it's a great place to live." Trustees said they hope residents attend a public forum May 16 to help Camiros develop a more forward-looking vision of the future.

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The word affordable should not be part of Wheeling's vision statement for the future, trustees said this week.

Working to develop a new comprehensive plan for the village, trustees strongly objected to a consultant's proposal to focus on Wheeling's affordable housing stock while creating the plan that will set the village's development priorities for the next 20 years.

Trustees told representatives from the Chicago planning firm Camiros Ltd. they were hired to help the village see where it can be in 2010, not where it was in 2001.

"Affordability — that's what Wheeling has always been looked at, a great place to get your first place and then you move on," village President Greg Klatocki said.

William R. James, Camiros' principal consultant, also proposed a vision of Wheeling as "a very livable community" that offers "high-quality public services," and trustees said those assets also are nothing new.

"I don't want it to be just a livable community," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "I want people to live

Strengths were Wheeling's location, public services, trends toward higher-end housing, developments and ethnic and economic diversity. The village's flooding issues, lack of a town center and inconsistency in land uses were perceived as weaknesses.

The public forum at 7 p.m. May 16 at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, will allow residents to weigh in on these and other issues.

HERALD-4/18/2002
Park equipment picked by trustees

The Wheeling Village Board picked the last of the equipment needed to finish the new park to be built at the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Board members picked out lights and benches for the park. The lights will illuminate walkways, the landscape and waterfall. There will be 101 lights used to illuminate the waterfall alone, which will be washed in white light.

Trustee Judy Abruscato questioned why white lights were to be used instead of colored ones. Claus Dunkelberg, of Harding ESE, said the white light will be most effective in illuminating the sandstone rocks behind the water.

Trustees also chose metal benches to be installed at the plaza. Wooden benches were considered, but trustees said they preferred the metal ones for maintenance purposes and to reduce vandalism.

Hitting the streets: The Illinois Department of Transportation doesn't have a monopoly on road improvements this construction season. Wheeling's neighborhoods will see some improvement efforts, as the village has scheduled work for more than seven miles of roadway. The work includes resurfacing improvements and spot concrete curb and gutter repairs.

The tentative start date for construction is May 6. The street paving program will cost \$907,000 for work done by Peter Baker & Sons of Lake Bluff. Arlington Club will be one of the primary neighborhoods affected. Streets included in the work are all of Arlington Drive, Cobbler Lane, Buffalo Grove Road, Camden, Canbury, Shore and Nottingham courts and Glengary Lane.

In Tahoe Village, the targeted roads are Tahoe Circle Drive, Shoshonee Trail, Delaware Trail, Lakeview Drive, Chippewa Trail and Dakota Trail.

People in Lakeside Villas will see work on Lakeside Circle Drive, Clearwater Lane, Cedarwood Lane, Ivy Court and Barberry Lane, among other streets.

Streets in the industrial areas include Willow Road and Alderman, Glenn, Foster and Shepard avenues.

For a more complete listing, see the village's Web site at www.vi.wheeling.il.us

HERALD-4/12/2002

Trustees put plaza plans under bright (white) light

Debating about pebbles, lights and color swatches might seem like dwelling on the minutia, but it was putting the final touches on the Wheeling plaza project some say that has been three years in the making.

Wheeling trustees earlier this month talked about greens and browns for roofs and posts — and to



Cass Clift
Wheeling

color or not to color fountain lighting — before giving a nod to the final design plans for the plaza project at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Trustees are still keeping their fingers crossed, having said they hope for a ribbon cutting on July 3.

The design includes a gazebo with a forest green roof line, almond posts and "up lighting" for trees, which

Links
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Wheeling

trustees actually got to see. Designer Claus Dunkelberg brought along the light, which he set on the floor, so trustees could see the half moon shape the lighting cast on the ceiling of the village board room.

The \$1.2 million plaza project has replaced a \$1 million proposal to build a Millenium Plaza that languished for three years. Village officials eventually rejected plans for the plaza after residents and community leaders criticized the design and cost.

The only thing that held up approval of the new plaza project design this month was a debate over whether the board should use colored bulbs for the 101 lights that will be in the pond.

Trustee Judy Abruscato pushed the colored lights pretty hard, saying it would be nice to have different colors for various holidays.

"The idea behind getting the white lights was to get the white light to climb up the waterfall," Dunkelberg said.

He also said the 250-watt bulbs would not provide the same intensity under water if they were colored, and the design colors were based on white lights. Abruscato was ultimately overruled by all the other members of the board, who preferred the white lights. And if you care about benches, the vote went against the architect's recommendation of a "rustic" wooden bench.

Trustees said people carve their initials in wooden benches, the benches are difficult to maintain and the wood can give people slivers.

Man gets 20 years for salesman's murder



Francisco Soliz pleaded guilty Monday to murdering a Wheeling gem salesman.

whom had two cars involved, decided to join forces. Two of the drivers got lost on the way to Wheeling, prosecutors said, but the other two pulled up behind Mehta.

Soliz confessed that he and another robber got out of a car to confront Mehta, with Soliz's job to take the briefcase containing the ring of criminals who stalked and robbed traveling jewelry dealers like Mehta.

He told detectives that he was part of a group on Jan. 19, 2000 that followed Mehta home from a jewelry store in suburban Milwaukee back to Wheeling. Along the way, Soliz's gang hooked up with a second jewelry theft gang that also was following Mehta. The two groups, each of

Francisco G. Soliz of Chicago was given a 20-year prison sentence for his role in the murder of Vinod Mehta, 58, who was found dead in front of his home on Honeysockle Drive.

The plea deal marks the first conviction in a complex case whose elements read like something out of a work of pulp fiction. Soliz admitted to being part of a

A 63-year-old member of a jewelry theft ring pleaded guilty Monday to the January 2000 murder of a Wheeling precious gem salesman who was two months away from retirement when he was shot in his driveway during a robbery. In return for his admission of guilt,

See GUILTY on PAGE 7

HERALD - 4/23/02 Guilty: Man died of gunshot wound to chest

Lawrence Lykowsky said the plea deal was appropriate because Soliz was not the gunman and is 63. He also praised the detective work of the North suburban major crimes task force in cracking a case that at first did not have many leads.

Soliz's plea came on the day he and Jorge Castillo were set to be tried for the murder in front of a double jury. Castillo will return to court on June 17. A third accomplice, Emilio Bolanos, is cooperating with prosecutors and remains in a secure wing of Cook County jail.

Soliz was arrested 10 days later during an undercover sting in west suburban Woodridge designed to catch the jewelry heist ring and told authorities of his involvement in Mehta's murder, Soliz was unable to provide a name of the gunman, knowing him only by a nickname, and the gunman remains at large.

Soliz's public defender, Gayle Shapiro, told Judge Thomas P. Fecarotta Jr. that Soliz still has "a tremendous amount of remorse and sadness" over the crime.

Mehta was shot in the chest and died from the gunshot wound that pierced his heart. The former accountant had planned to retire in two months and move with his wife, Pushpa, to Connecticut to be near his only son's family.

Assistant State's Attorney

\$53 million budget gets board's OK

The Village Board Monday approved a fiscal 2002-03 budget calling for more than \$53 million in spending, 5.2 percent more than the current budget.

The increase will pay for the continuing street, water and sewer system repair program as well as for land acquisition to set up tax increment financing districts, Village Finance Director Michael Mondschain told trustees Monday.

Beginning in October 2003 the increase will add \$20 to \$30 per year to the village portion of a property tax bill for the owner of a home valued at \$250,000, Mondschain said.

In other action, the board approved a 5 percent hotel/motel use tax expected to generate \$75,000 to \$100,000 yearly.

Officials also announced the appointment of Guy W. Kolberg

as director of public works. Kolberg, 45, had served as acting public works director since the retirement of Robert Gray in November.

Kolberg also previously served as capital projects manager for the village and has been employed by Wheeling for two years. Before that he worked as assistant city engineer for Sun Prairie, Wis.

John Maes

WHEELING

Village to start repaving streets

More than \$900,000 in street repaving and replacement of gutters and curbs on about 7 miles of Wheeling roads will begin May 6.

Crews will repave 27 streets in the Arlington Club subdivision, including a milelong stretch of Arlington Drive, said Jeff Kopper, street division supervisor. Cobbler Lane between Buffalo Grove Road and Arlington Drive will also be resurfaced, he said.

Ten streets in the Tahoe Village and Lakeside Villas subdivisions, as well portions of Willow Road, Alderman, Foster, Glenn and Shepard Avenues in the industrial area, will also be resurfaced, Kopper said.

Village crews will replace sagging and separating concrete gutters in those subdivisions before repaving.

In a separate project scheduled to begin late next month, the village will replace deteriorating and crumbling sidewalks in the Hollywood Ridge subdivision near Schoenbeck and Dundee Roads, said Kopper.

John Maes

Robber gets 20-year term in death of jewelry dealer

By Mitch Martin
Special to the Tribune

A Chicago man was sentenced Monday to 20 years in prison for his role in the robbery and slaying of a Wheeling jewelry salesman in 2000.

Francisco Soliz, 63, pleaded guilty for his part in the robbery and fatal shooting of Vinod Mehta, 58, on Jan. 19, 2000.

Soliz was one of three Chicago men arrested in a sting shortly after the killing. That sting involved more than 45 investigators from the Wheeling Police Department, the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force and the FBI, prosecutors said.

Soliz, Emilio Bolanos, 26, and Jorge Castillo, 32, were charged with murder under an Illinois law that holds those who actively participate in a criminal endeavor as legally responsible as the actual murderer.

According to court records,

the men were part of a robbery ring targeting traveling jewelry salesmen.

They followed Mehta from West Allis, Wis., after seeing him make a delivery to a jewelry store in the Milwaukee suburb. While following Mehta on Interstate Highway 94, they met a pair of robbers also trailing Mehta. At a gas station, the two rings agreed to work together and split the proceeds, prosecutors said.

The five men confronted Mehta in the driveway of his home in the 1000 block of Honeysuckle Drive, and member of the second ring known only to the Chicago men as "Orlando" shot and killed Mehta, according to suspects' statements to police.

Soliz, who was trying to pull Mehta's briefcase from him, told police he was surprised by the single bullet that struck Mehta in the heart.

Orlando later gave the three

Chicago men a total of \$500 for the stolen pearls and other jewelry, according to the police statements.

Acting on a tip from another jewelry salesman who worked in the West Allis area, Soliz, Bolanos and Castillo were arrested less than a month after the killing as they tried to break into a car being watched by police.

All three made statements admitting to the robbery of Mehta but said they didn't know Orlando was going to shoot him. A source in the investigation said police have no idea of Orlando's whereabouts.

The second member of Orlando's jewelry gang, Antonio Castilla, was shot and killed March 15, 2000, in Miami in an apparent robbery attempt, Miami police Detective Bill Ryan said.

Bolanos has entered protective custody and is expected to testify at Jorge Castillo's trial June 17, prosecutors said.

HERALD - 4/23/2002
Wheeling budget gets the OK:

Wheeling passed its 2002-2003 budget at Monday's village board meeting. The \$53.8 million budget includes a \$4 million increase in budgeted expenses from 2001-2002. In a report to the board, Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said the main reason for the increase is an extra \$2.5 million in capital costs that include land acquisition in the village's TIF districts and street, water and sewer improvements. The property tax levy for the 2002 tax year is set at \$7.6 million, an increase of 3.4 percent from the previous year. Property taxes make up 23 percent of the village's revenue. Sewer and water rates will increase by 3.94 percent. Water and sewer

HERALD - 4/23/2002
rates were last raised two years ago, Grabowski said.

Wheeling police seeking suspect in man's stabbing death

Wheeling police Monday were seeking a local man in the April 14 stabbing death of a 23-year-old man, according to reports.

A Cook County judge Monday approved an arrest warrant on first-degree murder charges for Alfredo Hernandez, 26, of the

200 block of 9th Street, according to reports. Hernandez is accused of using a kitchen knife to stab Juan Carlos Cardoso in the stomach, police said. The incident occurred outside Hernandez's apartment, police said.

Cardoso, of the 100 block of Ar-

bor Court, died Saturday in Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge from complications resulting from those wounds, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

Wheeling Police Sgt. Bill Benson said police are unsure of the

relationship between Cardoso and Hernandez and what led to the stabbing. Benson said police are also seeking a relative of Hernandez's who may have witnessed the incident.

Hernandez's bail was set at \$75,000.

Wheeling frustrated with changes in District 21 school boundaries

By Steve Zalusky
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Parents in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 asked Wheeling trustees Monday for help in their fight against recently approved school boundary changes.

But village officials, although concerned about the proposed changes and generally frustrated with the school board, had little concrete help to offer them.

Parents at Monday's meeting aimed much of their fire at the transfer of 170 bilingual students from the Piper Lane area from one Wheeling school, Whitman Elementary School, to another, Twain Elementary School.

Village President Greg Klatecki told the parents that he would call school board President Phil Pritzker to relay their concerns. Klatecki said Tuesday that he had already made the call.

However, Klatecki, who teaches in

District 21, told the parents that out of consideration for his family, he is limited in what he can say until his official retirement on June 10.

"I care about my family," Klatecki said, to which one parent in the audience replied, "We care about our families, too."

Meanwhile, Klatecki urged parents to call District 21.

"The more vocal people become, the more oil the wheel gets," he said.

"I brought concerns of the citizens to him like I said I would," Klatecki said of his call to Pritzker.

Pritzker said Tuesday that the two had a spirited discussion. However, he told Klatecki that the board has made its decision and has asked staff to begin implementing the plan.

Wheeling resident and Field Elementary School parent Bob Poulsen said the district is using the village as a dumping ground to resolve its overcrowding problems.

He said the change will have a neg-

ative impact on Wheeling, which will see an increase in "for sale" signs, and alter the demographics at Twain, resulting in lower test scores at the school.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said he was not sure what the village can do, since state law says the school board has the sole authority to deal with its boundaries.

Rhodes suggested that citizens have their best chance to air their views at the district board meeting on May 16.

That answer did not satisfy Trustee Dean Argiris, who suggested the board consult the Northwest Municipal Conference about possible legal action against the school board.

"Mr. Rhodes, if you can't handle it, let's find somebody that can," he told the village counsel.

Argiris called the school board arrogance "appalling," adding, "To sit up here and listen and not be able to do anything drives me nuts."

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002
Kimball Hill clears nagging hurdle

Kimball Hill Homes expects to get final approval for its Astor Place development for the former Wheeling Nursery property after it was able to acquire an easement through an adjacent property for the development's sewer system.

Kimball Hill is scheduled to appear before the Wheeling Village Board May 13 to get final approval for the project. The board approved the development's appearance and layout last August. Since then, Kimball Hill has been negotiating with an adjacent property owner for the necessary easement.

Scott Viger, director of land acquisition and planning for Kimball Hill, said he and other Kimball Hill representative met with village officials last week to discuss final details of the Astor Place plan.

"Everyone is on the same page," Viger said. "I guess it's going to happen."

Viger said Kimball Hill hopes to start construction this summer. Work crews have already been grading the site, but they have halted work until final approval is given.

Viger said Kimball Hill also is working to find a restaurant for a 2.5-acre commercial site on the former nursery. He said some restaurants have shown some interest in the site. Kimball Hill will build 120 condominiums in four buildings on the site, as well as 128 town homes.

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002
Police seek man after stabbing

Wheeling police are searching for a man they believe was involved in a stabbing incident April 14 that later turned fatal.

Police have secured an arrest warrant on a charge of first-degree murder for Alfredo G. Hernandez, 26, of Wheeling, who they said stabbed 23-year-old Wheeling resident Juan Carlos Cardoso. Sgt. William Benson said Cardoso was stabbed around 7:30 p.m. on the 200 block of Ninth Street. He died at Lutheran General Hospital Saturday from complications. Benson said Hernandez, of 291 Ninth St., was last seen running from the scene of the crime.

Police also are looking for Hernandez's brother, Juan Carlos Hernandez, 22, also of 291 Ninth St., for questioning. Police believe Juan Carlos Hernandez was at the scene, but police said he is not a suspect at this time.

Benson said detectives are not sure if the brothers are in hiding together or separately. Benson also said police do not know the nature of the dispute between Cardoso and Alfredo Hernandez that led to the stabbing.

Alfredo Hernandez, who is also known as "Chino," is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs about 175 pounds. Anyone with information about the stabbing or the location of either Hernandez brother is urged to contact Wheeling Police Department detectives at (847) 459-2632.

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002
Finance award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the village of Wheeling.

The association pointed to the Village's comprehensive annual financial report as meeting the "high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full financial disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story."

The certificate of achievement is the highest recognition in government, accounting and financial reporting. This is the 22nd year Wheeling has received the award. Wow!

The association is a nonprofit professional association serving about 14,000 government finance professionals.

Students get 'malled' in a different way

Pioneer Press 4/25/02

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

While Wheeling village officials are working on a new comprehensive plan, some London Middle School seventh-graders are putting together redevelopment plans of their own.

Four classes at London have been working on downtown redevelopment plans for Wheeling as part of a school project. They presented their ideas to school administrators and even some village officials Monday. The project is part of the school's problem-based learning initiative designed to help students learn by using real-life issues.

Becky Gillespie, a seventh-grade teacher at London who coordinated the project, said it integrates social studies, mathematics, oral and written communication and science into one project.

"Each year, we try to find one project that's meaningful to (the students)," Gillespie said. "They feel the village is going to listen to their ideas, because it is their community, too."

The students were asked to choose a site in the village for

a redevelopment project. Most students selected the area around the Dundee and Wheeling roads intersection. Most projects focused on building a mall in that area, offering shopping and activities for people of all ages.

May Maung, Brad McAllister, Paul Garza and their team were working on a mall project for the Kmart site. They said the large lot the store is located on, as well as the fact that the store will be closing, make it an ideal spot for study. Their mall includes clothing stores, book stores, a restaurant and a skate park. They said such a combination would bring shoppers from other towns into Wheeling.

"There's nothing that really attracts people to Wheeling now," Garza said. "We would want them to come here."

Shrinal Vyas said she and her team want to build a mall at the Wicke's Furniture site. They based the stores in their design on a survey conducted by the students for the project. About 600 surveys went out, with 300 coming back.

"They said they wanted shops and restaurants," Vyas said of the survey respondents. "We also want to attract all age groups."



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Brianna Coyle, a London Middle School seventh-grader, works on her downtown development project. Four seventh-grade classrooms created their own redevelopment projects.

Each team of students had to build a model of their mall and create a poster board with research gathered to support their ideas. They also made oral presentations before Assistant Principal Peter Daleske, Wheeling Planner Jeff Harris and other teachers at the school.

Donna Olson, another teacher involved in the project, said the students brought a variety of ideas and perspectives to the table.

"It's turned into a real collaboration," she said. "They all think about what stores they want. Some are including residential areas, too."

Gillespie said the students received visits from people like Harris, Trustee Dean Argiris, developer Mark Smith and consultants who are working on the village's new comprehensive plan, which details land uses well into the future.

"A lot of the kids asked a lot of good questions," Gillespie said. "They got to see what these jobs entail. They got to see how people love what they do. That's not something they can get out of a book."

The kids, too, said they enjoyed their guest speakers.

"I was shocked they wanted our input," said Maung.

Maung said Jeanne Lindwall of Camiros, the consul-

tant hired by the village, asked for copies of their survey results.

The students also were required to establish a budget for their project, estimating how much it would cost and trying to find ways to come up with the money.

Gillespie said the project is just as much of a challenge for the teachers as it is for the students.

"We do all the work to find the resources, and the kids take off with it," she said. "I act more as a facilitator instead of an instructor. It's a challenge, because you don't know what's going to happen next."

HE247D - 4/25/2002
Murder warrant issued in stabbing

By CASS CLARYT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling man is now a suspect in the stabbing death earlier this month of a man in Wheeling.

A Cook County judge issued a warrant for first-degree murder for Alfredo G. Hernandez, 26, of the 200 block of Ninth Street in connection with the April 14 stabbing of Juan Carlos Cardoso.

Cardoso, 23, died Saturday morning at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge from medical complications related to being stabbed in the chest six days earlier.

Police said they initially had been searching for Hernandez to question him about the stabbing. New information led police to charge Hernandez with murder, officials



Alfredo Hernandez

has yet to yield fingerprints or any other evidence that might link Hernandez to the crime because analysis has not been completed by the Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory in Highland Park, police said.

Witnesses who saw the stabbing around 7:30 p.m. April 14 told police they saw Cardoso involved in an altercation with Hernandez on the street outside the three-flat where Hernandez lived.

said Wednesday. "We believe that he was responsible for the stabbing, based on the interviews," police Sgt. William Benson said.

A kitchen knife recovered from the crime scene

One of the witnesses tried to help Cardoso while he lay in the street and asked a passer-by to call rescue workers and police.

"We don't know the relationship between the two," Benson said of Hernandez and Cardoso. "We don't know the motive. We don't know what precipitated the altercation."

Investigators spent days canvassing the area and conducting interviews to link Hernandez to the crime before going before Cook County Judge Joseph Urso Monday.

At that time, a \$750,000 warrant was issued for Hernandez's arrest.

Police are asking anyone with information about Hernandez, who has an alias of "Chino," to call Wheeling detectives at (847) 439-2632.

Leaders looking to an "aggressive" future

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials know their place in the suburban universe. Now they hope a consultant hired to formulate a new comprehensive plan can help them venture into a brave new world.

While Village Board members said they are impressed with the work consultant Camiros has done so far, they are vigorously pushing their own vision of the village's future to the consultants.

Originally, the consultants were looking where the village is today in order to create a vision for the future. Bill James, a principal consultant with the firm, suggested the village use three of its strengths in developing its future: the village is a "livable community," "affordable" and has "high-quality public services," James said.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said James was on target with his assessment of the village. But he wants the vision of the future to be more challenging.

"We want to know how to excel to the next level," Lehmann said. "We want high-end retail. We want more high-end development. How do we get what we don't have?"

Other trustees agreed with Lehmann's sentiments.

"With the plan, we want to go above livable, affordable with high-quality services," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "The question is, what is the next level?"

President Greg Klatecki said Wheeling has always been looked at as an affordable community, where people buy their first homes and move on. He wants to change that.

"Instead of being a stepping stone, we want to keep people here," Klatecki said. "I'd like to see an aggressive plan."

Camiros consultants have interviewed governmental officials and residents in trying to get a taste of what Wheeling is like today. Jeanne Lindwall, another Camiros consultant, said most groups had the same things to say about the community, giving the consultants a clear idea of how people currently view their village.

The consultants identified a number of village assets, including its location near major roadways and thoroughfares, its train station and local airport, its quality public services, environmental resources like the Cook County Forest Preserve and wetland areas and the range of housing stock.

The consultants also identified a number of weaknesses in the village, including a lack of a retail identity, the condition of older properties, some ex-

amples of poor maintenance and traffic congestion on major roads.

The consultants also suggested that the the village work to clean up commercial corridors like Dundee Road. Although there is stiff retail competition from Wheeling's neighbors, the consultants said the village's economic status and property values are strong enough to attract more businesses.

Camiros representatives met with the Plan Commission before meeting with the Village Board. Plan commissioners also said Camiros' assessment of where the village is today was accurate. They were also adamant about improving Wheeling's image through more high-quality development and getting the public excited about the new plan.

"We have to show everybody we're willing to bite the bullet, and we expect everybody to get in line with us," said Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady. "I am so excited about this. My only fear is that it doesn't keep going when you (the consultants) are gone."

The comprehensive plan is the village's main planning document. It is expected to outline the development future of the village for the next 10 to 20 years. Camiros will now work on more specifics of the plan document and will seek more input from the public through a community forum to be held May 16 at a meeting with the Plan Commission.

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002

Fairway Greens proposal calls for eighth building

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board expects to see some changes made on plans to expand the Fairway Greens apartment complex on McHenry Road, but trustees generally approve of the plan.

Charles Cook, an architect with Myefski Cook Architects, Inc., outlined a plan to trustees to build an eighth building at the complex, which would add 48 rental units. Cook said the plan is to build a four-story building, which is one story higher than the other seven buildings currently on the site.

"It is slightly larger than the other buildings for economic and code reasons," Cook said. "Some of the codes include corridor widths and

"I think this addition will not only improve the complex, but improve the streetscape, too."

Architect Charles Cook

elevators, and

with the Cedar Run townhomes entrance across the street and a new gate house for the complex.

"I think this addition will not only improve the complex, but improve the streetscape, too," Cook said.

The new building is planned on a 2.38-acre lot. The overall density of the complex will increase with the addition from 15.54 units per acre to 16.13 units per acre.

That density is one thing that concerns trustees. Other concerns included parking and the appearance of the new building.

Trustee Patrick Horcher asked Cook if it was possible to reduce the number of new units by 12. Cook said that would be a "make-or-break" issue, because the building would not make the owners a suitable profit by reducing the number of units.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann suggested Cook keep the same number of units but make the building five stories high. He also proposed underground parking spaces for the new building.

(Continued on page 9)

PIONEER PRESS - 4/25/2002

Fairway Continued from page 8

ing.

"If you go five stories, you'll have more open space and more green space," he said. "The driveways are also pretty narrow."

Cook said he would consider more parking for the plan, but he also said the current driveway is "never at capacity." Horcher agreed, saying the parking lot there is never full.

Lehmann also warned Cook that the Plan Commission, which will make a recommendation to the Village Board on the plan, would most likely disapprove of the building's

boxey appearance. Cook's plan shows another large building for the expansion to match the others in the complex.

Should Cook design a nicer-looking building, it would mean sprucing up the other seven. Cook said he had not discussed the possibility of changing the look of all those buildings with the owner.

Trustees agreed that expanding Fairway Greens is the best use for that property, and they agreed to send Cook and his plan to the Plan Commission.

HERALD - 4/25/2002

Police officers will let you dunk them for a good cause

By CASS CLAITT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Police and business professionals will team up this Saturday in Wheeling to raise awareness for a national fund-raising effort that will sweep through the suburbs this summer. Residents can "Stop to Drop a Coop" at a dunk tank and join in other activities at 11 a.m. at CarQuest of Wheeling as part of the National Law Enforcement Torch Run that benefits Special Olympics each year.

The local leg of the torch run relay will pass through Lincolnshire to Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Northbrook and Prospect Heights before continuing southward through numerous suburbs June 9.

Police from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Palatine have been invited to participate in the dunk tank fund-raiser that is one of hundreds of "torch run mini-events" across the country previewing the national relay.

"The goal is to raise \$400, and I would love to go way over that," said CarQuest's Mike Vitoli of the dunk tank event. "There's people out there that need your help, and you do what you can."

All of the money from Saturday's dunk tank, raffles and bake sale will help disabled youths build self-confidence while competing in the Special Olympics, Vitoli said.

The CarQuest Auto Parts chain, which is the international partner for the torch run, has stores hosting fire truck pulls, drag races and other events to raise \$1.2 million for Spe-

If you go ...

What: Law Enforcement Torch Run dunk tank event

When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Where: CarQuest of Wheeling, 353 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Why: Dunk tank, raffles and bake sale will raise money for the Special Olympics and preview the national Law Enforcement Torch Run relay for Special Olympics

Special Olympics

Police departments participate in those mini-events, in addition to raising money from family, friends and businesses that sponsor them in June's torch run.

"Anytime you can do something to help out Special Olympics, it's a good cause," said Cpt. Robert Heer, one of the Buffalo Grove police officers who will sit in the dunk tank Saturday.

Wheeling police Sgt. William Benson said his department will send about 7 officers to participate in Saturday's event. About 12 officers will run in June's Law Enforcement Torch Run.

"I've run every single one since it started in this area in 1987," Benson said. "We're dedicated to raising a minimum \$100 per runner."

Other local events previewing the national torch run include the Buffalo Grove Fraternal Order of Police bowling fund-raiser June 8 in Vernon Hills.

Kolberg ready for challenge as public works director

BY STEVE ZALUSKY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

He'll lead 57 employees in Wheeling's department

Wheeling officials have named Guy Kolberg their director of public works. Kolberg, 45, has been acting public works director since November. He replaces Robert Gray, who retired in the fall.

"I think he'll do fine," said Gray, who took early retirement at age 55, after nearly 30 years with the village, citing health problems. "He's very

well acquainted with the projects we need to implement. I think he'll hit the ground running."

"I'm looking forward to the challenge this position presents," Kolberg said.

Before his temporary appointment, Kolberg, a two-year veteran of the department, was capital projects manager. In that position, he oversaw such projects as the Buffalo

Creek/Wheeling ditch diversion channel, the village's water main replacement program, the street light improvement program and the annual pavement improvement program.

Before joining the department, Kolberg was assistant city engineer for the city of Sun Prairie, Wis. Married and the father of two, Kolberg has a master's degree in project



Guy Kolberg

divisions with 57 employees: administration; engineering; building and fleet maintenance; streets;

management from Governor's State University and an undergraduate degree in engineering technology.

The village's public works department consists of six divisions with 57 employees: administration; engineering; building and fleet maintenance; streets;

sewer, and water. "The work of the public works department touches more residents on a day-to-day basis than any other department — everything from maintaining the water system and other infrastructure to plowing roads and beautifying the village," said acting Village Manager James Grabowski. "Guy Kolberg will continue the tradition of being attentive to community needs that has come to typify public works services."

Concerned Parents Ask For Wheeling Village Board's Help

When schools change boundaries and transfer students, controversy almost always follows quickly. Wheeling Elementary District 21, which serves a portion of north Arlington Hts., is no exception.

A group of District residents is so upset with the recently approved transfer of 170-bilingual students from overcrowded Whitman School to Twain School in Wheeling, they took their case to the village board and asked for help this week.

Trustees sympathized with the residents, but said there wasn't much they could do, since the school board has sole authority to change its boundaries.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who teaches in the district, said he was concerned

about the change and shared his feelings in a recent phone call to Phil Pritzker, president of the District 21 board of education. He said Pritzker told him,

however, that the decision has been made and the district staff is starting to implement it.

The transfer decision, which Twain parents and others feel will adversely affect their school and its test scores, was made last month after months of discussion over what to do with severe overcrowding at Whitman. The school board considered a number of options, including building additions on some schools, and a variety of boundary change suggestions.

They opted for a boundary change over construction because of cost considerations, officials said.

Klatecki urged parents to communicate their feelings to District 21. "The more vocal people become, the more oil the wheel gets," he said.

Wheeling resident and Field School parent Bob Poulsen reportedly said the district is using the village as a dumping ground to resolve its overcrowding problems.

Village Attorney James Rhodes was asked if any legal action could be taken, and he suggested residents' best chances are to air their feelings at the next school board meeting on May 16.

Wheeling trustee Dean Argiris was reportedly not satisfied with that, however, and he suggested that the Northwest Municipal Conference be contacted for possible legal assistance.

Argiris accused the school board of "appalling arrogance," and said, "To sit up here and listen and not be able to do anything drives me nuts."

Wheeling passes law, bans concealed knives

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new law added to Wheeling's books this week should help keep schoolchildren safe from concealed knives, village officials said.

Trustees Monday approved a measure to ban the sale and possession of concealed knives in response to an incident involving a student with a blade at a Wheeling middle school earlier this year.

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 did not return calls seeking comment about the incident, and Wheeling police would not comment other than to say the school found a student with a knife disguised as a pen.

However, village leaders said the discovery brought to light the potential for greater safety problems.

"In researching this issue, we have found that there are a number of devices manufactured for the sole purpose of concealing a weapon within them, including lipstick cases, air gauges, belt buckles, combs, brushes, umbrellas, walking sticks, et cetera," Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said.

Wheeling police concluded that the devices have no legitimate use other than as a weapon. Most Wheeling trustees agreed.

"I think it's important that we have something in place that is strong and meaningful, so that if someone is caught, people can't say, 'There's nothing in place that says I can't,'" said Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Police Chief John Popadowski pointed out that the school imposed sanctions on the teen with the pen knife earlier this year, but there was no state or local law that allowed police to get involved.

"We now have the availability to refer someone to juvenile court or peer jury, the police social worker or, in the case of more serious things, refer someone to court," Popadowski said.

Yet some trustees questioned whether a law banning concealed knives will be effective.

Trustees Patrick and Michael Horcher argued that laws don't make people take more responsibility for their actions.

"I would like to point out that if making a law would stop this, we would have had no murders since the 10 Commandments," Patrick Horcher said.

"Doing this is not going to change the kid that is going to carry the concealed weapon," he added. "It will make it easier to punish him, but it's the parents, the preachers and the teachers that are going to have an effect."

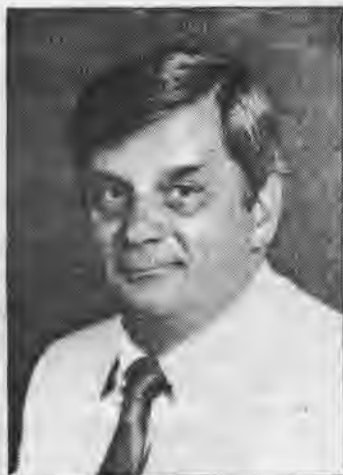
Trustees who voted 4-2 in favor of the concealment ordinance said it would not violate people's rights to act freely as law-abiding citizens.

"I think anytime your intent is to conceal something, there is nothing good meant by it," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "Do I agree that people should be able to own shotguns to go hunting — yes. ... But I also believe they shouldn't own Uzis."

The Village of

Wheeling

- **Population:** 34,496
- **Incorporated:** 1894
- **President:** Greg Klatecki
- **Form of Government:** Village president and six trustees elected at large. Appointed manager.
- **Village Manager (acting):** James A. Grabowski
- **Budget:** \$51 million
- **Sales Tax Receipts:** \$6.2 million
- **Employees:** 225
Police: 88
Fire: 47
Public Works: 54
- **Water Supply:** Lake Michigan
- **Schools:** Elementary children attend Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21, Prospect Hts. Dist. 23 and Township H.S. Dist. 214. Village is served by Harper Community College.
- **Geographics:** 8.12 square miles. Milwaukee Avenue, Dundee Road, Elmhurst Road and Lake Cook Road are major thoroughfares
- **Outstanding Features:** Many fine restaurants: Palwaukee Airport serves Wheeling
- **Parks:** Wheeling Park District
- **Zip Codes:** 60090
- **Telephone Numbers:**
City Hall: 459-2600
Police/Fire: 911 emergency; 459-2632 non-emergency
Wheeling Park District: 465-3333
Senior Citizens Center: 459-2670
Chamber of Commerce: 541-0170
- **Basic Service Rates:**
Water: \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons
Garbage: Contract with Waste Management, \$13.12 a month for refuse haul; \$3.04 a month for recycling.
Pet Licenses: \$5 per animal annually.
- **State Representative:** Carolyn Krause (56); Elizabeth Coulson (57); Sid Mathias (51)
- **State Senator:** David Sullivan (28); Kathleen Parker (29) and Terry Link (30)
- **U.S. Congressman:** Mark Steven Kirk
- **Website:** www.viwheeling.il.us



Greg Klatecki

TRIBUNE - 5/23/2002
WHEELING

Officials back plan for 306 condos

Village officials are backing a developer's plan to build a 306-unit condominium project at Lake-Cook and Wolf Roads.

Smith Family Construction is seeking final approval for seven buildings containing 66 one-bedroom and 240 two-bedroom

TRIBUNE - 5/23/2002
units in the Prairie Park at Wheeling development, company President Mark Smith told a Village Board committee.

The units would range from 1,100 to 2,100 square feet and would start at \$275,000.

Smith said his firm is in the process of acquiring the 17.6-acre site at 566 N. Wolf Rd.

The proposal will be reviewed by the Plan Commission before returning to the Village Board.

John Maes

Brooms and Blooms

PIONEER PRESS
5/2/2002

Village officials are looking for volunteers to help keep Wheeling clean through the fifth annual Brooms and Blooms to be held May 11.

Volunteers are asked to go to Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, before 8 a.m. Saturday May 11. They will be sent out to different areas of the village to clean trash or plant flowers in public areas.

Volunteers are expected to work until about noon, when they will return to Village Hall for refreshments and a barbecue lunch.

All residents are invited to participate, and there is no need to register beforehand. For information about Brooms and Blooms, call Trustee Dean Argiris at (847) 808-8418, or Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady at (847) 537-8642.

TRIBUNE 5/15/2002
WHEELING

Ambulance fee is set at \$315-\$550

An ambulance fee that will produce about \$300,000 in annual revenue was approved by the Wheeling board Monday.

The fee, which will range from \$315 to \$550 depending on the service rendered by emergency medical crews, will take effect June 1.

Trustees Judy Abruscato and Robert J. Heer expressed concerns that the fee would unduly burden seniors.

"I'd hate to think that someone would be afraid to call" in an emergency, Abruscato said.

Medicare typically covers up to 80 percent of the cost for seniors, who account for about 70 percent of the village's 2,000 yearly ambulance calls, Finance Director Michael Mondschain said.

Trustees also approved an agreement with Paramedic Billing Services in Elmhurst to administer billing of the fees.

John Maes

closely with Craig Anderson for several years, and saw first hand the dedication and intense effort he put into making the village of Wheeling the well governed, fiscally sound, and ethically grounded community that it was during his tenure. His solid leadership was recognized by his peers, and by agencies and individuals here and throughout the area.

Craig Anderson's contribution to our village will not be forgotten.

Sheila H. Schultz
Wheeling

HERALD - 5/15/2002

Anderson served well as village manager

To the editor: I want to publicly express my gratitude to former Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson for his years of service to the our community. He is a fine example of a dedicated public servant and good private citizen. He always saw his administrative appointment as one of stewardship, a position in which he held the village in his trust.

As a former elected official, I have a special appreciation for his professional performance, and the wide scope of the responsibilities that he held. In addition to assuring our public safety, and the smooth functioning of the day to day operations of the village, his duties included initiating and managing numerous major local projects, as well as the oversight of Palwaukee and the Northwest Water Commission. He also has ably represented Wheeling in areas where regional decisions that affect our village are made.

I had the privilege of working

HERALD - 5/15/2002

Long Grove interim manager:

Long Grove trustees on Tuesday named former Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson as Long Grove's interim village manager. Anderson replaces the current interim manager, village Treasurer Patricia Chen, who wants to spend more time with her family. Chen will remain as village treasurer. Trustees said Anderson is not a candidate to permanently fill the vacancy left by former village Manager D.M. "Cal" Doughty, who retired in January after nearly 25 years. Village President Tony Dean said there are six finalists to interview for Doughty's former job. Wheeling let Anderson go in February after 14 years of service.

HERALD - 4/29/2002

Grant frees up Wheeling police:

Wheeling has accepted a grant that

HERALD - 4/29/2002

will allow its police greater freedom to roam. The \$230,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will be used to enhance the police department's technology. Among the benefits will be an in-car reporting system that allows officers to send police reports to headquarters on a laptop computer, a computer-aided dispatch system and an integrated records management system. As part of the grant agreement, the village will match \$136,500 match of the grant dollars.

HERALD - 4/30/2002 Wheeling seeks parade partners, volunteers

The Wheeling Special Events Committee has brought back many of the favorite things from years past along with many new things for the Fourth of July parade. If you or your business is interested in becoming a partner, a donation of \$25 or more is required. Mail your check made out to Wheeling Special Events c/o Trustee Judy Abruscato, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090. Volunteers are needed. Call Abruscato at (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107, or Randy Klocke at (847) 537-0574.



PHOTOS BY MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

Schaumburg police officers Tom Greenaway, left, and Steve Watts think the department's new Harley Davidsons will help with community relations, as well as traffic enforcement. Below, Schaumburg patrol officer Steve Watts can be seen on a Harley through a reflection in the sunglasses of officer Steve Teolis.



The law hops on Harleys

Departments across suburbs sending officers out on motorcycles

BY TATASHA KORECKI

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sitting on their motorcycles, wearing dark shades, black leather jackets and black boots, you might think they're rebel-rousing outlaws.

But more and more, the people you see riding motorcycles down suburban streets are the law. And the law's not about to ride just any bike.

A plan set up exclusively for police agencies has an increasing number of departments equipped with some of the sweetest Harley Davidsons available today.

With a spring debut, the Schaumburg Police Department is the most recent to bring the top-of-the-line Harley Road Kings to the streets, becoming the first in the area to own black, rather than white, police bikes. In fact only one other department in the state — the Kendall County Sheriff's Department — has the new black models. They're FLHP-I Road Kings, a police special.

The Kings on Schaumburg's streets will be equipped

with moving radar.

That means if you're careening around a turn near Woodfield Shopping Center or speeding through a traffic light on Higgins Road, a motorcycle cop can be right behind you and surreptitiously clock your speed. Like most departments, Schaumburg also has hand-held radar guns, so they can take post just about anywhere and catch speeders with ease.

"You can sit here all day without even hiding, and people are totally oblivious that you're even there," said Schaumburg patrol officer Tom Greenaway.

"In many public relations situations, people like the appearance of it. It adds a certain dimension," said Cmdr. Jerry Lambert with Arlington Heights, which also uses Harley Davidsons. "For enforcement purposes, it's much lower profile. If you're just doing traffic enforcement, they're not as readily seen."

The Road Kings are designed with a lower center of gravity, allowing for hairpin turns. While they're quick and

See **MOTORCYCLES** on **PAGE 5**

HERALD - 5/27/2002
Motorcycles: Most departments happy with program

Continued from Page 1

powerful, they likely won't be used for high-speed chases on the highway or even more routine emergency responses.

Schaumburg tries to discourage emergency responses as the main use for motorcycles because it's dangerous for such small vehicles to cross busy intersections.

"We like the enforcement aspect. They're very mobile," said Schaumburg Lt. Paul Rizzo, who heads the department's traffic bureau.

"The simple fact that they're not easily detected is a detriment in emergency situations, but an advantage from an enforcement standpoint."

In Schaumburg, the Road Kings will be sent to specific trouble spots — whether it be school zone violations, a residential area with speeders cutting through, or a high-crash site at the shopping center — for specialized enforcement.

Police officials who do use the Kings for some emergencies say they're able to reach their destination in some cases five to six minutes faster than a squad car would.

"When you look at the motorcycles, they can go places these squads can't," Wheeling Police Cmdr. John Stone. "We can work traffic detail in places where people complain about it and they're not noticed."

The bikes also are a good community relations tool, police say, because residents feel more at ease approaching someone on a bike.

"You can carry on conversations; people will come right up to you and say: 'Hey that's a neat motorcycle,'" said Buffalo Grove Sgt. Steve Husak, who heads the traffic division.

Buffalo Grove was the first police agency to join the program, which began in 1999.

Now, about 50 departments are in the program, including Arlington Heights, Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Cook and Lake County sheriff's police, Elgin, South Elgin, Wheeling, Lake in the Hills, Cary, Island Lake, Wauconda and Lake Zurich.

There's now a waiting list about a year long to get on board.

Harley's program allows an agency to pay as little as \$100 for a one-year lease on motorcycles worth \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The price goes up to \$450 annu-



COURTESY OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police on motorcycles have sneaked up on motorists for decades. This traffic stop in Arlington Heights dates back to 1925.

ally per bike, depending on color and equipment.

It's a program that equally benefits police agencies and Harley Davidson, said Craig Hirt, fleet manager at the Woodstock Harley Davidson.

He said Harleys carry a nostalgia with older people but they're slick enough to attract younger people, too.

For Harley Davidson, the program is a way for the dealer to keep its name out there and show that they're good enough for people who need the best.

At the end of the year, regardless of mileage, officers turn in the old Harley and drive away with a brand new bike.

The dealer, in turn, sells the bikes, attractively labeled as previously owned by police. The used bikes always sell, officials say, because police bikes have a reputation of being well-maintained.

In many cases, departments are able to detach and transfer over the striped saddle bags or gas tanks to the new motorcycles, saving the expense of repainting department logos or insignia.

Most departments in the suburbs have three to four bikes and six to eight officers who routinely ride them on different shifts.



MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

Schaumburg patrol officer Steve Teolis uses his radar gun to track traffic speed on Schaumburg Road. The department's new motorcycles also are equipped with moving radar.

Police departments still have to pay the far more costly expense of suiting up each officer — \$1,000 to \$1,500 per officer — officials say it's well worth it.

They also have send officers to a special class at Northwestern University designed for motorcycle policing.

The only glitch in the program, Lambert said, is that the bikes have to go all the way to Woodstock when maintenance is needed.

"If something goes wrong, we have to run them over there. Then every time you do something you've got to find a bike rider to do it," he said.

Still, most departments are in general happy with the program, which doesn't surprise Hirt.

"There's a certain amount of people out there who would like to have Harleys," Hirt said. "A police officer on a Harley demands a certain amount of respect."

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The Kings on Schaumburg's streets will be equipped

gravity, allowing for hairpin turns. While they're quick and

See **MOTORCYCLES** on **PAGE 5**

A tale of rise and fall

Older suburbs lose some residents

BY JON DAVIS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The 1990s were, on the whole, a mixed bag for the Northwest suburbs' bottom line.

Most towns grew wealthier as their median household incomes rose from 1990 to 2000.

However, nine towns saw declines, suggesting the Northwest suburbs are seeing the effects of an aging population staying in place longer and living off of retirement incomes, and immigrant families just getting started here.

But then there were Bartlett and Buffalo Grove, where explosive population growth contributed to equally explosive growth in wealth, according to new information released by the census bureau.

Bartlett was the area's big winner from 1990 to 2000, as the village's total population soared and got richer. Bartlett's median household income, adjusted for inflation, did better than a '90s tech stock IPO, rising 18.6 percent to \$79,718.

"I think early on, in the early '90s when we began to grow, the type of housing that we were able to provide people attracted young families that were upwardly mobile, yet still in those early years," Village President Catherine Melchert said.

The distribution of Bartlett's wealth also underwent dramatic change between the first Bush administration and the second.

Twelve years ago, 69 percent of Bartlett households had incomes between \$35,000 and \$75,000. Just 7 percent of households had incomes of \$100,000 or more, while 13 percent had incomes below \$25,000.

In the 2000 census, 67 percent of the village's households had incomes

Top household incomes

Northwest suburban towns with the highest median household incomes:

	Income
1. South Barrington	\$170,755
2. Long Grove	\$148,150
3. North Barrington	\$146,251
4. Barrington Hills	\$145,330
5. Inverness	\$141,672

Biggest change

Northwest suburban towns with the biggest change in median household incomes:

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1. Bartlett	18.6%
2. Buffalo Grove	10.2%
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau

between \$50,000 and \$150,000. Those with incomes above \$150,000 grew to 11 percent, while those with incomes below \$25,000 fell to 8 percent.

All this while the village, which straddles Cook and DuPage counties, grew 89.4 percent, from 19,373 to 36,706 people.

"We really attracted young families, and those were comprised of couples who had professions or job opportunities where they could grow," Melchert said.

A few miles to the northeast, on the cusp of Cook and Lake counties, Buffalo Grove saw its adjusted median household income rise 10.2 percent to \$73,075 as its population rose 17.7



South Barrington has one of the highest median household incomes in the Northwest suburbs.

MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD FILE PHOTO

percent to 42,909.

And that happened even as the Buffalo Grove's population aged — the number of Buffalo Grove residents age 65 or older rose 77.5 percent — and became more diverse thanks to an influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Asian countries on the Pacific rim.

Buffalo Grove Assistant Village Manager Ghida Neukirch said the village's quality of housing, schools, parks and other amenities created such a demand to live there that Buffalo Grove is a big seller's market.

The addition of upscale housing helped other communities offset similar increases in their senior and immigrant populations, too.

Wheeling officials credit the 6.7 percent rise in their town's median household income during the previous decade to a construction boom that brought an influx of

professionals and seniors with investment wealth.

The population reporting household incomes of \$100,000 or more jumped from 4 percent in 1990 to 14 percent in 2000, for example.

"You look at our development like Avalon Sienna that wasn't here for the last census. And One Milwaukee (Place) and Park Pointe both drew a lot of people from the North Shore," said Daniel Ozanich, Wheeling's director of community development.

Older communities such as Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Palatine and Schaumburg saw their median household incomes drop or rise only slightly. In Arlington Heights, for example, the median household income rose just 1.25 percent to \$67,807, as the population rose by 0.76 percent to 76,031.

Charles Witherington-Perkins, director of planning and community

development, said new senior housing developments and condominium conversions of apartment complexes are among the reasons for the village's small gain.

Moreover, Perkins said, the village's vaunted downtown condos, whose initial sale prices ranged from the upper \$100s to almost \$860,000, came on line after the 2000 census was conducted, and were not counted.

Palatine, however, grew by nearly 67 percent to 65,479 people, but its median household income dropped by 0.28 percent.

Assistant Village Manager Sam Trakas said increased diversity in terms of the village's immigrant and senior citizen populations, is the most likely reason.

"We've brought in a little bit more low-end homes, and more diverse and economical home values,"

Trakas said. While there was much new development in the 1990s, the village also annexed parcels of land with multi-family apartment complexes that house mostly Hispanics — a population that in 2000 was more than six times the size it had been a decade earlier.

Moreover, the village experienced a 60 percent increase in the number of people age 65 and older.

"We're having a lot of new professionals come in and stay throughout their lives," Trakas said. "They start at the small home with a low income, then they move up, and as they become more successful, they move into the expensive home. Then at retirement age, as empty-nesters, they work their way back down."

• Daily Herald staff writers Cass Cliatt and Erin Holmes contributed to this report.



Members of Cub Scout Pack 270 wave a sea of American flags during the Mount Prospect Memorial Day parade down Emerson Street, on the way to Lions Park for a patriotic ceremony. BILL ZARS/DAILY HERALD

'Our freedoms are so precious'



BY FREIDA N. GAD

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents throughout the Northwest suburbs gathered on Memorial Day to march, sing, pray and cry for those who have died in our country's wars.

In Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Wheeling, lines of Scouts, veterans, National Guard troops, bands and politicians

made their way to memorial parks.

In Elk Grove Village, Buffalo Grove and Des Plaines, veterans sponsored flag-centered ceremonies.

Mount Prospect's parade included the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525, both of Mount Prospect, and American Legion Post 888 from Northlake. Volunteers from a National Guard field

artillery unit in Chicago brought three howitzers to the parade. The Prospect High School marching band and several Scout troops filled out the ranks.

The Wheeling High School marching band, AmVets Post 66 and Scout troops enlivened the Wheeling parade.

Four marching bands, including high school units from Hersey, Buffalo Grove and Rolling Mead-

ows, along with the Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society composed of Chicago and suburban police officers, drew a crowd at the Arlington Heights parade. A fifth band, the Arlington Heights Community Concert Band, played on the back of a flatbed truck. Scouts and community groups added to the colorful parade.

For the second year in a row, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, a Gulf War veteran, gave the Arlington Heights keynote address.

"A year ago, we were victorious, prosperous and at peace," he said. "I admit to some arrogance about that. Now we are at war. We have



BOB CHWEDYK/DAILY HERALD

The remembrance of war shows in the face of World War II veteran Bill Hayes of Des Plaines during the national anthem at a Lake Opeka Memorial Day ceremony.

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"A year ago, we were victorious, prosperous and at peace," he said. "I admit to some arrogance about that. Now we are at war. We have relearned a painful lesson of history: Our freedoms are so precious, each generation is tested."

In Buffalo Grove, Boy Scouts from Kingswood United Methodist Church, along with American Legion Post 1247 of Prairie View and AmVets Post 255 of Buffalo Grove, conducted a solemn flag-lowering ceremony in the church's Knopf Cemetery.

The Elk Grove Village ceremony at the Jack A. Claes Pavilion also focused on the flag, as VFW Post 9284 and American Legion Post 216 led a patriotic remembrance.

In Des Plaines, Vietnam veteran Pat Maravola was honored for two tours as a nurse in Saigon.



MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

Vietnam veteran Robert Blocks, a member of Wheeling AmVets Post 66, reflects on the solemn nature of the town's Memorial Day parade. Marchers walked to the post's home for a ceremony.

Wanda LaVan of Buffalo Grove prays and cries for her uncle, John, who died in WWII. Buffalo Grove veterans honored Memorial Day in a ceremony in Knopf Cemetery.



MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD



BILL ZARS/DAILY HERALD

Will Paul, member of the VFW Post 9284 color guard and a Vietnam veteran, watches as the flag is lowered to half-staff during a Memorial Day service in Elk Grove Village.

A tale of rise and fall

Older suburbs lose some residents

BY JON DAVIS

Daily Herald Staff Writer

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• Daily Herald staff writers Cass Claitt and Erin Holmes contributed to this report.

Senior center opens doors to Wheeling

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When Wheeling's Pavilion Senior Center opened 17 years ago, it had 100 to 200 members.

Today, that number has grown to 400, and it's partly because of an event that opens the center's doors to the community and shows off what the center has to offer.

The Family Fun Fair — with its rummage sale, auctions and crafts — attracts scores of residents to the senior center's quiet corner of Wheeling every year.

On Saturday, the tradition will continue at the center, 199 N. First St. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., community members are invited to enjoy a day of clowns, raffles and arts and bake sales to raise money for senior programs.

"We make it a family event as much as we can," said Nancy Janssen, director of senior services. "We started doing this as a way for people to bring their sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and to let them know we exist. We are sort of hidden away back here and we want people to know about our beautiful facility and what we do back here."

The senior center's bubbling fountains and serene walking path might be little-known treasures if it weren't for the fair, Janssen said. The event is in its 12th year, having been preceded by an annual bike-a-thon the center previously hosted to raise money for senior programs.

"With the bike-a-thon, it was hard for seniors to participate in raising their own money," said Maureen Dabeck, the center's clerk.

The family fair allows center members to bring in their old books, dishes, stuffed animals and other household items for the rummage sale and to polish their family recipes for the bake sale — all to support programs they use every day. Proceeds from the family fair pay for such programs as the senior center's craft and sewing groups.

"One of the programs we're just starting is called SeniorNet," Janssen said. "It was developed out of San Francisco to teach seniors computer skills, and the start-up costs — the hard disks, the graduation certificates — that's going to be a very expensive proposition."

Vote delayed on Sam's addition:

Concerns over creating a new blighted area in Wheeling prompted trustees Tuesday to delay a vote on a request from Sam's Club to expand an outside storage area for tires. Sam's Club, 1055 McHenry Road, wants to build a 1,625-square-foot addition on the north side of its building to store tires and batteries. However, the village board wanted assurances that the storage area wouldn't pose the same maintenance problems as a similar commercial storage area considered an eyesore on Dundee Road. Because no representatives from Sam's Club attended Tues-

Commission rejects Dundee Road offices

PIONEER PRESS - 5/30/2002
BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

was still discussing with the developers where on the site the building would stand.

With such basics incomplete, the Plan Commission felt denying the project would get it off the table, giving the developer time to explore more options.

"The property itself is difficult," said commissioner David Cantwell. "Let's not try to fight it, but use it. It could be a focal point in the new downtown area as a pond, or a park or a scenic area... If it's a civic attraction, it will add to the area."

Cantwell also said the building will make Dundee Road look even more congested than it already does, and moving traffic in and out of the site would be difficult.

Ken Brady, Plan Commission chairman, voted against the motion to reject the project, saying he did not want to turn the developer away, especially one who is willing to build offices.

"It's been a long, hard struggle to attract office

The Wheeling Plan Commission said it wants to see office buildings in town, but the time is not right to build one on the corner of Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road.

Commissioners voted 4-3 last week to deny a plan to construct the offices with retail stores at its last meeting. Alex and Michael Loyfman, the developers who want to build on the site, did not attend the meeting.

The 8-acre site lies in a floodplain, making storm water management difficult, said Richard Glenz, village engineer. The developer and engineers have been trying to find ways to squeeze the building onto the site for more than five months. Glenz said he and the developer's engineers have looked at a variety of ways the building might fit on the site, while addressing storm water issues. Glenz said he

space in Wheeling," he said. "I'd hate to say 'no' right now."

However, Brady said he was frustrated with the pace of the project.

Commissioner Terry Steilen said he was not against the project, but the developer obviously needed to do more work before petitioning the commission for approval.

"This may not be the right time to do this particular shoehorn project," he said.

Cantwell agreed, saying the commission should save that site for a project they really like, considering the visibility of the site. He suggested the Loyfmans build offices in another area of town.

"We have the opportunity to see what we really want there instead of taking what comes up," he said.

Commissioners Pam Dorband and Stuart Shapiro joined Brady in voting against the motion to deny the project.

Concerns raised new about ComEd trimming policy

By ANDREA L. BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Commonwealth Edison's attempt to gain greater access to trees needing trimming is running into opposition from some municipal leaders who fear ComEd could be usurping their authority.

ComEd wants to increase the frequency it trims trees that grow in the path of its power lines and is asking the 403 municipalities it serves to sign an agreement to establish a new tree-trimming policy. The utility company is moving from a six- to a four-year trim cycle.

"This plan is an attempt to standardize our policy," said Meg Amato, a ComEd spokeswoman.

Because many power lines cross municipal boundaries, tree-trimming would be quicker and more efficient under a uniform policy, she explained.

"Keeping the lights on is our 'priority-one' job," she said. "In the model tree-trimming program, the goal is to continue to ensure improved reliability."

Amato noted that by stepping up their tree-trimming program, ComEd has improved service by more than 50 percent.

A state law has established guidelines for tree trimming when an agreement isn't in place. The law also allows a municipality to establish its own policy or to sign an agreement with the utility company.

Although nearly 150 communities have already agreed to sign ComEd's proposal, the 50 members of the Northwest Municipal Conference have been asked to hold off while Municipal Conference officials negotiate with ComEd to refine language in the proposed agreement.

Wheeling officials are so far noncommittal on the ComEd proposal. Director of Public Works Guy Kolberg said the village is waiting for word from the Municipal Conference before officials take a formal stand. Kolberg said the Municipal Conference will have a better idea on what other municipalities are doing with the proposed policy and the best way to handle it.

However, Kolberg said he did not believe the policy fit the village's philosophies on tree pruning and preservation.

"Based on my limited knowledge of forestry, it did not seem to be in the best interests of the village," he said. "It seemed liberal in regards to branch removal and pruning."

Wheeling has been designated a Tree City USA for the past 11 years by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Association of State Foresters. To be designated as a Tree City, the town must have a tree-care ordinance, a forestry program, an Arbor Day observance and proclamation and a tree board or department. Kolberg said the village ordinance on tree care is stricter than the proposed ComEd policy.

Kolberg said the village will "seriously consider" the Municipal Conference's recommendation on the policy as it determines whether to accept it.

Discussions between ComEd and Municipal Conference officials have been going on about a month. Most of the work has been to clarify language and make sure it conforms with the state tree-trimming statute, Fowler said.

ComEd's proposal reiterates some aspects of the state law, such as notifying municipalities and affected residents 21 to 90 days in advance that the company's contractors will be in the area to trim trees. They also are responsible for providing public notice in the local newspaper.

The policy has been further refined, Fowler said, by including language that clarifies how ComEd informs its customers about taking trees down on private property.

"They have to provide information on the nature of what they want to do," Fowler said. And the utility company must refer customers to its Web site and a toll-free number for further information on property owners' rights.

ComEd's Amato said that many aspects of their proposed policy go beyond what the current law recommends.

That includes a cooperative program for removing larger trees whose branches are interfering with lines and replacing them with trees that do not grow as tall. The smaller trees are often decorative, flowering trees, Amato said. The trees would be replaced only if the property owners want it, she added.

day's village board meeting to respond to concerns, trustees decided to table the issue until they could have their questions answered.

PIONEER PRESS 5-30-2002 Palwaukee ready for noise complaints

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is now better equipped to handle noise complaints after hiring a person dedicated to talking to residents about specific noise complaints. Residents can now call the airport to complain about noise and be able to talk to a person directly after leaving a voicemail message. Dennis Rouleau, acting airport manager, said the voicemail system will automatically page the person when a call is received. Typically the caller will receive a call back within an hour. The airport also has new noise tracking software that will tell the airport which flights generate the most complaints. The noise coordinator may be able to contact the aircraft's pilots and alert them to ways they can reduce noise in the future. To register a noise complaint with the airport, call (847) 537-2580 ext. 160. Residents can also file complaints on the Internet at www.palwaukee.org.

TRIPUNE - 5/30/2002 - WHEELING

Water, sewer rates to increase in July

Water and sewer rates will increase about 4 percent in the village.

The measure, approved Tuesday, will increase the usage fee per 1,000 gallons to \$3.35 from \$3.30. The charge for sewer usage will rise to 61 cents from 61 cents per 1,000 gallons, officials said.

Under the new rate, the water and sewer bill will increase about \$130 monthly for a resident using 12,000 gallons per month, said Finance Director Michael Mondschein.

The increase will bring in about \$209,000 in extra revenue each year, which will help fund water and sewer system repairs, he said.

John Moore

Wheeling man faces hit-and-run charges

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling man has been charged with reckless homicide after he lost control of his truck in the Wal-Mart parking lot and killed an employee as he was leaving work just after 11 p.m. Saturday night.

The victim, Donald F. Miller, 58, of Buffalo Grove had just walked out the front door of the Lake-Cook Road store when the 1992 Chevrolet S10 Blazer careened through shopping carts, a bench and then into Miller, pinning him against the wall, said Wheeling Police Sgt. Bill Benson. Miller was rushed to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines. He was pronounced dead 12:05 a.m. Sunday at the hospital, according to the Wheeling Police Department.

The driver, Jose L. Hernandez, 23, formerly of Wheeling, ran out of his truck after striking Miller. He ran into another car driven by a woman and the pair drove away.

Benson said police officers discovered Hernandez was driven to Hainesville. Hernandez was taken to an unnamed hospital for his own facial injuries that resulted from the crash, Benson said. Wheeling

police officers have been at Hernandez's hospital room since they found him there.

Benson said the driver of the getaway car is a witness to the crash, and is not being charged with any crime.

On Tuesday, Benson said he expected Hernandez will have been released from the hospital Wednesday, and taken immediately to court. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office Sunday approved the charges of reckless homicide and leaving the scene of a fatal accident, Benson said.

Benson said police believed alcohol played a role in the crash, but Hernandez's toxicology report has yet to be returned to police.

Hernandez was a co-worker of Miller's, but police do not Hernandez' actions were motivated by this tie, Benson said.

"There is no relationship that we're aware of that would indicate Hernandez targeted the victim," Benson said. "He lost control of his truck. He didn't intentionally hit (Miller)."

The crash is still being investigated by the Wheeling Police Department's Traffic Unit. Miller's family had no comment about the incident.

Pilots Restricted From Driving, Parking On Airfield In Light Of New Terrorist Concerns

By JENNIFER JOHNSON

Palwaukee Airport pilots are again restricted from driving onto the airfield and parking there following warnings from the FBI regarding potential terrorist activity.

Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said he again instituted the driving and parking ban after "many sources"—including the FAA—replayed that the FBI had received "uncorroborated information indicating that terrorists may be planning to use small aircraft in possible terrorist actions."

"Based on that information, I took steps to restrict vehicles at

the airport," Rouleau said.

The restrictions come less than a month after security measures involving parking on the airfield were lifted. On May 1, pilots were again given permission to park near their aircraft, something they had not been able to do since Sept. 11. Immediately following Sept. 11, cars were not allowed anywhere near aircraft and many pilots were unhappy with the restrictions. Eventually the no driving onto the field rule was lifted and then, this month, the parking ban was eliminated.

However, Rouleau said he believed there was enough concern

(Continued on page 6A)

(Continued from page 1)

about terrorist activity to again tighten security at the airport. Other security measures have also been taken, he added, but he would not elaborate on what these are.

The driving and parking ban went into effect on Friday, May 24 and all unattended vehicles within the Air Operation Area of the airport will be towed. Certain vehicles, such as FBO service, construction, government, fire, police and airport vehicles, will be allowed to operate at the airport, but all fuel delivery vehicles must be escorted onto the grounds.

Wheeling won't collect on new ambulance fees

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Although ambulance rides in Wheeling will no longer be free as of June 1, no one will be expected to pay the new fee out of their own pocket.

The Village Board approved a plan to collect fees for ambulance services at its May 13 meeting. The fees are expected to generate an additional \$305,000 annually for village coffers. However, all fees paid to the village are expected to be paid by insurance companies.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, said those who use an ambulance in Wheeling will receive a bill in the mail. The patient will have to send the bill to an agency hired by the village that will then collect the fee from insurance companies.

If the insurance company will not cover the entire amount of the bill, the village will collect what it can from the insurance company, without asking the patient to pay the rest of the fee, Mondschain said. Some patients, however, may have to pay a small fee to their insurance companies.

"If there is a co-pay, (the patient) will be responsible for that," he said. "What the insurance company is willing to

pay is what the village will accept, and that will be true for Medicare, too."

Although patients may receive a bill for any amount over the insurance company's limit, the agency hired by the village has instructions to stop sending bills and not aggressively collect the remainder of the fee.

The new ambulance fees range from \$315 to \$550 a trip, depending on the level of service a patient needs and receives.

Trustees voted 4 to 2 in favor of the new tax, with trustees Robert Heer and Judy Abruscato casting the two dissenting votes.

"Individuals might be reluctant to call an ambulance because of the new tax," Heer said. "I'm not in favor of it."

Abruscato said she felt there were other ways to find new revenue sources without having to bill people who were unfortunate enough to need an ambulance.

"I have always felt that I cannot condone sending someone a bill because they needed an ambulance," she said. "I feel the residents already pay for an ambulance with their taxes. I know other communities are doing it, but I don't care what other communities are doing."

Wheeling couple, pet escape fire

By RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Firefighters rescued a woman and her dog from the back yard of her Wheeling home, which had caught fire minutes earlier Thursday night.

Firefighters had to tear down a fence in the back yard of the home at 382 Sunset Lane to allow the woman and her dog to leave the yard safely, said Wheeling fire Battalion Chief Richard Wydra.

The woman and her husband called 911 at 6:46 p.m. and reported a fire in the back of the house, he said. Firefighters arrived at the ranch house minutes later.

"We could see flames shooting over the roof when we pulled up to the house," Wydra said.

As the first fire crew fought the fire, another crew had to tear down a fence so the woman and her dog

could escape, he said. The woman was trying to rescue the animal and became trapped in the enclosure.

"The heat was so intense she could not get out the back yard," Wydra said.

"If she had stayed in that area she would have probably had an injury."

The woman's husband had escaped the house to the front yard.

Firefighters extinguished the bulk of fire within 30 minutes and put the fire completely out in about an hour.

Fire, smoke and heat damage left the house uninhabitable, Wydra said. The family has made arrangements to stay at a hotel.

Firefighters believe the fire is not suspicious but chose to wait until today to conduct a full investigation, he said.

A damage estimate is unavailable.

Village appoints development head

Daniel J. Ozanich has been appointed community development director, Wheeling officials announced.

Ozanich will supervise building inspection, permits, property maintenance, zoning, code compliance and planning. Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said.

Ozanich, who has worked for the village since 1988, was promoted to building director in 1998. He has been acting director for community development since November, when Michael Klitzke retired.

"The director is going to be a very busy position with our comprehensive plan on the way, and Dan brings a broad range of experience and training to help carry it out," Grabowski said.

John Maes

PIONEER PRESS - 5/30/2002

Trustees keen on plans for Prairie Park condos

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling developer Mark Smith says he is proud of the Park Point condominiums he is building on McHenry Road, but promises his new development will be even more spectacular.

Smith's firm, Smith and Sons, is proposing to construct 306 condominiums in five buildings off Wolf Road near the Milwaukee Avenue intersection. Simmerling Fence currently occupies the 18-acre site.

Smith presented to the Village Board last week a plan of the new development, he called Prairie Park, which shows the five condominium buildings surrounding a large pond. The two buildings on the south side of the development are proposed to be five stories and the three north side buildings will be seven stories.

The majority of the development's parking will be in the basements and first floors of the five buildings, although a parking lot is proposed for the north side. Smith said he wanted each unit to have at least two parking spaces.

"I learned from Park Point," he said, in referring to the parking. That development has only one spot for most of the units.

A 9,000 square-foot pool house is also proposed, which will include a deck overlooking the pond and a fitness facility for the residents.

Smith also proposed a large entrance to Prairie Park, with a circular egress from Wolf Road and Wolf Court. A waterfall and gazebo are planned for the entrance along with lush landscaping.

The unit sizes vary between one and two bedroom condominiums, and range from 1,100 square feet to 2,100 square feet. Smith estimated the starting price for purchase to be around \$270,000.

"I think they'll appeal to a broad market," Smith said. "I think this will attract some empty-nesters, but some professionals, too."

Despite the number of units in the development, Smith said about 64 percent of the site will remain as open space.

Smith first proposed the development to the Village Board in June 2001. After that meeting, he met with residents of Picardy Lane which abuts the site to the south. After those meetings, Smith and architects from Hirsch and Associates of Chicago, revised the plans to meet the residents' concerns.

"We learned a lot from the community,"

(Continued on page 10)

PIONEER PRESS 5/30/2002

Trustees

Continued from page 5

Smith said. "It slows the project, but makes it much better."

This time around, trustees were keen on the plan, recommending it move on to the Planing Commission for its review.

"I like the taller buildings," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "I think it's nice. I see no problems with it."

Trustee Robert Heer said he liked the project, but reminded the rest of the board that it told Tantillo Homes to wait for the completion of the comprehensive plan for a proposed development on Milwaukee Avenue near the Simmerling site.

"I'd like to stay consistent," he said. "I'd encourage Mark (Smith) to talk to Camiros (the plan consultants). We have to be fair."

Smith argued he first proposed the plan to the board nearly a year ago before the comprehensive plan revision

was initiated.

Smith also told the board he needed tax increment financing (TIF) money to make the development work.

"This project is of a higher standard, better quality and has more (underground) parking. All of that is costly and tougher to do," Smith said, "(Without TIF money) it won't be economically feasible."

There is no TIF district in that area, yet, but village officials met with TIF consultants and Camrios to start the process of forming the new district last week.

The site is currently in a floodplain, as well. However, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is reviewing the village's floodplain map, since the diversion channel of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch has been completed. According to the developer's engineers, the area will be out of the floodplain once FEMA redraws the map.

Trustees enter school space issue fray

PIONEER PRESS - 5/2/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes is exploring legal options the Village Board may have in opposing the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board's plan to alleviate crowding in Whitman Elementary School.

Trustee Dean Argiris asked Rhodes if the Village Board had any legal means to oppose the School Board's plan. Rhodes said the School Board has authority over the Village Board concerning school boundaries, an answer that did not satisfy Argiris.

"You're saying we can't do anything with District 21?" Argiris asked. "Examine case law to see what other municipalities have done. I can't believe no other municipality has tried to deal with this."

The Wheeling Village Board could not help but notice public resentment over the School Board's decision to split Piper Lane students between two schools, causing students to move between three other elementary schools. Residents packed the Village Board chambers at an April 23 meeting to speak out against the School Board's plan and asked trustees for their help.

Board members agreed to stand with Wheeling residents in their fight against the plan.

Bob Poulsen, a parent of a Field Elementary School student who represented a group of parents at the meeting, said the School Board's solution was a short-term one and left many unanswered questions, one of which included before- and after-school care provided by some District 21 schools and not others. Some Field students will be moved to Longfellow Elementary School. Field provides before- and after-school care, while Longfellow does not.

"We are asking for a meeting between the parents and the (Village) Board to stand with one voice," Poulsen said.

Stuart Shapiro, a member of the Wheeling Plan Commission who said he was speaking as a resident, asked Village president Greg Klatecki to meet with District 21 President Phil Pritzker to relay residents' sentiments about the plan.

Klatecki, who is a teacher at Holmes Middle School, agreed to call Pritzker to relay residents' concerns.

Pritzker said he received a call from

(Continued on page 16)

Trustees

Continued from page 5

5/3/02

Klatecki that very night and said the hour-long conversation was "spirited."

"Greg and I have known each other a long time," Pritzker said. "It was a very good one-on-one discussion."

Pritzker said Klatecki outlined what happened at the Village Board meeting and what the residents' concerns were about the plan.

"I made the other (School Board) members aware of our conversation," Pritzker said. "I don't anticipate any change in the (School Board) vote. We always said we would listen and take any input from anyone who has standing in the community."

Trustees used the opportunity at their meeting to declare their opinions of the actions the District 21 Board has taken. Trustees said they were concerned with the number of upset residents and wanted to see more care taken by the School Board in its decision.

"We need to explore all avenues," said Trustee Robert Heer. "If not, it will only fester. As elected officials, we need to look out for the village's interests."

Argiris said he was dismayed at the School Board's

"arrogance" after they "laughed at our resolution" passed March 18 encouraging the School Board to maintain ethnic diversity in Wheeling schools while addressing the space issue.

Under the School Board's plan, 64 percent of Twain Elementary School students will be enrolled in the bilingual program.

"I'm amazed District 21 would allow such an educational disparity among its own schools," Trustee Patrick Horcher said, alluding to the fact that the district's east-side schools outperform the west-side schools in standardized tests. "The most important thing is to educate these kids."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he believed the board should support the residents opposing the plan.

"We need to let District 21 know that we will put our full weight into protecting our schools," he said.

Horcher, however, was much more cautious.

"I think we should do what we can," he said. "It is dangerous for one board to interfere with another."

Cops get grant

PIONEER PRESS - 5/2/2002

The Wheeling Police Department received a \$230,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that will allow police to install a computerized system of record keeping and dispatching that will keep officers on the streets and out of the office.

The system will allow officers to send reports to police headquarters through laptops in their squad cars. Headquarters can then send back those reports to the officers while in their cars if they need any revisions.

The system also will have the ability to dispatch officers to 911 calls received at headquarters. The system also will let officers know if there are any outstanding warrants on individuals who may be present at those calls and any other information the officer may need.

It will also track officers to those locations, so people in headquarters can check on them if an officer seems to be taking too long on a call.

Police Chief John Popadowski said the system will save officers time from going back

and forth to the police station and improve officer safety.

The village must provide a \$136,570 match to the grant. Funding for the match will come from the E-911 budget and will be spread out over two fiscal years.

Wheeling seeks parade partners, volunteers

The Wheeling Special Events Committee has brought back many of the favorite things from years past along with many new things for the Fourth of July parade. If you or your business is interested in becoming a partner, a \$25 or more donation is required. Mail your check made out to Wheeling Special Events c/o Trustee Judy Abruscato, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090. Volunteers are needed. For details, call Abruscato at (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107, or Randy Klocke, (847) 537-0574.

Board cuts facility design funds from village budget

PIONEER PRESS 5/2/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The renovation of Village Hall and the construction of a new Public Works facility on Hintz Road are on hold after the Village Board decided to eliminate \$750,000 from the 2002-2003 budget that would have been spent on design costs for the new facilities.

Instead, the board wants to consider other options in trying to create more space for employees and departments. The decision last week means the Public Works facility will not move from Dundee Road, and plans already are in place to move the engineering department and the water department from the Public Works facility to a pumping station located on Old Willow Road.

There was talk of moving the Public Works facility to a village-owned, 10-acre lot on Hintz Road the board purchased in 2000 for \$1.35 million. Trustees said they would rather see that lot developed commercially.

Trustee Patrick Horcher said the space at the pump station is underused.

"The building has a computer, some pumps and pipes," he said. "But it's a big building. It's bigger than my house."

Trustee Dean Argiris said it makes sense to move the water department to the pump station building because most of the department's equipment is already there.

"We've had that building for years, and I don't know why it took so long for that light bulb to go off," he said. "So we've freed space (for public works) right there."

Argiris said the board should look at current village facilities and see how they can be used more efficiently. He also said he believed the

lot on Hintz Road can be used for better purposes.

"I think we should develop Hintz Road and use it to make money for the village," he said. "I've been against (moving public works there) from day one."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said a recent increased investment in new computers and computer systems could allow the village to eliminate staff as they leave. That, too, will create more space at the two facilities.

"Looking to the future, as people retire or leave the village, we can redefine some of these jobs," he said. "We've invested a lot in technology, and I think it's time that it start to pay off for us. People can work more efficiently, and we can consolidate some work."

Trustee Michael Horcher agreed. With Village Attorney James Rhodes retiring, Horcher said there is debate among board members whether to replace him or hire an outside legal firm.

"We don't know what's going to happen," Horcher said. "I think (the budget cut) is a good idea until we have a better idea on what we're going to have for space."

Lehmann said he was glad to see the \$750,000 cut from the budget.

"I don't think we're under a space crunch," he said. "I'd rather see us solve some other problems first."

Not all trustees agree that there is no space crunch at Village Hall.

"They are in desperate need of space," Trustee Robert Heer said. "The conditions are far from adequate."

However, Heer did agree that cutting the \$750,000 was a good decision because of the ag-

(Continued on page 13)

Board ^{PIONEER PRESS 5/2/2002}

Continued from page 7

gressive capital improvements program in the budget.

"Is (Village Hall space) a number-one priority for the residents?" he asked. "I think water and sewer is more important to them than putting up a multimillion-dollar building."

Trustee Judy Abruscato said eliminating the \$750,000 from the budget does not mean the new facilities are dead.

"If it comes to big money, we can bond it out, especially with interest rates so low," she said. "Now that money isn't tied up in one item."

Village President Greg Klackecki said he will reserve his thoughts on space needs until the board looks at the space study at the board's workshop meeting May 6.

Board OKs budget

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board approved a \$53.8 million budget for the fiscal year that began Wednesday that includes an aggressive capital improvements agenda.

The new budget represents an 8.4 percent increase in spending, while keeping the property tax levy at an increase of 3.4 percent. Finance Director Michael Mondschain said without the increase in capital improvements, the total budget would have increased by only 3.08 percent.

"That's pretty much keeping up with the consumer price index," he said. "This budget represents the continuance of the fiscally conservative policies of the board. We're doing well financially, and this budget continues that trend."

Mondschain said he believed the new budget will add between \$20 and \$30 to the tax bill of a resident who owns a home valued at \$200,000.

Over \$20 million has been budgeted for capital improvements, a 25.22 percent increase from last year.

Some of those projects include \$1 million for demolishing flood-prone homes, \$1 million in pavement improvements and \$2.6 million for a water main replacement project for the Dunhurst subdivision.

Trustee Patrick Horcher said all the projects need to be completed this year.

"They were important 20 years ago," he said. "Now they're vital."

Horcher said previous administrations had elected to sit on many of the projects. Costs have increased, and the projects kept piling up, creating an urgency to work on the projects now, he said.

Trustee Dean Argiris agreed that the budget is high, but he said the spending goes directly toward making Wheeling a better place.

"We're spending \$20 million in capital improvements," he said. "But we're spending it to improve the village."

The budget also includes \$8.75 million for land acquisition in the tax increment financing district, and \$3 million for streetscape improvements in the TIF district. Horcher said the money has already been col-

(Continued on page 11)

Budget ^{PIONEER PRESS 5/2/2002}

Continued from page 7

lected and is held in a separate fund.

Horcher met with Mondschain and Acting Village Manager James Grabowski a few days before the budget was passed to see what could be cut from the spending plan. In total, about \$1.3 million in cuts were identified in that meeting. Those cuts included \$750,000 for plans to expand and improve village facilities, \$250,000 for a uniform fence on Dundee Road and \$120,000 for design costs for a 2004 water main replacement project.

The water main designs will be done by new in-house engineers to be hired this year. Horcher said the new engineers will help in saving money in future design costs as well. The village also plans to hire one more police officer and three more firefighter/paramedics.

The village expects to collect \$7.6 million in property taxes, representing 23.05 percent of all revenues. The village also expects to collect 14.5 percent more in sales taxes next year. Mondschain said that increase is mainly due to a sales tax increase from .05 percent to .075 percent, which took effect Jan. 1.

The village is also implementing new taxes this year, including a 5 percent hotel/motel tax, a 1 percent use tax on both electricity and natural gas, ambulance fees and higher water turn-on fees that are levied when a resident does not pay a water bill. These new taxes are expected to generate \$628,000.

The village will also dip into its reserve funds to balance the budget. After cuts were made at the last minute, the village will use about \$2.5 million in reserve funds. That still leaves the village with \$14.4 million in reserve funds.

The Village Board passed the hotel/motel tax and the new water turn-on fees at its April 22 meeting. The ambulance fees and utility use tax will be passed later this spring or this summer.

Trustees and village officials say they like the budget, mainly because of the fact so much will be done in capital improvements, while keeping property tax hikes to a minimum.

"I'm very conscious of that," Horcher said. "Anything that affects me, too, I try to be responsible about it."

5/2/2002

Executive Editor: Paul Sassone
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Board needs to back off

As a governmental entity, the Wheeling Village Board should not get involved in the controversy erupting in Wheeling Elementary School District 21.

It is fine if individual board members — as private citizens — want to voice their opinions about their local school district. But by law and out of respect for those people elected to govern the school district, the Village Board should not meddle in school affairs.

And meddling is exactly what village trustees are doing when they weigh in with insults and criticisms about student overcrowding. Some trustees gave their opinions about District 21's dilemma at their meeting last week. They reacted to parents who attended the meeting to express their frustration with the school district.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who teaches in District 21 and who knows School Board President Phil Pritzker, acted appropriately when he told the parents he would talk to Pritzker about their concerns.

Trustee Dean Argiris, however, acted inappropriately when he called the School Board "arrogant" and told Village Attorney James Rhodes to explore what the village can do about the proposal to move students around to make room at overcrowded Whitman Elementary School.

Argiris has a right to share his concerns with the School Board as a private citizen and a District 21 taxpayer. But if he wants to make a difference in how the school district operates, he should have run for a seat on the School Board, not the Village Board.

School boards, according to the Illinois State Board of Education, have the legal authority to set boundaries and decide what is best for school children. Short of filing a civil lawsuit or becoming a party to a suit filed by parents, the Village Board has no legal power to decide school boundaries or how children are educated.

District 21's space crunch is a complex, emotional issue best handled by those people who have direct control over and responsibility for the situation. By joining the fray, the Village Board only furthers the rhetoric and builds false hopes in parents that they may somehow benefit from village involvement.

By joining the fray, the Village Board only furthers the rhetoric ...

Department head search cut by two

By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER

James Grabowski, Wheeling's acting village manager, appointed two new department heads last week, filling important holes at Village Hall.

Grabowski promoted two people to the positions of public works director and community development director. Guy Kolberg was named public works director April 22, and Daniel Ozanich was appointed community development director April 24. Both men were acting heads for their respective departments.

Kolberg has been acting public works director since November, when Robert Gray retired. Kolberg has been employed by the village for the past two years as capital projects manager. In that position, he managed projects like the construction of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch diversion channel, the village's water main replacement program, the street light improvement program and the annual pavement improvement program.

Grabowski said Kolberg will "continue the tradition of being attentive to community needs that have come to typify public works' services."

Before joining the village, Kolberg was the assistant city engineer for the city of Sun Prairie, Wis. Kolberg holds master's degrees in public administration from Governor's State University and in project management from the Keller School of Management. He also holds an undergraduate degree in engineering technology.

Ozanich has been acting community development director since October, when Michael Klitzke left to take a job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also was the village's building director and has been employed with Wheeling since 1988.

Ozanich will be responsible for functions that include building inspections, planing, permits, property maintenance, code compliance and appearance issues.

"Dan Ozanich brings a

broad range of experience and training to the position," Grabowski said. "His familiarity with village procedures ensures an orderly transition."

Ozanich is a 1977 graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago and has extensive experience in private-sector enterprises in the areas of manufacturing, construction, engineering and architectural design. He is a Navy veteran and served in the Vietnam War.

The village is still searching for a village manager and a manager for the Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Grabowski said both searches are progressing.

Trustees met with representatives from the PAR Group, the firm hired to find candidates for village manager, March 26 to develop a candidate profile. Grabowski said PAR representatives also met with village department heads to help put the profile together.

Grabowski said advertisements for the empty village manager position began running last week. PAR stated in its request for proposal that it can find candidates for the village manager in 90 days.

Former village manager Craig Anderson was asked to leave his post by trustees in February after serving for 14 years.

The search for an airport manager is further behind. Wheeling officials and Prospect Heights officials are working together to find a new manager. A search committee has been formed, which includes two Wheeling representatives, two Prospect Heights representatives, as well as representatives from the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. Prospect Heights had just named its representatives to the committee in the last few weeks.

Airport manager Fred Stewart was put on administrative leave Dec. 15 until his official retirement Feb. 1. Dennis Rouleau, the assistant manager, has been the acting airport manager since Stewart's departure.

Vary on O'Hare expansion

BY AMES BOYKIN
AND JAMIE SOTONOFF
Daily Herald Staff Writers

A campaign to gain opposition to O'Hare International Airport expansion has generated friction this week between area mayors who disagree on the airport issue.

Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig B. Johnson is using Suburban O'Hare Commission money and equipment to make more than 20,000 calls to homes in Palatine and Hanover Park, leaving recorded messages blasting the mayors for supporting O'Hare expansion because it will cost jobs.

Johnson, vice chairman of the commission, said Wednesday that Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents can expect the same call soon. The mayors of the four towns support a deal by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Gov. George Ryan to build new parallel runways that would increase the number of O'Hare flights from 900,000 to 1.6 million.

"They never even gave me the courtesy to talk to me before they supported the plan," Johnson said. "What else am I supposed to do?"

Each of the calls cost the commission 5 cents.

In addition, the commission, which represents suburbs opposed to new O'Hare runways, is pushing its campaign by posting signs costing \$50,000 on the front lawns in Elk Grove Village, Bensenville and Park Ridge.

Beginning today, about 2,400 "No O'Hare Expansion" signs will be posted on the lawns of Elk Grove Village residents. The signs, paid for by the commission, also thank U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, an Inverness Republican, for his role in fighting O'Hare

See AIRPORT on PAGE 8

NO
O'HARE
EXPANSION

JOE LEWNAARD/DAILY HERALD
The Suburban O'Hare Commission has started campaigning residents to fight airport expansion.

C234567 HERALD - 5/2/2002

Airport: Residents will have signs to post

Continued from Page 1

expansion. But Johnson's phone calls have generated the most controversy.

Palatine Mayor Rita Mullins was so angry, she made a motion to censure him during Tuesday night's Northwest Municipal Conference meeting to send a message that he has overstepped his bounds.

Johnson was not at the meeting. The other mayors shied away from the idea, however, and the motion died.

"It's about civility between mayor to mayor," Mullins said. "To come into another municipality, contact citizens and say disparaging things about their mayors is unacceptable."

Hanover Park Mayor Irv Bock declined to comment Wednesday.

But Johnson said Mullins and Bock should have contacted him before publicly supporting O'Hare expansion along with 30 other suburban mayors in February.

"So, it's OK for her to devastate and destroy our community, but I can't



JOE LEWNAARD/DAILY HERALD

Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson said about 2,400 signs funded by the Suburban O'Hare Commission will be posted in village front lawns starting today. Signs will be placed in other communities represented by the anti-expansion group as soon as they are ready.

call her on it?" Johnson asked.

A bill mirroring the Daley-Ryan plan, which calls for the demolition of hundreds of homes and businesses in Bensenville, Des Plaines and a few in Elk Grove Village, could come for a vote in the Senate this month. Fitzgerald has vowed a filibuster. A planned "ring road"

creating a western bypass would mean the loss of even more Elk Grove Village businesses, Johnson said.

Elk Grove Village Public Works Department employees will be on the clock as they begin putting out the new blue signs this morning.

Using village employees is appropriate, Johnson said.

"We're just pushing, supporting and showing village policy," he said.

The Suburban O'Hare Commission, which represents nine suburbs, Maine and Elk Grove townships and DuPage County, is funded through municipal dues and private donations.

Klatacki points to Kolsak's involvement with her family's business, Kolsak Funeral Home, as giving her a unique perspective about the need for counseling and support for the families of seriously ill people. She also works with the Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge, where she counbutes her time at fund-raising events. Kolsak, 32, has lived in Wheeling for nine years. She grew up in Park Ridge and attended Main South High School. She is a graduate of Purdue University.

Cass Chat Wheeling



You might recall that we told you in March about Wheeling's own Melissa Kolsak being one of 144 women to receive an Illinois Women of Achievement Award from Lt. Gov. Cortine Wood. Well, Wheeling sent us a note telling us that Village President Greg Klatacki recommended Kolsak for the award because of her active support of the hospice ideal. As Wheeling's representative to the Mrs. Illinois International 2001 pageant, Kolsak was able to carry the hospice message to state and international audiences.

HERALD - 5/2/2002
Hospice
work earns
woman
recognition

Village to hold auction

Wheeling will be auctioning off surplus items to the public at an auction Saturday behind the Wheeling police station, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Viewing of the auctioned items will be from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., with the auction scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Items to be auctioned include bicycles, surplus village office equipment, other surplus equipment and found or unclaimed property.

Charter flights: No lines, no security

*Convenience
comes at a price*

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Since Sept. 11, charter airlines have made it a point to emphasize an advantage over commercial airlines: no long waits for security checks.

"When you charter there are no lines, no inspections, no security concerns and no hassles," announces the Web site for Elliott Aviation, of Moline, one of the Midwest's largest charter operators.

Another charter service, Share-A-Flight, also has said that the lack of security screening makes it quicker and more convenient.

But security experts and lawmakers are questioning whether this is a potentially deadly loophole in the nation's aviation security.

"On-demand service doesn't get any scrutiny," said attorney Mary Schiavo, former inspector general for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

She said there have been cases in which passengers tried to take over such flights.

"It's a problem, but nobody focuses on it because they (terrorists) haven't used that yet to do something horrible with major loss of life," she said.

Since the terrorist hijackings of four airline flights on Sept. 11 last year, federal regulators have focused on security for commercial airlines, said Dierdre O'Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration.

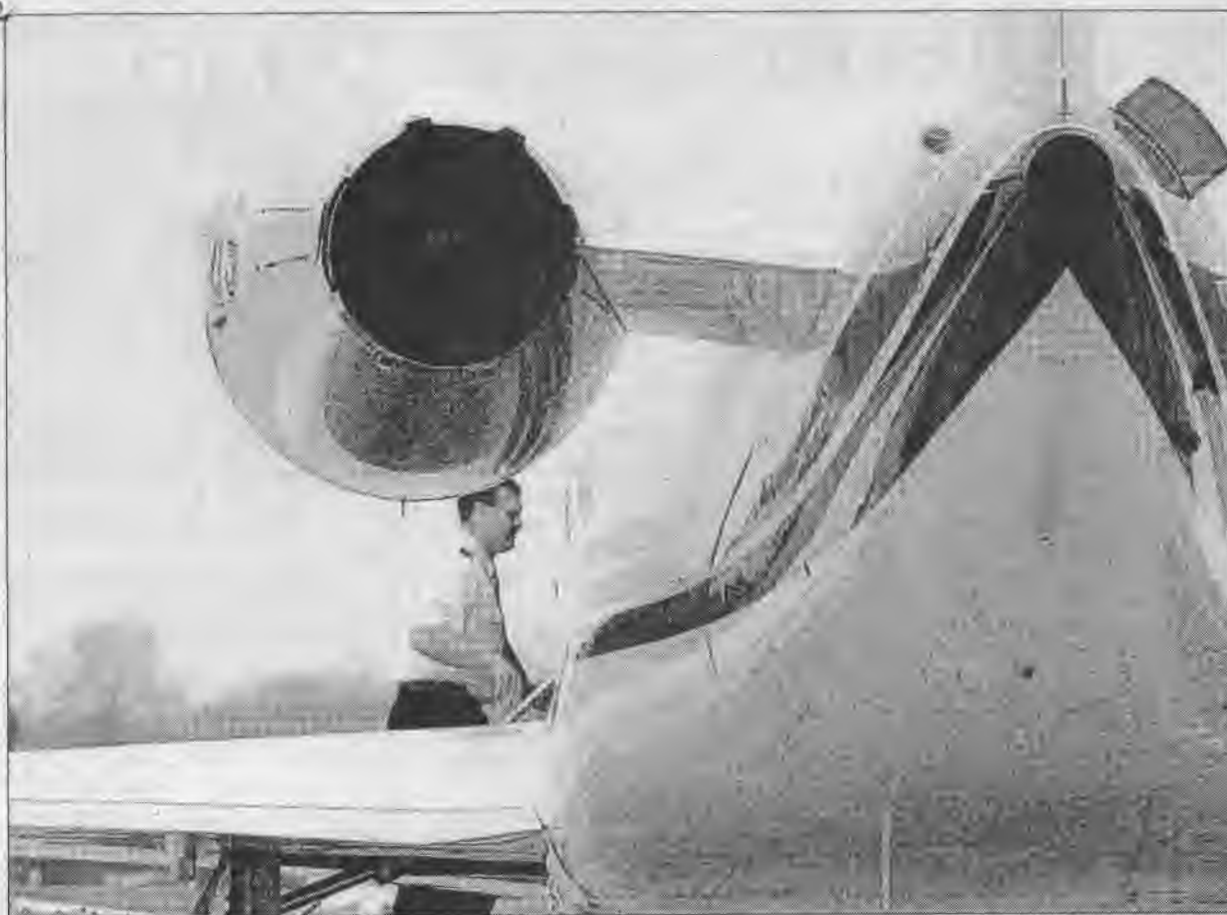
Now, she said, federal regulators are considering whether to tighten security requirements for charters, air taxis, and other "on-demand" flights.

Sen. Dick Durbin was one of the first lawmakers to raise the concern last fall, when he worried hijackers might take over a charter flight.

Last week, Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin raised the issue at a hearing with U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, asking what would prevent takeover of a chartered plane, some of which are as large as a Boeing 757, and could cause as much damage as on Sept. 11.

Mineta said there should be different regulations for small and large aircraft, but added, "When we take a look at charters, it, to me, should not be that much different from scheduled service."

In general, charter services are not required to screen passengers or luggage, as are airlines, unless the charter flight goes into a "sterile" area of a commercial airport, such as the gates behind the screening check-



Airplanes at small airports might park closely to low perimeter fences, such as this one at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

point.

But most charters, like Share-A-Flight at Midway, operate out of a separate hangar at the airport, and board passengers there without a screening checkpoint.

Charter companies can leave without screening at Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, or DuPage Airport in West Chicago, and land at Midway and avoid screening, but if they were to use a gate at another commercial airport like Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, would then be required to go through screening when they got off the plane.

At that point, Kohl said, "Obviously, then it's too late."

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act passed by Congress last fall called for the Federal Aviation Administration to institute screening for charter passengers.

The FAA has since proposed criminal background checks for charter pilots and controlled access to cockpits, but security screening is still under review.

Charter businesses point out they've had a good safety record, and they share several key differences from airlines.

Jacqueline Rosser, of the National Air Transport Association, differentiated between small charters, such as corporate jets and air ambulances, and larger planes.

Small charters, she said, generally carry members of one company whom charter officials know and who know each other, and may have their own flight crew.

They often use small jets that carry only four passengers, and do not make the same high-profile target as airlines.

Charter planes often fly to airports like Palwaukee and DuPage, that are farther from terrorist targets in city centers than are commercial airports.

Other charters, in contrast, like

casino junkets, operate large jets like the Boeing 747, and go into major commercial airports.

Then there are gray areas for medium-sized charters that offer services similar to airline flights.

Share-A-Flight, for instance, aims to offer the convenience and luxury of a charter with the affordability of an airline ticket.

The company notes seating will be open to the public, so other passengers will also be on board. You tell them when and where you want to go, and they try to find other passengers to fill the flight.

In March, Share-A-Flight started offering scheduled service between Midway and Mid-America Airport near St. Louis.

Marketing Director Gregg Golden said Share-A-Flight is allowed a limited number of scheduled flights, even though it's considered a charter service.

Company officials hope to expand scheduled service, possibly using other companies' aircraft to stay within the charter designation, and hope to offer larger 8-seat airplanes.

Business for Share-A-Flight has increased since Sept. 11. Despite

some recent drop-off after an initial surge of interest, on-demand flight bookings have increased about 15 percent since last year, the National Air Transport Association reported.

Golden said Share-A-Flight has security wands available, follows all regulations, and will follow any required changes.

"Obviously, you make a valid point about being concerned in this day and age, but we're going to work with the FAA to make every flight as safe as possible," Golden said.

Even if the government requires tighter security, it may be difficult for the charter industry to comply.

It would be a massive and expensive undertaking to require screening at thousands of general aviation airports, or to require flights to go through a few "portal" airports for screening.

But critics like Kohl said even a \$200 metal detecting wand would provide more security than there often is now.

"I'll be hopeful that sometime in the very near future," he said, "I can get just a reasonable response to what I think is a clear and present danger."

Space fixes will wait for a ne

PIONEER PRESS - 5/9/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Despite a consultant's opinion that Wheeling village employees need more space to effectively do their jobs, Wheeling trustees said any plan to improve working conditions will have to wait until a new village manager is hired.

The village hired FGM Architects to study the space at Village Hall, the public works building and the Pavilion Senior Center. FGM's Cristina Benbom said employees need more space at all three facilities.

"The buildings were built to meet the needs of a smaller population," Benbom said. "Expansion needs to take place for day-to-day operations to run efficiently."

Village Hall was built in 1972, when Wheeling's population was around 14,000. Today, the population is nearing 35,000, and the number of village staff members has increased 18 percent over just the past six years.

Current and future development also is expected to attract more retirees, who will most likely want to take advantage of services at the senior center. All of these factors point to a need for more space, the consultants said.

Village Board members, however, are not eager to start new construction. Some questioned the logic of going into debt to build and suggested the new village manager see how existing space can be better utilized.

"We have new management coming in," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "I'd like to see what management needs.

I'd like to see (planning for new construction) put on hold."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he would rather look at existing facilities and whether adjustments can be made with current facilities.

"I keep seeing in this report use of space," he said. "I think we should look at our space now and what we can do with the space we have."

But some trustees, especially those looking at photographs FGM employee work areas, said the desperately needs more space.

"I looked at these photographs and thought, 'How upsetting it is to have to work in this space,'" Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "Common sense tells you there isn't enough room."

Trustee Robert Heer said employees could better meet the needs of students if their work environment

consin raised the issue at a hearing with U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, asking what would prevent takeover of a chartered plane, some of which are as large as a Boeing 757, and could cause as much damage as on Sept. 11.

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Trustee Trevor Lehmann also said he would rather look at existing space and whether adjustments can be made with current facilities.

"I keep seeing in this report, 'poor use of space,' " he said. "I think we should look at our space now and do what we can with the space we have."

But some trustees, especially after looking at photographs FGM took of employee work areas, said the village desperately needs more space.

"I looked at these photos and thought, 'How upsetting it is to work here,' " Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "Common sense tells you there is not enough room."

Trustee Robert Heer said employees could better meet the needs of residents if their work environment was

enhanced.

"We preach we want the residents to have the best services possible," he said. "Well, it starts right here, at 255 W. Dundee Road. If we don't have the space, we can't give them what they need."

FGM estimated it would cost the village \$16.5 million to build a new public works facility, renovate Village Hall and the senior center, and transform the existing public works facility into viable work space for other departments. A new public works building alone could cost as much as \$12.5 million.

Trustees have discussed building a new public works facility on a lot on Hintz Road the village purchased in 2000. However, some trustees say they would rather develop that land commercially to generate more tax dollars.

Day care may be tightened

PIONEER PRESS - 5/1/2002
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials are considering changes to the village's home day-care ordinance that will allow residents to continue to provide safe and quality care while maintaining the character of residential neighborhoods.

The Plan Commission began discussion on the issue April 25 and will address the topic again during a workshop session with day-care experts.

"We're all in favor of the practice (of home day care)," said Ken Brady, Plan Commission chairman. "The question is, where do we draw the line where it's not affecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods?"

How many children should be allowed in a single home day-care setting is a primary focus of the debate. According to current village law, a home provider can care for no more than 12 children, the maximum number recommended by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The current discussion stems from a Village Board decision last month that reduced the number of children home day-care provider Lynda Claver could care for to eight from 12. The board voted to reduce the number of children after Claver moved to a larger house and had to re-apply for the special-use permit needed to run her business. The board followed a Plan Commission recommendation out of concerns about the impact on the neighborhood.

Plan commissioners asked the Village Board if they could examine the current ordinance after the Claver case. The board agreed, giving the Plan Commission its blessing to begin the review.

Linda Waycie, of Children's Home and Aid Society, and Iris Kaitschuck, of the Illinois Association for Family Child Care, spoke before the Plan Commission at its last meeting. Kaitschuck also is a home day-care provider.

Waycie outlined some of the benefits of home day care, citing research that suggests children enrolled in "enriched childhood programs" are more likely to finish school, stay off welfare and less likely to commit crimes.

PIONEER PRESS - 5/1/2002

Day care

Continued from page 8

Waycie also argued that home settings can be more beneficial for children than institutional care because of smaller group sizes where the children receive more one-on-one attention. She also said the home settings are typically more affordable.

"You need to make a decision," Waycie told the commission. "You need to offer choices with quality child care."

Kaitschuck said a more restrictive home day-care ordinance may tempt more home providers to skirt the ordinance and run their businesses without a local license. She said it is dangerous when home care providers go "underground."

"If they go underground, the fire department and the police department won't find them," Kaitschuck said. "Then what will happen to the quality of care?"

Brady said the village shares the same concerns. But he added that officials also have to weigh those concerns against the neighborhood impact.

"It's our job to worry about Wheeling and what happens in this village," he said. "All the things you're concerned about, we're concerned about — quality of care, health and safety of the children. We're also looking at what we have to offer in our homes and neighborhoods."

Commissioner Terry Steilen asked the two women to appear before the Plan Commission again with more information as to what surrounding communities allow in their home day-care ordinances. The Plan Commission set a tentative date of June 13 to continue the hearing.



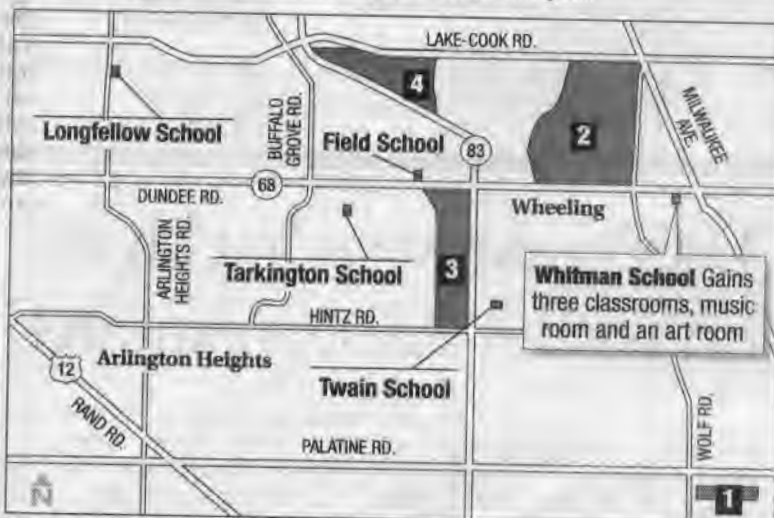
Suspect

Cameron Helder caught

Associated Press
RENO, Nev. — The FBI zeroed in on 21-year-old Luke Helder as the suspect in the string of pipe-bomb attacks after his father called police about a disturbing letter in which his son warned, "Mailboxes are exploding," authorities said Wednesday. Helder was captured Tuesday in Nevada after

Trading spaces Herald May 9, 2002

District 21 is instituting this boundary change to alleviate crowding at Whitman Elementary, which has more than 800 students this year.



1. Around 170 bilingual students, who currently attend Whitman Elementary School and live in the 500, 600 and 700 buildings on Piper Lane in Prospect Heights, will attend Twain Elementary School.

2. Around 150 students who currently attend Twain Elementary School and live north of Dundee Road and South of Lake Cook Road between Wolf Road and Industrial Drive will attend Field Elementary School. Middle School students in this area, who currently attend Holmes Middle School, will be reassigned to London Middle School.

3. Around 90 students, who currently attend Twain Elementary School and live west of Route 83 and south of Dundee Road, will attend Tarkington Elementary School next year.

4. Around 150 students, who currently attend Field Elementary School and live north of Route 83 in the Cedar Run, Brook Vale and Lexington complexes, will attend Longfellow Elementary School. Middle School students in this area, who currently attend London Middle School, will be reassigned to Cooper Middle School.

Source: Daily Herald reporting

DAILY HERALD

HERALD - 5/19/2002 The briefs

Join July 4 parade as marcher, volunteer

The Wheeling Special Events Committee is seeking volunteers for its Fourth of July celebration. Anyone who can help with the games and to work along the parade for even an hour is being asked to call Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato, (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107. Those interested in seeing their name or the name of their business in print can become a "partner" of the Wheeling Fourth of July celebration for a donation of \$25 or more. Mail checks made out to the Wheeling Special Events Committee, Trustee Judy Abruscato, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, Ill., 60090. Also, the parade continues to grow, and the village is accepting new additions. Neighborhood groups or businesses interested in joining the march should call Randy Klocke, (847) 537-0574.

Dist. 21: Letter upsets parents

Continued from Page 1

will be or when it will be," Harrison said Wednesday. "If there was significant growth, some sort of (boundary) movement would be considered, along with other options."

Although Whitman will have more room next fall, the school will still have more than 600 students.

Some parents said the boundary change, which will uproot more than 500 students and affect five elementary schools and two middle

Parents who protested the boundary changes Tuesday also were upset that DesCarpentrie sent letters to parents of Whitman, Twain, Field, Tarkington and Longfellow students informing them of the boundary change even though the board will not officially vote on the measure until June 16.

DesCarpentrie said he was following orders.

"The board told us to implementing plans and that

Day care may be tightened

PIONEER PRESS - 5/19/2002
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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PIONEER PRESS - 5/19/2002

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Continued from page 8

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By CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite boundary changes the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board is planning to begin this fall, some parents fear even more crowded schools and boundary reassessments could be in store for students as Wheeling officials prepare for new townhouses and condos.

On Monday, the Wheeling village board is expected to allow Kimball Hill Homes to build 128 new townhouses and 120 condominiums on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

Kimball Hill could possibly complete the project within the next 12 to 15 months, Wheeling Plan Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said.

The site for the new complex is located directly south of Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling, which is the centerpiece of a redeveloping plan.

Parents said the current boundary changes, which will transfer 170 bilingual Piper Lane students away from Whitman to Twain Elementary School in Wheeling, do not fully address crowding problems or provide room for future growing areas, like the Kimball Hill development.

As a result of the boundary change, Whitman will gain three classrooms, along with an art room and a music room.

Shapiro said families with children will likely occupy some of the new homes scheduled to be built south of Whitman. "Who else is going to move into a three- or four-bedroom townhome?" he said.

MEGALD - 5/19/2002 District 21 parents doubt boundary changes will

At a news forum I went to recently, a woman rose from the audience during the question-and-answer period demanding to know why newspapers and television were not doing more reporting on the plight of the star.

2002
crowding at Whitman

Whitman School Gains classrooms, music and an art room

Elementary School will

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With so many ills to solve, where does one start?



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Wheeling sees new housing as boon to village's appearance

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The blighted image of Wheeling that motorists first see when heading into town on Milwaukee Avenue could finally be changing.

After 1½ years of delay, the Wheeling village board Monday will consider final approval for the Kimball Hill Homes housing development proposed for the former Wheeling Nursery property.

The plan to build 240 homes as a mixed condominium and town-house subdivision has bounced back

and forth between the village board and the plan commission since October 2000.

Yet the final design of the proposed Astor Place received its thumbs-up from the plan commission last month with none of the stumbling blocks the plans initially suffered.

Wheeling leaders once wanted more commercial development on the 25-acre site along Milwaukee Avenue, and then problems with sewer lines held up the housing project.

Now members of the village board said they're excited the project could

begin at last.

"You're coming into our town going north and what did you see before? Nothing," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "There are the used car lots and the lots for sale. Now you're going to see a brand new development going in there, and that's going to revitalize the area tremendously."

The village's requirement that Kimball Hill run sewer lines south of the development — instead of north as proposed — caused the biggest delays for the project last year, but leaves room for future development toward Milwaukee Avenue and Lake

Cook Road, city officials said.

Kimball Hill has been able to acquire the land rights to build the sanitary sewer lines, and officials have grown satisfied with 2.5 acres set aside for commercial use in the housing development.

Now the only hitch to the project should be a traffic-signal study.

As a condition of approval, the plan commission recommended that the developer be required to find by the end of the year whether an increase in traffic will make a new traffic light necessary at Manchester Drive and Milwaukee Avenue.

If the project goes through, the new housing, which would range in price from \$175,000 to \$245,000 should make Wheeling more attractive for new businesses.

"They'll draw the big circle around the village and say, 'What is the household median income here,' and the new demographics will help drive upscale retailers to consider locating here," Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said. "It helps improve the economics of the village."

Monday's village board meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the village hall, 333 W. Dundee Road.

HERALD - 5/9/2002 Palwaukee water main causes tiff

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A dispute over whether to allow Palwaukee Municipal Airport to build a water main for new airport hangars is causing bad blood between Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

The water main would provide sprinklers for fire safety and is required by zoning codes before the airport can build the hangars.

Aldermen in Prospect Heights sharply criticized Wheeling this week for cutting the \$69,000 cost of the main from Palwaukee's budget, saying it was self-centered of Wheeling trustees.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport, and Wheeling officials say the village used its money to extend a water main for the airport seven years ago. It's Prospect Heights' turn.

Prospect Heights aldermen refused to vote on the decreased \$7.1 million airport budget without the water main.

"They're behavior is absolutely abominable," Prospect Heights 5th Ward Alderman Darlene Ahlstedt said of Wheeling trustees. "I don't understand how we can share a chamber of commerce, we always promote their Restaurant Row and now we share a Lions Club, and they won't work with us."

Aldermen accused Wheeling of being afraid Prospect Heights residents would somehow benefit from the water.

"There's absolutely no truth to that," Wheeling's Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said.

Wheeling thinks it's best to hold off on building the main until the airport solidifies its airport improvement plan.

Also, "the village paid to have a water main extended when the control tower was built, all at our expense, and we feel that because the airport did not contribute to the cost of that extension, Prospect Heights should put in that water main," Grabowski said.

A \$100,000 federal grant helped Wheeling pay for its main, which serves part of the airport, as well as some Wheeling businesses.

Airport managers suggested that Prospect Heights approve the decreased budget and sort out differences with Wheeling later, but aldermen voted to table the issue.

JOURNAL & TOPICS - 5/9/2002 Collies Successful In Keeping Geese Out Of Airport

After years of trying various methods to control the goose population at Palwaukee Airport, officials have finally found something that works: Border Collies.

The dogs, known for herding instincts, are brought out the airport to chase the geese away without causing any harm to them. According to Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau, using the dogs has been "extremely successful" in controlling the geese on the airport grounds.

"It's probably the single most effective goose control we've used to date," Rouleau said.

The airport had attempted a number of solutions, from relocating wetlands to using pyrotechnics to scare the birds away. But nothing really worked until the Collies came.

Rouleau said the goose population became problematic at the airport a few years ago as the birds became a hazard to aircraft taking off and landing because they were

flying and walking everywhere. A solution was discovered when Rouleau contacted Susan Hagberg, co-owner of Migratory Bird Management of LaGrange, who suggested the airport get a Border Collie.

The airport now has about two to three dogs come out with their handlers for about two hours each day during the fall and spring migration. The dogs are then set out to chase the geese which eventually fly away and relocate to other nearby wetlands, like ponds.

"The geese see the dogs as natural predators and launch as soon as they see the dogs coming," Rouleau said. "It's the dog's job to keep them from landing again. Eventually, geese tire of being chased and leave the airport. But while the dogs disrupt life for the geese, they never harm them."

This is the third season the airport is using the Border Collies, and Rouleau said the goose population is now "practically nonexistent."

Wheeling residents will have the chance to help village planners establish development priorities over the next 10 to 20 years at a public forum at 7 p.m. Thursday at the village hall council room, 255 Dundee Road, Wheeling.

The Plan Commission, which has been working since the first of the year to update the village's comprehensive plan, is seeking input from residents and new arrivals, commercial and industrial organizations, community groups and others interested in the village's future.

A variety of issues are under consideration, including: land-use patterns; development objectives; possible location of a proposed town center and improving the commercial corridors along Dundee Road and Milwaukee Ave.

"This meeting, along with professional guidance from the planning and form the basis for possible next year, will guide future land use and form the basis for possible comprehensive plan.

The plan, when completed early next year, will guide future land use and form the basis for possible comprehensive plan.

of his department and the Economic Development Commission will reflect the policy suggested by the village function needs to be moved," Bomben said.

Federal regulations resulting from the facility's location on a flood plain limit the expansion possibilities, she said.

The senior center, 199 1st St., should be expanded to 8,000 square feet from the current 5,000, and parking spaces should be added, she said. Those improvements would cost about \$390,000, she said.

Village President Greg Klavon suggested the board should wait until a new village manager is hired before voting on the recommendations.

John Maes

Residents can help village planners

Local 5/11/02

firm Camiros' said Plan Commission chair Ken Brady, "will help us articulate by the community itself." Camiros, Ltd., a Chicago-based strategic planning firm with broad experience in comprehensive and economic planning, has laid the groundwork for the May 16 meeting. The company has conducted land-use analyses, identified trends and interviewed members of the village's boards and commissions.

"What we do," said Jeanne Lindwall, Camiros principal consultant, "provides the why for future activities by identifying what the community wants to see and making recommendations based on that feedback."

Whitner said the emphasis areas of his department and the Economic Development Commission will reflect the policy suggested by the village function needs to be moved," Bomben said.

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John Maes

Expansion urged for Village Hall

WHEELING - 5/10/2002

TRIBUTE - 5/10/2002

Segregation complaint filed against Dist. 21

BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A parent in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 has filed a discriminatory complaint against the school board for its proposed boundary change, which she claims will segregate students at Twain Elementary School in Wheeling.

Twain parent Wendy Griffin registered the complaint Friday with the U.S. Department of Education's civil rights office, alleging that the board's decision to transfer 170 bilingual students to Twain next fall will create a school predominately made up of Hispanic students enrolled in bilingual language programs.

Griffin said the boundary change — which the board is scheduled to formally vote on Thursday night — violates the Equal Education Opportunities Act of 1974.

"I feel like my son is not going to get the education he needs," Griffin said. "The school is going to be accommodating the bilinguals. What if he needs a special education or honors class? He's going to be held

back because there's no room for him.

"If you're going to ship kids across the district and then push the English-speaking kids out of our school, that is segregation," Griffin said.

U.S. Department of Education spokesman Roger Murphey in Washington, D.C., said that if the department finds that the boundary change is creating segregation, then it will require the district to sign a compliance agreement ending the change.

District 21 board president Phil Pritzker said he had been in contact with the district's legal counsel after hearing about the complaint. He does not believe the boundary change is illegal.

He would not comment further, he said, because he had not yet seen the complaint.

If approved, the change will transfer 170 Hispanic bilingual students who live in the Piper Lane area of Prospect Heights, a largely Hispanic community, to Twain. These students

See COMPLAINT on PAGE 4

Complaint: Bilingual program in question

Continued from Page 1

attend Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling. As a result, about 200 Twain students will be sent to other district schools to make room for the incoming bilingual group.

Griffin and some other district parents said that the boundary change violates the Equal Education Opportunities Act. The law prohibits a school district from assigning students to a school other than the district school closest to their home, which results in greater segregation.

The school closest to the Piper Lane students is Frost Elementary School in Mount Prospect, which district officials said is already filled to capacity.

Also, some District 21 parents this week are attempting to raise \$1,000 in order to hire a court reporter to record the board meeting Thursday night, in case future legal action is needed.

In April, District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie presented figures to the board that relayed how a boundary change would affect the bilingual population at Twain. The board has been looking at different ways to move some students out of Whitman, which has 800 students.

The board decided on a plan that would move 170 Whitman bilingual students to Twain, based on projections that said the change would make the student population at Twain 56 percent "bilingual" and 44 percent "regular."

Updated projections from Twain's staff, however, show that the number of bilingual students could be higher

than 56 percent.

DesCarpentrie initially said there would be 244 non-bilingual students and 310 bilingual students at Twain after the boundary change. However, District 21 documents obtained by the village of Wheeling and Field Elementary School parent Bob Poulsen through Freedom of Information Act requests show that, based on Twain's own research, the school will only have 150 "regular" pupils next fall.

Non-bilingual students will take up seven classrooms at Twain, while bilingual students will use 15 classrooms. The total number of bilingual students will be 314. "I went to my staff and said, 'This is what I think is going to happen,'" Twain Principal Gwendolyn Gage said Monday of the new projections. "The district is checking and verifying the numbers."

Griffin said the purpose of Twain's bilingual program — which is to train students in English and then integrate them into mainstream classes — will be defeated if the majority of Twain's classrooms become bilingual.

Pritzker said the district is examining the discrepancy of the numbers. "We're aware that there is a reported difference," Pritzker said Monday. "We are aggressively reviewing that."

Board member Bill Harrison said the initial projected enrollment numbers for Twain are wrong, partly because DesCarpentrie used enrollment figures from last September when determining how a boundary change would affect Twain's population.

DesCarpentrie did not return calls on Monday.

Wheeling approves charging new fees for ambulance use

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents who need an ambulance to carry them to the hospital in an emergency will soon see a new charge in their medical bills.

Village trustees Monday approved new ambulance fees ranging from \$315 to \$550 for varying levels of ambulance service, despite fears expressed by some trustees the fees would burden senior citizens.

Fire Chief Keith Maclsaac told trustees that seniors make up about 70 percent of Wheeling's ambulance transports, but the village board stressed that the new fees should not come out of residents' pockets.

A federal law that took effect last month prohibits Wheeling and other towns with similar fees from charging more for ambulance service than Medicare will pay.

Also, because most insurance companies base their ambulance payments on what Medicare pays, residents covered by health insurance should have little or no out-of-pocket expense, officials said.

Wheeling estimates the village will eventually add \$300,000 to its coffers in annual fee revenue. A federal reimbursement schedule allows the village to collect 20 percent of ambulance fees this year and gradually

increases fees to 100 percent by April 2007.

"I can't condone sending someone a bill because they need to use an ambulance," Trustee Judy Abruscato said in opposing the fee. "I feel that we pay for our fire, paramedic and police department with our taxes, and I don't think we should put another tax on an ambulance fee."

Trustee Bob Heer also opposed the fee, saying he feared people would be reluctant to call for an ambulance because of it.

However, he and Abruscato were in the minority of a 4-2 vote in favor of the fee after city staff explained the village has no plans to pursue payments beyond what insurance or Medicare will pay.

"We would not be billing the residents, right?" Trustee Dean Argiris said. "We're not going to turn to bill collectors."

The village is required to send bills to residents so they can pay their share of co-payments, "but we're not going to follow any aggressive measures to collect that," Finance Director Michael Mondschain said.

Paramedic Billing Services of Elmhurst, which also handles ambulance billing for Des Plaines, Skokie and other towns, will begin billing for Wheeling June 1 and receive 10 percent of the fees.

Wheeling public forum is now June 5

Editor's note: Because of technical problems, this column did not run Monday in its regular spot.

Wheeling residents who have been waiting for their chance to help decide how the village should approach redevelopment in general have to wait just a couple of weeks longer.

A public forum initially scheduled for Thursday will be held June 5. The forum is to allow residents to assist village planners in establishing Wheeling's development priorities for the next couple of



rest Checking puts your

in a \$75 donation by CoVest to the
 fee. Your personal interests with
 it all adds up to more value for

Below	Minimum	Minimum	Bal. Fee
\$10	\$400	\$10	
\$10	\$1,000	\$10	
\$18-\$20	\$1,500	\$18-\$20	

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See COMPLAINT on PAGE 4

HERALD 5-14-2002

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A public forum initially scheduled for Thursday will be held June 5. The forum is to allow residents to assist village planners in establishing Wheeling's development priorities for the next couple of decades.

The forum still will be conducted by the Wheeling

Plan Commission at 7 p.m. in the village hall council chambers, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The plan commission has been working since the first of the year to revamp the village's comprehensive plan. They're welcoming input from longtime residents, newcomers to the village, commercial and industrial organizations, community groups and others interested in Wheeling's future.

"This meeting, along with professional guidance from the planning firm Camiros, will help us craft a vision for the future by highlighting Wheeling's strengths, opportunities and challenges as articulated by the community itself," said plan commission Chairman Kenneth Brady in a prepared statement.

Economic Development Director William D. Whitmer said the village needs the comprehensive plan to help the village find which areas need the most attention and where Wheeling should direct its resources.

Among the areas planners will consider are the potential for developing a town center, land use patterns, improvements in the commercial corridors along Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and overall development goals.

Wheeling's commercial and industrial base already has received attention in recent years.

"Those sectors make a significant contribution to the village tax base," Whitmer said. "Without them, residential property taxes would undoubtedly be higher."



Cass Cliatt
Wheeling

Tax money

Continued from page 8

\$1.5 million of its \$16 million reserve fund for this year's expenses.

Mondschain also said this would be a permanent cut in state aid to municipalities, unless the legislature decides to change it after this year.

"We don't know what the case is," he said. "Often it's permanent."

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki said trustees were first alerted to the issue by the Illinois Municipal League, which is urging municipalities to pass resolutions opposing the cuts. Trustees approved just such an ordinance Monday night.

"I think all suburban governments will be doing the same thing," Klatecki said.

The state divides the amount of income tax revenue it receives each month from corporations and individuals, primarily through employer withholding, by the total number of people in the state to get a per-capita amount. The per-capita amount in the formula is the same for every municipality, be it Winnetka on the North Shore or East St. Louis in southern Illinois. Each city or village then receives its share of the tax based on its population. Counties also receive the same per-capita amount for individuals living in unincorporated areas.

Local governments' share of the total state income tax revenue for the 12-month period ended April 30, 2001, yielded \$71.40 per person, according to the Illinois Municipal League. If the proposed 9.09 percent formula had been in place, the per-capita payment would have been \$64.91, or \$6.49 less per person.

The General Assembly is under pressure to adopt a bal-

anced budget by July 1. Because they are coming up about \$2 billion short, legislators are sifting through state finances looking for ways to increase revenues and cut costs.

"What we see is a financial crisis in the state," said Patty Schuh, spokeswoman for Senate President James "Pate" Philip, R-23rd. "Everyone is going to have to take a hit."

At a time when the state does not have the money to pay for services for senior citizens, disabled children and Medicaid recipients, "local governments have to share the pain," Schuh said. "That, in essence, is what it comes down to."

But Illinois officials are the ones guilty of inflicting the pain on the state by inadequately preparing for an economic slowdown, Buffalo Grove Finance Director Bill Brimm said.

"Now the day of reckoning has come, and they want local municipalities to pay for their mistakes and their inability to control spending," he said.

State Rep. Sidney Mathias, R-51st, opposes the income tax cut.

"Municipalities are losing money just as the state is," Mathias said. "We shouldn't balance our budget on the backs of the municipalities."

Another proposed cut also comes at the expense of local coffers. Since 1986, municipalities have received a portion of a state sales tax on photo processing. The same budget proposal that includes the cut in income tax receipts would eliminate the local share of the photo-processing tax, which the municipal league estimates would be a loss of \$2.10 per person.

— Staff Writer Casey Moffitt contributed to this report.

Villages denounce proposed cut in income tax money

By KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF WRITER

Cities and villages across Illinois are telling state legislators not to balance their budget at the expense of local communities.

One of the ways legislators in Springfield are considering balancing the state budget is to give less money to local governments. That proposal has some officials shaking their heads in disgust. The idea is unfair and costly to villages and cities that already have cinched in their budget-ary belts to meet leaner economic times, said Larry Frang, assistant director of the Illinois Municipal League.

Since July 1995, the state has been allocating 10 percent of the net proceeds of the Illinois income tax to local municipalities and counties. In April, the Senate Republican caucus presented a balanced budget that depends in part

on cutting the local share of income taxes from one-tenth to one-eleventh, or 9.09 percent. Based on figures from the Illinois Municipal League, that change could cost local governments a combined \$80.6 million.

If the new formula is approved, Wheeling could lose about \$305,000, said Finance Director Michael Mondschain.

"It is a relatively small percentage of the (\$55.3 million) budget," Mondschain said. "But it is a source of revenue we've depended on for a long time."

Mondschain said income tax revenues are already accounted for in Wheeling's budget and are used to support village operations, including the police, fire and public works departments. Mondschain said the village would have to dip into its reserves if the cut is approved. The village is already planning to use

(Continued on page 14)

Schultz praises Anderson's job

Wheeling/ I want to publicly express my gratitude to former Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson for his years of service to our community. He is a fine example of a dedicated public servant and good private citizen. He always saw his administrative appointment as one of stewardship, a position in which he held the village in his trust.

As a former elected official, I have a special appreciation for his professional performance and the scope of responsibilities he held. In addition to assuring our public safety and the smooth functioning of the day-to-day operations of the village, his duties included initiating and managing numerous major local projects as well as the oversight of Palwaukee Municipal Airport and the Northwest Water Commission. He also has ably represented Wheeling in areas where regional decisions affecting our village are made.

I had the privilege of working closely with Craig Anderson for several years and saw firsthand the dedication and intense effort he put into making the

village of Wheeling the well-governed, fiscally sound and ethically grounded community that it was during his tenure. His solid leadership was recognized by his peers and by agencies and individuals here and throughout the area.

His contribution to our village will not be forgotten.
Sheila Schultz

Only one choice for school board

Wheeling/ I would like to see (the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board) removed. I really don't care if they step down willingly or if they are taken out.

The promise of placing the children first is a total sham. We have a School Board that is composed of people who do not have the vaguest idea what education looks like, sounds like or is. They make their decisions without the aid of consultation of professionals. Decisions are based on what is politically popular, rather than what is educationally important. The last thing they take into consideration is the welfare of the children. How long can this be tolerated?

Our city is not made up of



those families that are financially affluent. We are a community of ethnically diverse families who share a common bond. Our people work hard to raise children to have all of the opportunities they did not have.

We live here because it is a great place to raise our children. We have a wonderful library. We have a Police Department that goes all out to support our children with community service and DARE programs. Our Fire Department provides safety education as well as paramedic services. We have a park district that provides everything from sports to recreation and even

after-school programs. If you ask any of our parents, they will tell you that our teachers are second to none.

We are now being threatened by a School Board that feels it is all right to dump a "situation" that is a result of their lack of planning into one lump that they can sweep under the rug. They have already calculated the "acceptable losses" and written them off. These politicians do not have to say it, their actions scream it. "Nothing personal, it's just business." I, for one, am angry over their callousness.

They know the reason the children of Piper Lane can't speak English is because their parents do not speak English at home. They are put into bilingual programs, because their grasp of the English language is insufficient for them to grasp concepts presented in English. With a higher concentration of these linguistically challenged children in Mark Twain School, where do you think they will be able to practice that English?

They also realize that, because these children are in a lower income bracket, their households are based on incomes that need to be provided by two working parents and in some cases

one of those parents is working more than one job. This means that the children are not getting the attention and help at home that they are in need of. There is already a strain on the support personnel at Mark Twain.

Then we come to the remaining "regular ed" students who are left. The educational resource personnel at Mark Twain School are already on overload. How can we balance the learning disabled, behavior difficulty and emotionally disturbed students when there is only one "regular ed" classroom per grade level. If you ask any teacher at Mark Twain School "off the record" if they approve of anything the School Board has planned, they will tell you, "No!" Of course if you ask them "on the record" they will not say, because the word has already come down from the administration building forbidding personal comment and giving them the "pat" answers that they are prompted to give.

No child should be treated so poorly. These are our children and not your pawns. I ask (board members) to step down before you do real damage to our children and our community.

Jim Hunt

Village officials hoping signs' time has passed

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials just may end up canning a popular type of sign preferred by many local business owners.

At issue before the Wheeling Plan Commission is the future of what are commonly referred to as "can" signs. The signs, which can be found on dozens of Wheeling businesses, come in a variety of designs, some of which are favored by businesses but frowned upon by village officials.

The debate is part of the commission's ongoing desire to change the village's sign ordinance to ensure attractive signs are put on businesses throughout town.

The Plan Commission, which acts as the sign board of appeals, reviews most signs that are proposed to be placed on business facades. The ordinance they work off of does not control content, but it does contain requirements on such things as dimension and location.

Commissioners often do all they can to ensure business owners erect signs of high quality that are professional looking, even though signs that may not meet those selective criteria do comply with village ordinance. Commissioners constantly preach that they are concerned about the

village's image, and having unattractive signs on businesses makes it tough to enhance or maintain that appearance.

Can signs are creating just such a dilemma. Commissioners toyed with the idea of banning can signs altogether because they are too boxy for some commissioners' tastes. Some can signs consist simply of a plastic cover placed over a metal casing and may be illuminated from inside. Many of these signs can be found in the Garden Fresh shopping center on Hintz Road.

Village Planner Jeffrey Harris, however, pointed out that can signs come in a variety of shapes and sizes, some of which can be very attractive. He cited the sign on Leona's restaurant on Dundee Road and the iF Gallery in the Dunhurst Shopping Plaza as signs that met the Plan Commission's criteria.

"Staff is having difficulty in defining can signs the commission likes and doesn't like," Harris said. "We can't legislate (to ban) 'ugly.'"

Harris has a good understanding of what the commission likes and dislikes. He said if a business owner comes into his office with a sign that complies with the ordinance but falls short of commission expectations, he tries to work with that person to create a more attractive sign. Many times the business

owner is very cooperative, Harris said. But sometimes they're not.

"I try to work with everybody," Harris said. "But if someone demands to come before (the Plan Commission), I have to bring it before you."

In one case, Charlie Kwok, owner of the Chinese take-out restaurant Da Jiang, submitted a rectangular can sign to the Plan Commission. The sign complied with the ordinance, but the Plan Commission denied it anyway because members did not like its appearance. Kwok then appealed the decision to the Village Board, and because the sign complied with the ordinance, the Village Board approved it.

Kwok said can signs give him more flexibility and are made in such a way that he can include more information that other signs don't allow. He can fit the name of his business, the fact that it is Chinese and the telephone number on his can sign.

"If people just see 'Da Jiang,' they don't know what it is," he said.

Can signs can also cost up to 75 percent less than other signs, Harris said. And Ken Brady, Plan Commission chairman, said their cost is another reason why he would like to see the ordinance changed.

"My problem is, a guy sits down to figure out how much



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Plan commissioners say signs like Da Jiang owner Charlie Kwok's are unattractive, although they are popular with some business owners.

it costs to start his business, then he comes in here and finds out he needs to spend more money on his signs than he expected," Brady said.

The commission made no formal changes to the sign ordinance, but commissioners plan to continue their discussion July 11.

District 21 reverses course on boundaries

BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In yet another turn of events, the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board announced Thursday night that it would not change boundaries for five district elementary schools as previously planned.

This is the second time in the past two months that the board has turned away from instituting two different boundary changes to relieve crowding at Whitman Elementary School in Wheeling, which has more than 800 students.

Instead, board president Phil Pritzker told 300 parents and community members who attended the meeting that the board had decided to place Whitman kindergarten students at the Hawthorne Academy in Wheeling next fall in order to create more space at Whitman.

In March, the board announced plans to close Hawthorne as a school for at-risk third through fifth graders. The school will now be remain open for Whitman students.

Pritzker said moving around 125 kindergarten students to Hawthorne will open up one full-size classroom, three smaller classrooms and the art

and music room at Whitman.

Parents from Twain Elementary School in Wheeling said they were relieved at the announcement.

The most recent boundary change that the board was considering would have moved at least 160 current Twain students out of the school to make room for an incoming group of 170 Whitman bilingual students.

"We're happy that Twain will remain as it is for now and that the Piper Lane (bilingual) children are not going to be moved again," said Twain parent JoAnn Zimmerman. "But I'm not thrilled that Whitman is still going to be overcrowded."

Some Whitman parents expressed disappointment with the board's resolution.

"It doesn't give us enough room," said parent Susin Greenberg. "You still will have almost 700 students in our school."

Pritzker said the board also plans to hire an independent consultant this summer to conduct a district-wide demographic study and to make enrollment projections for the next five years.

The board decided against boundary reassignments after learning that Twain's demographic population would have significantly been altered



MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

Parent Vicki Schauer, left, sheds tears of joy after the District 21 school board announced Thursday it wouldn't enforce a boundary change for five elementary schools. JoAnn Zimmerman comforts her.

by the change.

Internal district documents — recently obtained by the village of Wheeling and district parents through Freedom of Information Act requests — reveal that moving 170 bilingual students to Twain from Whitman would have made Twain 67 percent bilingual.

"We acted on somewhat of a premise that turned out to be not that accurate," board member Larry Krulewich said.

Board endorses runway renovation

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners have endorsed a plan to rehab its north-west-southeast runway.

The Airport Board voted Wednesday to direct its consultants, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, to incorporate a redesigned runway into the layout being developed to assess Palwaukee's long-term needs.

The current runway is deteriorating and will not meet the airport's future needs, the consultants have said.

The plan would reduce traffic on the main north-south runway, resulting in less noise, said acting airport manager Dennis G. Rouleau.

The \$5 million project would widen the 4,100-foot northwest-southeast runway to 100 feet from 50 feet, said consultant Brian R. Welker. Building a new runway would cost up to \$12 million and would be a tougher sell to the Federal Aviation Administration for funding, Welker said. The rehab project could receive about 90 percent in federal funding, he said.

Work could begin in 2003 and could take several years to complete. Airport officials would need to acquire property south of the airport and to arrange for realigning a section of Palatine road the Airport Board. Judge Herbert Holzman, who is the Airport Board's legal counsel and that Administrative Law and that Administrative Law proceeding are unconstitutional and that the Airport Board is unconstitutional.

HERALD 5/20/2002

A wild goose chase

Palwaukee Airport enlists dogs to help rid runways of feathered pests

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two dozen people died almost six years ago when a plane went head to head with a flock of geese in Alaska.

A U.S. Air Force jet ran into the geese near Anchorage and the jet crashed after its engines sucked in about 40 of the birds and failed.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, planes at airports nationwide meet with "fowl" play about 2,500 times a year.

While many airports consider lethal methods to rid their flight paths of increasingly prevalent Canada geese, Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Wheeling and Prospect Heights has found a harmless method to deal with its fine-feathered foes.

For the third year in a row, Palwaukee has enlisted the help of man's best friend to try and force the migratory geese to find a new home.

Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau has teamed up with Susan Hagberg, co-owner of Migratory Bird Management of LaGrange, to use border collies to strike fear into the birds and chase them from the area.

"Susan employed a number of the highly energetic, well-trained dogs, known for their herding instincts on cows and sheep," Rouleau said.

The dogs force the geese to take to the air and keep the birds from landing again. It's the same approach Wood Dale Junior High School took 1½ years ago to deal with its goose problem on its baseball fields.

The idea at the airport is that, when the geese get tired of being chased, they leave the grounds for good.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife has been flooded with requests over the years to kill birds living on airport land, but Palwaukee's method doesn't violate federal laws protecting migratory geese populations.

Municipal and regional airports in Lake in the Hills and Schaumburg have reported similar problems with geese, with Lake in the Hills using noisemakers and large reflective streamers to frighten them from runways.

Palwaukee officials had considered the air cannon option but concluded that geese often learn to ignore the noise. Also, the cannons can disturb



PHOTOS COURTESY MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT

Border collies from the Migratory Bird Management Co. of LaGrange have herding instincts they use to frighten unwanted — and in some cases dangerous — Canada geese.

"Susan (Hagberg) employed a number of the highly energetic, well-trained dogs, known for their herding instincts on cows and sheep. The border collies are the best remedy I've ever seen."

Dennis Rouleau, acting airport manager



Palwaukee Municipal Airport has employed border collies like Jake, pictured here at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, to frighten Canada geese and prevent mid-air collisions between the birds and the airport's planes.

TRIBUNE-5/17/2002



Tribune photos by David Trotman-Wilkins

Woman critical after truck crash

A 30-year-old Elk Grove Village woman was in critical condition Thursday after her car



HERALD 5/20/2002

Please excuse my oops: Yes, we know that the former Wheeling Village Manager's last name is Anderson, Craig Anderson that is.

We reporters write so many stories every day that every now and then a mistake happens.

The worse ones involve names and it's even worse when it involves a public figure.

I seem to have a trend where I make one of these mistakes every 276 stories — give or take a dozen.

So here's my mea culpa for a story that appeared last week on this page. The story explained that Daniel Ozanich's promotion to the position of director of Community Development filled one of the vacancies in Wheeling's top jobs.

Wheeling's decision to dismiss former Village Manager Craig Anderson in February created four vacancies, but Ozanich filled one this month. The removal of "acting" from Guy Kolberg's title of Acting Public Works Director filled another spot last month.

Wheeling is still operating without a permanent village manager or a manager for Palwaukee Municipal Airport, which the village shares with Prospect Heights.

Incidentally, Anderson, who served in Wheeling for more than 13 ½ years, is now the acting village manager of Long Grove. That town lost its manager to retirement.

We hope that clears everything up.

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TRIBUNE-5/17/2002



Tribune photos by David Trotman-Wilkins

Woman critical after truck crash

A 30-year-old Elk Grove Village woman was in critical condition Thursday after her car (right) was crushed by a semi-trailer truck during morning rush hour in Wheeling, police said. Officer Pete Rogers (above) waits for the truck to be towed. The woman was on Lake-Cook Road when the truck struck the driver's side of her car, police said.



HEXALD 5/20/2002

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Busy day: The Addolorata Villa Continuing Care Retirement Community was a hopping place last Thursday with two events.

A Gerilympics Day let residents test their strength and stamina with basketball, golf, trivia, dart ball and pegboard, while a Hard Hat Party was an "after hours" event hosted by the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Expect more police this weekend

The Wheeling Police Department will be conducting a roadside safety checkpoint this holiday weekend to keep dangerous drivers off village streets. The department will set up its checkpoint around 10 p.m. May 25 to target impaired motorists over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. It will culminate a week-long selective safety belt awareness and enforcement effort by the department as part of the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign. Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said the department is determined to keep dangerous drivers off the road, as Memorial Day signals the unofficial start of summer. The enforcement program and checkpoint are being funded through the Wheeling Safe Communities Coalition with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

Concealed knives banned from village

Knife blades that are concealed as other devices are no longer legal to possess or sell in Wheeling, as the village board passed an ordinance to ban the items. Acting Village Manager James Grabowski said the resolution was drawn up for the board after a knife concealed as a pen was found on a student in school. The ordinance bans knives that are concealed as pens, belt buckles, combs, beepers, lipstick cases, walking sticks, air gauges and other devices. "There is no reason (for the blade) to be concealed, other than for use as a weapon," said Police Chief John Popadowski.

Foreign-born Plan

Understand different cultures to ensure that all have equal access to services the department offers, said Chief John Popadowski. He said officers are required to attend training classes on diversity.

"We have to have a certain amount of empathy and be able to think the way they think," he said. "Some (immigrant residents), when they're pulled over, won't say anything to an officer and look down. To them, that's a sign of respect. But an officer may take that as them being uncooperative, or (the officer) might suspect they're under the influence of drugs or alcohol. That's why training is so important."

The best way to increase cultural awareness, though, is by recruiting people from those different cultures onto

hear the board Piper Lane happy to learn in the neighborhood the same year.

Twain parents said he will support the plan.

"I felt the plan was wrong," said the new process.

Wheeling resident Boime said he supported the board change.

"If it's fair we'll go along with it," he said.

Whitman parents as excited to Susin Green though the new initiative some of will not do on She said Wh

Astor Place gets final approval

The Wheeling Village Board unanimously approved final plans for Kimball Hill's Astor Place town home and condominium development for the former Wheeling Nursery property. The board gave a site-plan approval for the development last August. Kimball Hill had difficulty obtaining an easement through an adjacent property for its proposed sewer line. Kimball Hill got its easement last month. Scott Viger, director of land acquisition and planning for Kimball Hill, said he was excited to finally start work on the development.

"It's going to be a great neighborhood," he said. "We're working already. We've got people ready to buy already." Viger said he anticipates the town homes to sell at close to \$300,000 each, and the condos to sell at between \$200,000 and \$240,000. There will be 120 condominiums and 128 town homes in the development.

Viger said most of the earthwork will be done this summer and fall, with some buildings going up this year. He hopes the project will be ready next spring.

Foreign-born Continued from page 7

Solano said. In addition, many Latinos, Pakistanis and Indians have strong ties to their native countries and return there occasionally. The word gets out that the northwest suburbs are a good place to live, Solano said.

Solano has lived in Wheeling since 1985 and said he was drawn there after hearing a radio advertisement about Spanish dancing in Wheeling.

"I thought to myself, 'I'm Latino. It sounds like Wheeling has people like myself,'" he said.

Impact on libraries

The Indian Trails Public Library District also has been trying to meet the needs of a diversified Wheeling for a few years now. Director Tamiye Meehan said the library has started new outreach programs to introduce foreign families to the library and how it works. One way is through students.

"The Wheeling and Buffalo Grove Rotary clubs have been helping us get library cards in the hands of all kids in the schools," she said. "That means they have to bring

order to get a card." Meehan said library outreach and education programs are critical to some specific groups of people, especially to those whose home countries do not have public libraries.

"In Mexico and Central America, there aren't any public libraries," she said. "In some Asian groups, libraries are reserved for scholars."

The library also has been trying to build its foreign-language collections in response to the growing numbers of foreign residents. Meehan said the library has concentrated on building Spanish, Russian and Korean collections.

She also said the library has been fortunate to have a number of staff members speak multiple languages. She said the library has employees who speak Spanish, Korean, Russian and other Slavic and Roman languages.

"It's important the library look and feel like the community," Meehan said. "We've made a lot of progress, but we still have a ways to go."

Hearing rescheduled

The community input hearing for the Wheeling comprehensive plan has been rescheduled from tonight to June 5 at 7 p.m. in Village Hall.

The Village Board changed the date after it was discovered the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board is holding its meeting tonight to discuss the district's space issue.

Residents attending the hearing will be asked for their opinions on how Wheeling should be developed. Planners from Camiros Ltd., the firm hired to overhaul the comprehensive plan, will attend the hearing and take notes of testimony and ask questions of the residents.

Weigh in on airport concerns

The first meeting of the new Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council will be held Thursday. It will be dedicated to electing council officers and prioritizing issues for the council to eventually take to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. Potential council members should also be prepared to discuss how their particular skills and talents would benefit the council's mission of helping to shape the future of Palwaukee Airport. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the airport office at the end of Industrial Lane, which is off of Milwaukee Avenue. RSVP by Tuesday by calling Coordinator Robert Mark at (847) 537-2580, ext. 160. E-mail responses to rmark@kpwk.com.

Police issues

Wheeling Police Department employees also have to (Continued on page 11)

Foreign-born population more than doubles

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Census figures back up what Wheeling officials already know — there is a greater percentage of residents who were born outside the United States living in the village than there were 10 years ago.

According to new Census figures, the number of Wheeling residents born in other countries rose from 3,805 in 1990 to 10,817 in 2000. Surprisingly, the number of American-born residents decreased from 26,105 in 1990 to 23,594 in 2000. And 6,105 of the immigrants living in Wheeling entered the country between 1990 and 2000.

Latin American immigrants accounted for 42.9 percent of the total non-native born population, with those coming from Europe accounting for 31.5 percent and those from Asia 24 percent.

Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie, superintendent of Wheeling Elementary School District 21, said the evidence of such a shift can be found in district classrooms. DesCarpentrie said 30 percent of all district

students will be enrolled in bilingual educational programs next school year. The district has bilingual programs in Spanish, Russian and Polish. The district also offers English as a Second Language programs in more than 20 languages.

DesCarpentrie said the increase of foreign-born students forces teachers to understand that children from different backgrounds learn in different ways. He said the traditional "one-lesson-fits-all" approach no longer works, and teachers increasingly need to find different ways to teach lessons to different children.

"Staff has really risen to the occasion," DesCarpentrie said. "The veteran teachers have risen with equal enthusiasm as the new teachers. It's not by any means perfect, but all of our teachers have accepted the challenge."

Harper College in Palatine noticed an increase in minority students in the 1990s and created the Center for Multicultural Affairs. Since 1990, Harper's percentage of minority students has grown from 10 percent to 35 percent.

Foreign-born residents

The latest figures from the 2000 Census show how the northwest suburbs became a destination of choice in the 1990s for those born outside the United States. This reflects a trend found throughout the state but is more pronounced here. The foreign-born population in Illinois rose from 8.3 percent to 12.3 percent in the decade and rose in Cook County from 14.1 percent to 19.8 percent.



	Total population		Number Native-born*		Number Foreign-born*		Percent of foreign-born population	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Arlington Heights	75,460	76,031	68,418	65,552	7,042	10,546	9.3	13.9
Buffalo Grove	36,427	42,909	33,537	33,901	2,890	8,690	7.9	20.3
Elk Grove Village	33,429	34,727	30,286	29,794	3,143	4,964	9.4	14.3
Hoffman Estates	46,561	49,495	40,792	38,701	5,769	11,651	12.4	23.5
Inverness	6,503	6,749	5,994	5,666	509	708	7.8	10.5
Long Grove	4,740	6,735	4,291	6,071	449	550	9.5	8.2
Palatine	39,253	65,479	36,002	50,907	3,251	14,249	8.3	21.8
Prospect Heights	15,239	17,081	12,190	11,142	3,049	6,399	20.0	37.5
Rolling Meadows	22,591	24,604	19,611	19,373	2,980	5,245	13.2	21.3
Schaumburg	68,586	75,386	62,017	60,249	6,569	14,262	9.6	19.0
Wheeling	29,911	34,469	26,106	23,594	3,805	10,817	12.7	31.4

* Figures are estimates from 2000 census long-form survey, distributed to one out of six households.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000

Frank Solano, the director of multicultural affairs, said the northwest suburbs are attractive to immigrants, particularly Latinos and Pakistanis,

and Indians for lots of reasons.

For one thing, the abundance of hotels and restau-

rants provides plenty of service jobs.

"People are moving where the opportunities are (Continued on page 8)

Village movers want more say in future plan

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Some of Wheeling's most successful and prominent business leaders say they want a stronger role in shaping the village's future.

Members of the Economic Development Commission recently met with the Village Board to lobby for more responsibility in creating the new comprehensive plan, a municipality's primary planning document.

Economic Development Commission members began asking about their role in drafting the new plan after consultants from Camiros, the firm hired by the village to draft a new plan, met briefly with them a few months ago. Commissioners were disappointed with that meeting and with the fact they have not spoken with the consultants since.

"We had an initial meeting with Camiros and we basically

got a show-and-tell," said EDC Chairman John Flanagan. "We're concerned if Camiros has its own ideas (on village planning)."

The consultants had commissioners fill out a survey on their perceptions of the business and developmental climate of the village during the meeting. The consultants did not ask commissioners about how to develop and plan for Wheeling's future, which disappointed commissioners.

"After the initial interview, we asked each other, 'What's next?'" Commissioner Ken Ross said. "We should get the most we can from Camiros. Let's push them. I've worked with them before, and we can challenge them."

"We want to make sure we're not overstepping (the Village Board), but I think we can go further," Ross said.

Some commissioners said they understood what Camiros was trying to do at that (Continued on page 10)

Village Continued from page 9

meeting, but wanted to have more input with the consultants during the process.

EDC member Frank D'Angelo, the general manager at Bob Chinn's CrabHouse, said he believed Camiros was on a fact-finding mission in that first meeting, but he hopes for more pull in putting together the draft plan with the consultants.

"We all have the same intention to work together and achieve our goals," D'Angelo said. "The EDC is trying to listen to their recommendations. If (Camiros') methodology is to agree with us, they're not doing their job."

Members of the Plan Commission said they too would like to see the EDC take a larger role in drafting a new comprehensive plan.

"They are experts. They are dynamic business leaders," said Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady. "They know what specific uses might and might not work."

Brady even went so far as to suggest the EDC host the public input hearing scheduled for June 5 with the Plan Commission.

Trustees agreed, saying they would like to see the EDC take a greater role in de-

veloping the new plan, as well as a strong role implementing it.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said the board is looking to the EDC to determine the business community's needs.

"If we don't all get into (the plan), it'll end up on a shelf and go nowhere," Lehmann said. "We need to know how to create a more desirable environment to attract the users we want."

The Economic Development Commission is made up of business owners and village leaders. Flanagan is a self-employed certified public accountant. D'Angelo is the general manager of Bob Chinn's CrabHouse, and Ross operates North American Jet. Other members include Bill Stasek of Stasek Chevrolet, Denise Kennedy from TravelWise, Tom Webber of Lake-Cook Distribution, William Bogenski of Harris Bank, Bruce Taylor of Cole Taylor Bank and David Kolssak of Turnkey Network Systems. Most are Wheeling residents.

The EDC reports to Economic Development Director William Whitmer and has primary functions of increasing business retention and attracting new businesses.

Traffic study still needed for planned subdivision

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Greg Klateck doesn't think the Kimball Hill company should have to do a traffic-signal study before moving forward with building the Astor Place subdivision.

Trustees last week gave final approval for the subdivision of 250 townhouses and condominiums on the former Wheeling Nursery Property on South Milwaukee Avenue, and the only thing holding up the project is the study.

By Dec 31, Kimball Hill has to submit a report on whether new traffic generated by Astor Place will

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7th-graders give leaders a glimpse into future

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Water bubbled out of a metallic fountain in the middle of Wheeling's village council chambers last week.

It was part of a demonstration from a group of seventh-graders with their own ideas about how the village should change and grow.

Picture a new downtown center, complete with a mall and a fountain plaza, next to the village hall on Dundee Road. Or, how about a monorail that can zip residents to and from local shopping and the train station?

Teens from London Middle School showed the village board how they would make these plans work, even as Wheeling officials work on their

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Employee charged in hit-and-run at Wal-Mart

By AMY McLAUGHLIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Wheeling man was charged Sunday in an alcohol-related hit-and-run car crash that killed a Buffalo Grove man outside a Wheeling Wal-Mart, according to police.

Jose L. Hernandez, an employee at the store, has been charged with reckless homicide and leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

Police say he last lived in Wheeling but do not have his current address.

The victim, Donald E. Miller, also worked at the store and was just ending his shift at 11:11 p.m. Saturday when Hernandez's 1992 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer hit him and pinned him against the wall of the store, 1455 Lake-Cook Road, police said.

Hernandez, who was not on duty at the Wal-Mart Saturday, fled on foot and then got into another car, Wheeling Sgt. Bill Benson said. Police have not determined why Hernandez was at the store.

Shortly after the crash, Wheeling police tracked Hernandez to a friend's house in Hainesville using tips from acquaintances. Police met him at a nearby hospital where he had gone for treatment for head injuries, Benson said.

Hernandez is under police guard at a hospital police would not name.

A second person in the car with Hernandez at the time of the crash also fled the scene, police said. Authorities declined to release any information about the female passenger because she likely will be a witness. She probably will not be charged, Benson said.

Police continue to investigate the crash, including how fast the car was going when it hit Miller, Benson said.

There's nothing to indicate that Hernandez crashed into the wall on purpose, police said.

However, they don't consider it an accident because they believe Hernandez had been drinking alcohol, based on officers' observations.



A rose was taped to the wall of the Wal-Mart store on Lake-Cook Road in Wheeling on Sunday after an employee, Donald F. Miller, was killed in a hit-and-run crash. Another store employee has been charged.

Crash: Victim had young children

Continued from Page 1

nandez knew Miller.

"Our investigation shows the gentleman was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Benson said of the victim.

"He was literally struck right after exiting the front door."

Miller, who police said was a father

of young children, was taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines where he was pronounced dead just after midnight.

Officials at the Cook County medical examiner's office said Miller died of multiple injuries and ruled the death accidental.

An employee at Wal-Mart Sunday said they were told not to comment.

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By CASEY MOFFITT
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Trustee Trevor Lehmann said the board is looking to the EDC to determine the business community's needs.

"If we don't all get into (the plan), it'll end up on a shelf and go nowhere," Lehmann said. "We need to know how to create a more desirable environment to attract the users we want."

The Economic Development Commission is made up of business owners and village leaders. Flanagan is a self-employed certified public accountant. D'Angelo is the general manager of Bob Chinn's CrabHouse, and Ross operates North American Jet. Other members include Bill Stasek of Stasek Chevrolet, Denise Kennedy from TravelWise, Tom Webber of Lake-Cook Distribution, William Bogenski of Harris Bank, Bruce Taylor of Cole Taylor Bank and David Kolssak of Turnkey Network Systems. Most are Wheeling residents.

The EDC reports to Economic Development Director William Whitmer and has primary functions of increasing business retention and attracting new businesses.

still needed for planned subdivision

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki doesn't think the Kimball Hill company should have to do a traffic-signal study before moving forward with building the Astor Place subdivision.

Trustees last week gave final approval for the subdivision of 250 townhouses and condominiums on the former Wheeling Nursery Property on South Milwaukee Avenue, and the only thing holding up the project is the study.

By Dec 31, Kimball Hill has to submit a report on whether new traffic generated by Astor Place will warrant a new traffic signal at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Manchester Drive.

"They put no traffic in the intersection of Manchester and Milwaukee because they have no entrance at that intersection," Klatecki said. "So I have concerns with asking a developer to do this when I don't see any traffic there."

Plans for Astor Place already have passed between the village board and the plan commission since October 2000. Difficulty acquiring land rights to run sewer lines and village preferences for a commercial use of the nursery property initially delayed the Astor Place development.

The village decided to let plans move forward in August 2001, after developers concluded that the nursery property wasn't ripe for the type of higher-end commercial development Wheeling wanted for its southeast border. The final design of the subdivision includes 2.5 acres for commercial use along Milwaukee Avenue, two detention ponds and decorative street lights. A U-shaped road system provides access to the subdivision, with two intersections along Milwaukee Avenue, not Manchester.

Still, trustees voted unanimously to approve the subdivision with the condition of completing the traffic-signal study, though they diverged from the plan commission's requirement that Kimball Hill pay for the signal. If a signal is needed, Wheeling would share the cost.

"The traffic signal is going to be dictated by IDOT anyway," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "It may be wishful thinking, but if IDOT says no ... it won't happen."

HERALD 5/23/2002 7th-graders give leaders a glimpse into future

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Water bubbled out of a metallic fountain in the middle of Wheeling's village council chambers last week.

It was part of a demonstration from a group of seventh-graders with their own ideas about how the village should change and grow.

Picture a new downtown center, complete with a mall and a fountain plaza, next to the village hall on Dundee Road. Or, how about a monorail that can zip residents to and from local shopping and the train station?

Teens from London Middle School showed the village board how they would make these plans work, even as Wheeling officials work on their

HERALD - 5/27/2002 Employee charged in hit-and-run at Wal-Mart

By AMY McLAUGHLIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Wheeling man was charged Sunday in an alcohol-related hit-and-run car crash that killed a Buffalo Grove man outside a Wheeling Wal-Mart, according to police.

Jose L. Hernandez, an employee at the store, has been charged with reckless homicide and leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

Police say he last lived in Wheeling but do not have his current address.

The victim, Donald F. Miller, also worked at the store and was just ending his shift at 11:11 p.m. Saturday when Hernandez's 1992 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer hit him and pinned him against the wall of the store, 1455 Lake-Cook Road, police said.

Hernandez, who was not on duty at the Wal-Mart Saturday, fled on foot and then got into another car, Wheeling Sgt. Bill Benson said. Police have not determined why Hernandez was at the store.

Shortly after the crash, Wheeling police tracked Hernandez to a friend's house in Hainesville using tips from acquaintances. Police met him at a nearby hospital where he had gone for treatment for head injuries, Benson said.

Hernandez is under police guard at a hospital police would not name.

A second person in the car with Hernandez at the time of the crash also fled the scene, police said. Authorities declined to release any information about the female passenger because she likely will be a witness. She probably will not be charged, Benson said.

Police continue to investigate the crash, including how fast the car was going when it hit Miller, Benson said.

There's nothing to indicate that Hernandez crashed into the wall on purpose, police said.

However, they don't consider it an accident because they believe Hernandez had been drinking alcohol, based on officers' observations, Benson said.

Police said they don't know if Her-



A rose was taped to the wall of the Wal-Mart store on Lake-Cook Road in Wheeling on Sunday after an employee, Donald F. Miller, was killed in a hit-and-run crash. Another store employee has been charged.

Crash: Victim had young children

Continued from Page 1

nandez knew Miller.

"Our investigation shows the gentleman was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Benson said of the victim.

"He was literally struck right after exiting the front door."

Miller, who police said was a father

of young children, was taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines where he was pronounced dead just after midnight.

Officials at the Cook County medical examiner's office said Miller died of multiple injuries and ruled the death accidental.

An employee at Wal-Mart Sunday said they were told not to comment.

Local religion notes: 427-4496; rtskcrats@dailyherald.com 427-4495; Your Guide to Craft Shows: (zurawski@dailyherald.com) Luke Zurawski, 427-4484; Community news coordinator: (krukac@dailyherald.com) Anna Marie Krukac, 427-4477; Editor: In this community A section for and about people in this community. Neighbor section Click "contact us." Forms available online at www.dailyherald.com. ntwohay@dailyherald.com

Anderson finds temporary work

The Long Grove Village Board is expected to name a new village manager next month. As it's likely the person hired will not be able to assume his new duties for at least a month or so, the village is turning to former Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson to fill the position on a short-term basis.

Village Treasurer Patricia Chen has been doing double-duty and serving as interim village manager since February. Chen accepted the interim village manager position to bridge the gap between the January retirement of D.M. "Cal" Doughty and the hiring of his replacement on the condition it would not last into the summer.

Anderson parted company with the Wheeling Village Board in January after almost 14 years as village manager. He is looking for another position, but is not a candidate for the Long Grove job on a permanent basis. His experience, however, will enable him to fill in until a new village manager is chosen. Anderson was scheduled to start Tuesday.

"I can help them, and it helps me out," Anderson said. Long Grove trustees expect to announce their selection for permanent village manager in June.

Wheeling public works to enter the computer era

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling wants to save time and money on street and sewer projects by bringing its public works department into the digital age.

Wheeling is looking to hire three civil engineers and a new capital projects manager with the technical expertise to turn the public works department around, said Guy Kolberg, Wheeling's director of public works.

The village also is embarking on a plan to computerize the mapping of streets, storm and sanitary sewers and water mains as part of a two-pronged effort to prevent Wheeling's engineering division from going the way of the dinosaur.

"IDOT and contractors bring things in on CD or send them in electronically, and if we can't respond in kind, we'll be extinct," Kolberg said.

When the Illinois Department of Transportation sends digital designs for street improvements, Wheeling engineers have to ask for paper copies, Kolberg said.

The village's recent street light improvements and Brick Paver designs had to be drawn with pen and ink.

Also, residents requesting driveway permits have to wait while clerks sift through reams of paper to find neighborhood maps that show the locations of utilities to be avoided.

"Our permitting process is in near gridlock," Kolberg said.

For the \$107,000 it costs Wheeling to hire one engineering consultant with the know-how to work with new technology for just 10 weeks, the village can pay the salary of an in-house engineer one-and-a-half times, Kolberg said.

That engineer could work full time to help design, construct and inspect a paving or sewer project — in addition to helping computerize Wheeling's maps — while a consultant usually does just one of those tasks.

"I expect the new hires to start saving us money immediately," Kolberg said. "It's also about staying current with the industry."

Trustees have approved the purchase of computer design technology to plan next year's water main improvements. Now the village needs the staff to effect change.

"If there are people who are unemployed, underemployed, unhappily employed, we'd like to see their resumes," Kolberg said.

There's a price to pay for better sewers, water mains

Wheeling's plans to embark on an aggressive maintenance and replacement program for the village's water mains and sewers will affect residents in more ways than one.

Homeowners will see the benefits of preventing water-main breaks that could delay service, but there's also a price to pay.

Trustees last week approved what the village board calls a nominal increase in the water and sewer rates residents will pay to help fund improvements.

There will be an increase of about 4 percent, meaning the rates will increase to \$3.96 per 1,000 gallons of water, up from the current \$3.81 per 1,000 gallons.

Homeowners will see the rates reflected in their July bills.

Most residents and businesses in Wheeling receive water and sewer service from the village. For those few who are "water only" or "sewer only," the rate breaks down this way: the new \$3.35 rate for water is up from \$3.30 and sewer is 61 cents, up from 51 cents.

The reason the sewer portion is increasing more than the water rate is because the village has historically charged less for sewer service than it costs the village to provide it.

For the record, Wheeling homeowners are getting off easy this year. The water and sewer rate increases last year amounted to 4.10 percent, and they were up 4.87 percent the year before that.

HERALD - 6/3/2002
Special shirt sale: Wheeling's Special Events Committee will have an advance sale of its "Hands Across Wheeling" special commemorative T-shirts June 21-22 and June 28-29.
Yes, this is another plug for the Fourth of July festivities that are ever approaching. The theme for the Taste of Wheeling and parade this year is "2002 Celebrate! Hands Across Wheeling."
Pick up the T-shirts 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the evening of Friday, June 21, at Cop Road.
The proceeds from the special sale will go to the Taste of Wheeling. The Taste of Wheeling is a fundraiser for the Taste of Wheeling. The Taste of Wheeling is a fundraiser for the Taste of Wheeling. The Taste of Wheeling is a fundraiser for the Taste of Wheeling.

A dead crow found in Wheeling May 20 has tested positive for the West Nile virus, village health officials said. The positive test result is the most recent evidence that the virus is here, following a rash of positive tests throughout the Northwest suburbs last fall. The West Nile virus, often carried and transmitted by mosquitoes, can cause encephalitis in humans and can be fatal, especially among children and seniors. The risk of transmission, health officials say, is very low. Wheeling officials plan to continue tracking reports of dead birds in the village, but the village will not be sending in any more birds to the state for testing. Residents who see a dead bird are encouraged to call village health officer Michael G. Boyle at (847) 459-2621. More information is available on the village's Web site, www.vi.wheeling.il.us.

Engineers to look for flood relief

Village trustees approved a proposal to conduct an engineering study of ways to ease flooding problems, particularly in east side subdivisions near the Des Plaines River.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. of Rosemont will examine options for increasing water retention areas and raising land elevations to improve flood control, Christopher B. Burke, the firm's president, told village officials.

Although expansion of the Buffalo Creek reservoir on the west side of the village is being planned, more retention areas are needed to ease flooding in the Dunhurst, Meadowbrook, Hollywood Ridge and Old Town subdivisions, where flooding is most severe, Burke said.

The village has authorized \$79,000 for the study.

John Maes

Budget rift resolved: We haven't let you know yet how the Palwaukee budget tiff between Wheeling and Prospect Heights turned out.

Remember, Wheeling approved a budget for Palwaukee Municipal Airport without \$69,000 for water mains the airport needs to install before it can build new T-shaped hangars.

Wheeling said Prospect Heights should pay for the water lines because Wheeling paid for water for a control tower years ago. Prospect Heights officials became angry and refused to approve the budget without the water item, leaving the airport without a budget for payroll and operating expenses.

Wheeling May 13 approved the entire budget, but with the caveat that the airport had to promise not to install the water lines without permission from the village.

Wheeling officials said there are still too many unresolved issues with the airport's improvement plan, and the airport made the promise.

So, all the parties involved got their way, kind of. Prospect Heights aldermen still want to arrange a meeting with Wheeling trustees to resolve their differences.

Debate rages over bridge near London

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have been forced to justify their reasons for tearing down the pedestrian bridge along Dundee Road at every phase of the plans.

Last week was no different.

A Wheeling mother argued against assertions from trustees that it's rare to see children using the bridge meant to help students from Jack London Middle School safely cross the street.

London parent Margie Wood argued to keep the bridge, as trustees prepared to vote on an agreement for a Lockport firm to prepare land surveys and legal papers associated with plans to develop a signalized intersection at the bridge site.

"I understand that many feel the bridge is not attractive," Wood told trustees. "Would you prefer the sight of a child in a coffin?"

Wood asserted that she has counted 48 children crossing the bridge in a single morning, demonstrating that the bridge is used.

She also argued that increases in traffic make the bridge more necessary today than when it was first built more than 30 years ago.

Trustee Michael Horcher, who has consistently opposed demolishing the bridge, pointed out that he has no children or vested interest in the bridge and he still thinks it would be safer to let it remain.

"Judy said it's hard for the cars to get out of the school, don't you think it's hard for the kids to get out, too?" Horcher said.

He referred to an account given by Trustee Judy Abruscato of a teacher who was hit by a car as she drove out of London's parking lot because she couldn't see traffic coming.

Abruscato reiterated her position that adding ramps required to make the bridge wheelchair accessible, if the bridge were to stay, would increase kids' safety risk.

The bridge would attract skateboarders and cyclists who could roll into the street, Abruscato said.

Horcher still opposed the plans but joined a vote to have Baird & Co. prepare legal documents for the land acquisition needed to develop a signalized intersection.

Nile virus is found in bird in Wheeling

A dead bird found in Wheeling has tested positive for the West Nile virus, making it the second infected bird found in Cook County this year, village health officials said.

The crow was found May 20 in the 300 block of East Dundee Road. The Illinois Department of Agriculture tested the bird.

The first bird in the county to test positive for the virus was found May 15 in La Grange. Two dead birds found in early May in Hampshire in Kane County also have tested positive.

Infected birds and horses were first found in the state last year as the virus spread west after an outbreak in and around New York in 1999.

West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain spread by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds. No human cases have been reported in Illinois.

You can purchase the shirts at the Corus Bank, located at 125 Old McHenry Road in Wheeling. The shirts will be on sale Fridays from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The shirts cost only \$10, so pick some up for your entire family and show your pride on the Fourth of July.

For more information about the advance sale, the day's activities or to volunteer, you may contact Trustee Judy Abruscato at (847) 459-2666 ext. 107.

All proceeds from the T-shirt sale go directly into the Fourth of July celebration.

Get yours early

Who wants a T-shirt? Wheeling's Special Events Committee is holding an advance sale of commemorative T-shirts. The sale takes place June 21, June 22, June 28 and June 29.



Wheeling disaster drill p...

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Wheeling hosted the drill recently with Metra and the Canadian National Railroad to test the abilities of public safety workers to respond to a rail crash involving a car. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIssac called the drill a success. "All the victims were extricated in under an hour and packaged for transport to the hospitals," MacIssac said. "It was a good experience for everyone to work around a rail car, and we learned from it." More than 500 people arrived at the mock crash site for the drill. It included about 165 volunteers who added to the realism of the drill by portraying crash victims. No one

was hurt. "We extricated upper deck, which but never had before," MacIssac said. Wheeling Village Manager James A. Grabowski said he had a number of people from other towns at the rescue drill. "When I asked he said it was a policy, and the us," Klatski said. Wheeling residents of the civilian v to act as injur

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6/5/02 (Herald)
Acting village manager to leave at end of month to take position with growing town downstate

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Acting Village Manager James A. Grabowski has announced he's quitting the job. Grabowski, 33, is leaving Wheeling for the manager's job in downstate Minooka — even as Wheeling trustees are still two to three months away from hiring a permanent replacement for Anderson. "It's an opportunity for me that



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managers will have a fresh start in developing ways to work together. "There have been a lot of struggles to get the village to a point that we can start to make things happen ... so the thought that things could come to a screeching halt for two months is loathsome," Horcher said. He said he thinks the village should temporarily promote a current Wheeling employee to fill in as administrator until the village completes its search for a manager in September. The village is also considering the option of hiring a short term manager from outside Wheeling.

Wheeling warms up to town center

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Debate over the question of creating a new town center for Wheeling swayed some village residents Wednesday to support the idea. Residents had a chance to speak out on the town center concept as part of a community forum designed to let people give input into developing Wheeling's new comprehensive plan. Participants were able to help set goals for recasting Wheeling's image, transforming commercial and residential areas, and coping with the village's flooding problems. The goals will ultimately become part of a guide that will set Wheeling's land-use policies and community improvement agenda for the next 10 to 15 years. Initial suggestions for developing a pedestrian-driven town center received a tepid response from residents Wednesday. "I think Wheeling already has a town center," resident Bill Hine said. "Where has the emphasis been the past 10 to 15 years? Where has the money been spent? On Milwaukee Avenue."

Residents were concerned about taking business away from Wheeling's existing commercial areas and the cost of developing a town center that would combine a range of shopping,

service, social and civic attractions. However, a majority of residents changed their minds after consultants from the Chicago-based firm Camiros, which led the forum, explained that the question was whether to have a center that functions better than current commercial areas. "With the caveat that it would have to be economically viable," consultant William James said. Most residents agreed and also threw their support behind other goals to redevelop the town's obsolete commercial sites and transform undeveloped, flood-prone areas into wildlife habitats, trails and other green space that could become village assets. Proposals to provide design services to help people expand and reinvest in their homes, and plans for the village to encourage construction of new single-family homes also received a thumbs up. "I like the single-family development," Michael C. Developers seem to like townhouses and condos. It would be nice for Wheeling to have a market so people can house their housing without their housing without. Camiros will rev input with Wheeling and village developing the community. Wheeling hopes to end of the year.

No one hurt in home fire

The Wheeling Fire Department had to rescue a woman trying to save her dog from a pen in the backyard of her Sunset Lane home when it caught fire the evening of May 30. Firefighters responded to 382 Sunset Lane at 6:47 p.m. Thursday after what officials described as an improperly installed ceiling fan started a fire in the roof area of the home. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIssac said the fire was fully ablaze when crews got to the scene. "When the crews first arrived, the flames were 10 to 15 feet above the roof line at the rear of the house," he said. "It was a particularly difficult fire to put out." The man and woman who live in the home were inside when the fire started. The man met firefighters outside when they arrived, and the woman was in the backyard, trying to rescue her dog that was on a leash. MacIssac said the woman was pinned in the dog pen area by flames, smoke and heat. MacIssac said a number of factors made the fire difficult to extinguish. He said an addition had been put on the house, and firefighters had to work through two roofs to get to the origin of the blaze. He also said a large amount of items belonging to the family filled the home, making it difficult for firefighters to enter. MacIssac said a delay in the couple calling the Fire Department also contributed to the damage left behind. MacIssac estimated damages at \$240,000. "They noticed smoke coming from the ceiling fan, so they turned it off," MacIssac said. "They put a window fan in the room to get the smoke out and went into another part of the house. They didn't realize they had a fire until several minutes later."

The fire was under control in about 30 minutes, he said. On a story about ambulance fees in the May 30 Countryside was misleading. The village will in- ambulance fees from private and governmental agencies. The village will not collect the fees di- residents. PIONEER PRESS 6/6/2002

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HERALD-6/6/2002

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Debate over the question of creating a new town center for Wheeling swayed some village residents Wednesday to support the idea. Residents had a chance to speak out on the town center concept as part of a community forum designed to let people give input into developing Wheeling's new comprehensive plan. Participants were able to help set goals for recasting Wheeling's image, transforming commercial and residential areas, and coping with the village's flooding problems. The goals will ultimately become part of a guide that will set Wheeling's land-use policies and community improvement agenda for the next 10 to 15 years. Initial suggestions for developing a pedestrian-driven town center received a tepid response from residents Wednesday. "I think Wheeling already has a town center," resident Bill Hine said. "Where has the emphasis been the past 10 to 15 years? Where has the money been spent? On Milwaukee Avenue."

Residents were concerned about taking business away from Wheeling's existing commercial areas and the cost of developing a town center that would combine a range of shopping,

Clarification
A headline on a story about ambulance fees in the May 30 issue of the Countryside was misleading. The village will indeed collect ambulance fees from private and governmental insurance agencies. The village will not collect the fees directly from residents.
PIONEER PRESS 6/6/2002

No one hurt in home fire

The Wheeling Fire Department had to rescue a woman trying to save her dog from a pen in the backyard of her Sunset Lane home when it caught fire the evening of May 30. Firefighters responded to 382 Sunset Lane at 6:47 p.m. Thursday after what officials described as an improperly installed ceiling fan started a fire in the roof area of the home. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the fire was fully ablaze when crews got to the scene. "When the crews first arrived, the flames were 10 to 15 feet above the roof line at the rear of the house," he said. "It was a particularly difficult fire to put out." The man and woman who live in the home were inside when the fire started. The man met firefighters outside when

Crow infected with West Nile found in village

PIONEER PRESS - 6/6/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

A dead crow found in Wheeling tested positive for the West Nile virus, the second bird in Cook County to have turned up with the disease this spring.

Health officials have been aware of the virus's presence in Illinois since last year. Another infected crow also was found in Wheeling last fall.

Michael Boyle, Wheeling's health officer, said he was not surprised to have again found the disease in the village, but he is surprised it was found so early in the year.

"Given the fact that it is here earlier, there is more of an opportunity for people to be exposed (to the virus)," Boyle said. "At the same time, I'd like to underline the fact that most people exposed will never know they have it."

For the majority of the population, it doesn't create a grave danger. But it has the potential to be very serious, which is why there is so much public attention drawn to it.

The West Nile virus can cause encephalitis, which affects only a small percentage of people, Boyle said. Some symptoms, for those who do contract the disease, may include headaches and a fever. In an even smaller percentage of people, the disease can be fatal, Boyle said.

"For the majority of the population, it doesn't create a grave danger," Boyle said. "But it has the potential to be very serious, which is why there is so much public attention drawn to it."

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the West Nile virus has been found in 28 states since its arrival in 1999. In that time, there have been 149 cases of encephalitis reported, including 18 fatalities. There have been no reported cases of encephalitis reported in Illinois.

West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, which breed in warm, stagnant water. Boyle said people should empty any standing water from tires, pails and gutters. He also recommended regular water changes in pools and bird baths to reduce mosquito breeding.

The Illinois Department of Public Health also recommends people wear long sleeves and pants between dusk and dawn, use mosquito repellent and check for holes in house screens on doors, patios and porches to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.

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Boyle said the diseased crow was found in Wheeling May 20. The other diseased bird was found May 15 in LaGrange. The Wheeling bird was sent to the University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Champaign. The test results were released May 30.

Boyle said he would like residents to call the village health office if they find dead crows, blue jays or other birds with no obvious trauma. Boyle can be contacted by calling (847) 459-2621.

PIONEER PRESS - 6/6/2002

Trustee: Bridge question one of safety

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Trustee Michael Horcher is nervous about plans to replace the pedestrian overpass spanning Dundee Road with a traffic signal, fearing the solution is not safe enough.

"This is a safety thing, so it's a big issue," Horcher said. "If we needed that bridge 20 years ago, we probably need it more today."

The pedestrian bridge is typically used by students going to and coming from London Middle School. The Village Board has chosen a plan to replace the bridge with a traffic signal at the London exit and Cedar Road. The traffic light will include a pedestrian-activated walk signal.

Trustees say the overpass is in disrepair, is an eyesore and a traffic hazard. The village cannot repair the bridge unless it is brought up to codes outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Trustees said there is not enough land to build the necessary ramps to comply with ADA. They also say building handicap-accessible elevators would be

too costly.

Replacing the bridge could cost as much as \$400,000. However, Horcher said the main issue concerning the bridge is safety.

"It would be sad if this board votes to bring the bridge down and there is an accident," he said.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said he always believed it would be safest to leave the bridge.

"The safest way would be to put positive separation between (pedestrians) and traffic," he said, "and that would be with the bridge."

Resident Margie Wood also asked the board to reconsider the traffic light solution. Wood, a parent of a London sixth-grader who uses the bridge, said safety should outweigh cost, and she asked the board to find a way to replace or repair the overpass.

"The bridge may look bad now, but a child in a coffin would look worse," she said.

Not all board members are ready to abandon the current plan. Trustee Judy Abruscato wondered if children would ride skateboards or bicycles down the bridge's ramps if it



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Wheeling officials are considering tearing down the Dundee Road overpass and replacing it with a traffic signal. Some people have concerns that doing so would compromise student safety.

is replaced, and she asked if that would be any safer than putting a traffic light in its place.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said it may not be a bad idea to review all materials the vil-

lage has collected on the issue and then continue the discussion. The board has been trying to find a solution to the bridge problem for four years.

Trustees did, however, award a contract to survey the

land where the new traffic signal is proposed. The village needs to acquire a small sliver of land from the Dunhurst Shopping Plaza in order to construct the new intersection and signal.

Wheeling might bury lines

the price of stringing overhead power lines and burying them, village officials said. The overall cost of burying the lines would be about \$1.2 million, officials said.

Wheeling took advantage of the same program with a Wheeling Road project that allowed the burial of utility lines there five weeks ago.

"I think we spend money to take a place like Wheeling Road and bury power lines — this road is in a more residential area," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said of Route 83. "I think we owe it to residents to look into burying these lines. I know the streetlights are another issue."

Lehmann has been among trustees advocating the burying of power lines and also improving lighting along Route 83. The board had decided to put off the projects because of costs associated with an aggressive capital improvement plan already totaling about \$20 million in the 2002-03 budget. The ComEd "Rider 28" program would pay for burying power lines by distributing the cost among all Wheeling ComEd customers over a determined period of time.

Road construction usually conjures images of traffic nightmares, but Wheeling trustees think a Route 83 project next year could make one of their dreams come true.

The Wheeling village board Monday night approved an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to widen Route 83 from Dundee Road to Lake-Cook Road by late fall 2003.

The village agreed to pay \$165,000 for extra improvements on the state road that include a traffic signal upgrade at Lexington Drive, new sidewalks on both sides of the road, relocating a sanitary sewer and installing devices to prompt green lights for emergency vehicles.

Trustees also hope to use the work as an opportunity to bury power lines that trustees have long complained are unsightly.

The project to widen Route 83 already involves utility work involving ComEd. Through a ComEd program, Wheeling could pay the difference in

Village of Wheeling to sell commemorative T-shirts

For this year's Fourth of July, the village of Wheeling will be selling commemorative T-shirts from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 21 and 28, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 22 and 29 at Corus Bank 125 Old McHenry Road in Wheeling. The cost will be \$10 per shirt. All proceeds will go for the Fourth of July

Special Events. The shirts will also be sold at the Taste of Wheeling July 4.

For information, call Trustee Judy Abruscato at (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107.

The village also needs volunteers to help with the day's games and along the parade route.

C4C4

HERALD - 6/7/2002

PHOTO BY JEFFREY...

Residents speak out on future plan preferences for land use

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents told consultants for the village they want a new town center and more single-family homes areas included in a new comprehensive plan.

Principals from Camiros, Ltd., a Chicago-based consulting firm hired to work on overhauling Wheeling's comprehensive plan, invited residents to share their views on future land use patterns at a forum held at Village Hall last week. About 20 residents attended the forum hosted by the Plan Commission.

Bill James, a principal with Camiros, noted that there are only 300 acres of undeveloped land in Wheeling, about 5 percent of the total area of the village. That means the focus on future land uses will have to depend on re-using developed land, he said.

"Some (current) uses need to be redeveloped," he said. "You can maintain what you have already, but you should consider new uses for obsolete buildings."

One prime example is the Meyer Material facility at the corner of Dundee and Wheeling roads. Village officials have been considering moving the concrete plant to another location in the village to clear the way for a new, pedestrian-oriented town center.

James asked the residents on their opinions

of a new town center, where it should go, and what should be in it. Support for a new center was generally accepted.

James explained a new center would include housing, shopping and service-oriented business. He said the location at Dundee and Wheeling roads could work, since it is near the Metra train station. That transportation center may attract commuters to live there.

Some residents said Wheeling already as a town center.

"Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road is the center (of Wheeling)," resident William Hein said. "The emphasis on redevelopment over the past 15 years has been Milwaukee Avenue."

James did not disagree, but said there is a lot of traffic in that area, making it difficult to transform it into a "people-oriented" commercial center. He also said the intent of developing such a center would not be to detract what Milwaukee Avenue already offers residents.

"The real question is will it enhance the experience of living in Wheeling with kind of area?" James said. Most residents said they believed it would.

"The town center should be in the center of town," said resident George Hieber. "People who live west of Wolf Road go to Buffalo Grove or somewhere else to shop."

(Continued on page 6)

Residents

Others supported the idea, and said they were not as concerned where it should go.

"Wherever it is most viable, that's where it ought to go," said resident Michael Cooper.

Most recently, the village has been focused on multi-family residential development. Cooper was one of several resident who suggested there should be more land found for new single-family housing.

"I think it's important to have that so when people want to move up, they will stay in town," Cooper said.

Cooper also argued condominiums and townhomes

generate more traffic and increase the potential to attract more school children in an already crowded area of Wheeling Elementary School District 21.

Camiros has spent the past six months gathering information about the village and asking village officials, business groups, social clubs and residents what they would like to see in the comprehensive plan. The consultants plan to spend the next few months drafting a plan, which is expected to be accepted by the Wheeling Village Board sometime around the new year.

Grabowski leaving for job in Minooka

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James Grabowski, Wheeling's assistant village manager, has taken a new job in Minooka, leaving another hole in Village Hall.

Grabowski, who is currently acting as village manager, has accepted a job as village administrator of Minooka, located just southwest of Joliet. He will be leaving Wheeling Village Hall June 28.

"It's a good move for me," Grabowski said. "It's a step up, and (Minooka is) growing very quickly. I couldn't get that kind of experience here."

Grabowski, 32, is the sixth Wheeling administrator to leave in the past year, joining former finance director Robert Fialkowski, former community development director Michael Klitzke, former public works director Robert Gray, former village manager Craig Anderson and Village Attorney James Rhodes, who is also leaving this month.

The Village Board has yet to find a replacement for village manager, but has found new public works, finance and community development directors. Village President Greg Klatecki said the manager search is progressing, but does not expect to have a new manager until Sept. 1.

Klatecki said the board will hire a new manager soon, but would prefer to

take his time. "If you rush something like this, you're going to make a mistake," he said.

Guy Kolberg, Wheeling's public works director, will be the interim village manager between the time Grabowski leaves and a new manager is hired. Klatecki said the board looked over a few resumes given to them by the PAR Group, the firm hired to find a new manager, as choices for an interim manager, but the board decided to look to the village staff find an interim manager.

Klatecki said there was nothing wrong with the candidates given to the board by the PAR Group, but a "majority of the board felt we should go 'in-house.'"

Kolberg accepted the job as the interim manager Saturday. Kolberg was just announced as Wheeling's new public works director in April. He was the village's capital projects manager previously, and has been hired by the village since May 2000.

Kolberg will be working closely with Grabowski as he prepares to take over duties as interim manager when Grabowski leaves.

Grabowski was hired as assistant village manager in November 1997 and said he has been "fortunate to have been given the experience" he's had in Wheeling.

PIONEER PRESS - 6/13/2002

Water and sewer rates increase

The Wheeling Village Board accepted new increases to village water and sewer rates. The total increase to the rates totals 15 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The new water rate will be \$3.35 per 1,000 gallons, compared to \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons. The sewer rate increased from 51 cents per 1,000 gallons to 61 cents per 1,000 gallons. The total increase from both rates is about 3.94 percent. The total water and sewer rate is increasing from \$3.81 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.96 per 1,000 gallons.

The rates for water and sewer use are based on the budgeted expenditures for the current fiscal year.

Wheeling Finance Director Michael Mondschain said the increase in the sewer rate is more than the water rate since the village has historically charged less than what it actually costs to provide the service. Mondschain said he recommends the Village Board make larger increases to the sewer rate than to the water rate over the next few years to better reflect the cost of providing the service.

Wireless 911 calls surge

Since Wheeling put its wireless emergency 911 system online, more and more calls are being received from mobile telephone users.

The system has been up since December, and have accounted for 74 percent of all 911 calls in the last four months. In April, 78 percent of all 911 calls came from wireless telephones.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said the system also allows emergency crews to respond to calls faster, saving vital seconds in response times.

Because of the new system and the proliferation of wireless telephones, dispatchers are receiving an average of two calls per emergency.

MacIsaac estimates by the end of the year, dispatchers will be able to pinpoint an emergency within 1,000 feet of its location. In three to five years, MacIsaac said dispatchers will be able to locate an emergency within 30 feet from a caller's location by using global positioning satellites. He said that will take a lot of guesswork out of finding an emergency from callers who may be giving incomplete information over the phone.

Public works looking for 3 engineer hires

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Public Works Department is on the fast track looking to hire three more engineers, a move that will make the department more efficient and save the village thousands of dollars annually.

The Wheeling Village Board gave Public Works Director Guy Kolberg its approval to hire the extra staff and spend money for more computers so they can use computer-assisted designs for engineering and construction plans.

Currently, the department does not use computer plans when working on improvements, but instead needs to dig out paper copies, Kolberg said. This can be difficult when working with construction companies, other engineers and other agencies.

"We need to stay current with the state of the industry," Kolberg said. "Right now the permit process is in gridlock."

Having the engineers improve efficiency, but Kolberg said cost is driving new staffing.

(Continued on page 1)

Critical blood shortage declared
Chicago area hospitals do not have enough blood available for patients in need, forcing them to ration blood, according to LifeSource Blood Service.
"Unless thousands of donors step forward now, this summer's blood shortage will be the worst in years," said Phillip DeChristopher, blood bank medical director at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. "Hospitals will need to postpone or cancel surgeries, and the shortage will compromise patient care for all those who need blood, if donations do not increase significantly in the next few days."
To donate blood, call LifeSource at (877) 543-3768. Potential donors must be at least 17 years old, weight at least 110 pounds and be free from cold or flu symptoms.

(312) 459-2670. For more information, contact Chris Hansen at (312) 459-2670.

Residents speak out on future plan preferences for land use

By CASEY MOFFITT
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(Continued on page 6)

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PIONEER PRESS
Continued from page 5 6/13/2002

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"We need to stay current with the state of the industry," Kolberg said. "Right now, the permit process is in gridlock."

Having the engineers will improve efficiency, but Kolberg said cost is driving the new staffing.

(Continued on page 12)

Engineer

The engineers will be asked to do more design work and inspections of public improvement projects, including street lighting programs, water main replacements, sewer upgrades and street repairs. Currently, public works hires consultants and outside engineers for these duties.

When the work is kept in-house, Kolberg said the savings will be astronomical.

"This year's street program is being inspected by a consultant," he said. "We're hiring one consultant for 10 weeks. For the same amount of money, we can hire one-and-a-half year-round engineers."

Kolberg said inspections for this year's street improvement program alone will cost \$107,000. Design costs for the program cost even more, and that is for the street repairs project only.

The village also is conducting water main and sewer main replacement projects

PIONEER PRESS - 6/13/2002

Continued from page 10

By adding staff, we will save money in the long run," Kolberg said. "Actually, I expect we will save money as soon as we start."

Kolberg said the newly hired engineers will be expected to design and inspect future public improvement projects.

But Kolberg must act quickly. Design work for next summer's capital improvements will have to start soon in order to get them out to bid in time, he said.

Kolberg said hiring one full-time civil engineer will cost between \$50,000 and \$71,220 annually. The department also needs a capital projects manager, the job Kolberg previously held before being promoted to public works director. He said that will cost between \$55,700 and \$78,000 a year.

Engineer hired for flood study

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

In order to alleviate flooding throughout the village, Wheeling officials need to know how much water is going into the drainage ditch and from where it's coming.

The Wheeling Village Board hired Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd., of Rosemont, to do just that at its Monday night meeting. Burke was hired to complete the first phase of a four-phase plan to reduce the regulatory floodplains and floodways of the village.

The goal is to determine if more areas can be developed or redeveloped throughout the village. It could also mean fewer residents will be required to pay for costly flood insurance in some of the village's subdivisions.

Christopher Burke, owner of the engineering firm, presented the plan for the first phase of the plan at a June 3 meeting. The first phase will be the investigation of flow reduction alternatives.

Burke said he will begin with studies conducted by other state and federal agencies on the amount of water flowing into the drainage ditch from the regulatory floodplain. It will also involve developing a topographic map of the village. "They're going to determine what's out there," said Guy Kolberg, Wheeling Public Works director. "The village does not have topographic records."

Burke will also develop some ideas as to how to reduce flow into the drainage ditch. Burke said that will most likely include developing more storage in upstream areas of the ditch. He said the Buffalo Reservoir, which is currently the main storage area for the ditch, is planned for expansion to hold back more water. However, he said that will most likely not be

One of the goals is to be able to look at control projects for certain subdivisions so they no longer have to pay flood insurance.'

Trustee Trevor Lehmann

enough.

"You still have a lot of drainage into the channel," Burke said. "You have a 21-square-mile area (of floodplain), in village borders and out. There is no easy way or simple way to hold that back without (additional) storage."

The second phase of the study will be a feasibility report on measures offered in the first phase. After this, a third phase will entail the design and construction of the new measures. The fourth phase will be to redraw the floodplain and floodway maps of the village.

Trustees agreed to hire Burke Engineering for the first phase of the project only at a cost of \$79,536. Burke said the study should take six months to complete.

Burke did not have an estimate for future phases of the project, saying it will depend on the outcome of the first phase. The village is under no obligation to hire Burke for future phases of the project.

Burke said the overall project will be able to target specific areas of the village to see if they can be removed from the floodplain, which was good news to some trustees' ears. "One of the goals is to be able to look at control projects for certain subdivisions so they no longer have to pay flood insurance," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

More issues encircle Palwaukee airport

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It has been a bumpy ride toward installing a new taxiway and T-shaped hangars that will allow more room to store residents' and business' private planes at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Yet there's still turbulence ahead. Prospect Heights aldermen this month approved a letter of intent that will show the Illinois Department of Transportation the airport's commitment toward building the hangars.

IDOT requires the commitment before bids can be sought to build the taxiway for the hangars on the airport's southwest end, said Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau.

However, Wheeling still has to sign off on the project as a co-owner of the airport with Prospect Heights. Airport officials expect to meet with some of the same opposition over supplying water to the hangars that arose over a separate hangar proposal squelched last month. Palwaukee wants to run water lines from a private utility company to install water sprinklers required by Wheeling code, but some Prospect Heights aldermen want to fight Wheeling's sprinkler requirement.

Fifth Ward Alderman Gerald T. Anderson told airport officials there should be a way to get around the requirement because it limits airport development. Last month, Wheeling officials stopped Palwaukee from spending \$69,000 to build a new water main to supply water to another area of the airport for T-hangars. Officials said Wheeling already had to foot the bill for supplying water to build the airport's control tower in 1995.

"I don't think there's an edict that requires the airport to go by the strictest municipal code," Anderson said of Palwaukee's adherence to Wheeling's sprinkler rules.

Rouleau said an agreement signed by both towns when they bought the airport does just that. "With all due respect, if you thought this was an issue back then, you should have said something," Rouleau said. "The resolution before you is to show IDOT... we intend to build the T-hangars." Aldermen approved the letter of intent after Rouleau asked them not to put him in the middle of a water dispute between them and Wheeling trustees.

Signboard a step closer to reality?

6/12/02

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sign rules approved by Wheeling this week are supposed to be the first step toward heeding residents' call for an electric signboard to display community events.

Trustees amended Wheeling's sign code to allow the installation of electronic reader board signs under a list of strict conditions requiring a special use permit.

The signs would only be allowed at government offices, community recreation centers, convention centers, hotels and theaters that have a minimum of 5 acres of property.

The Wheeling Plan Commission wrote the sign requirements, hoping to ensure that use of the electronic boards wouldn't become excessive, commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said.

Wheeling trustees approved the sign requirements with a 5-1 vote. However, one trustee voted in favor of them only after making it clear they wouldn't necessarily give the village permission to install an electronic sign, and another trustee insisted the requirements are too restrictive.

"Basically, the only one who would be able to put up an electronic reader board is us," Trustee Patrick Horcher said in opposition to the sign requirements. "I do understand that a lot of work went into this, but ... I don't see when this would be amended to a point that it would be attainable to other businesses."

Brady described the changes in the sign code as a beginning. In drafting their sign rules, plan commissioners weren't sure how to phrase them to allow limited use of electronic signs, Brady said.

"We have met with deep resistance on electronic reader boards, and I can only assume it comes from here," Brady said of the village board. "We always meet with problems with the cans and can't's."

Brady entreated trustees to agree on what approach the plan commission should take in addressing sign rules. Trustees approved the rules after Trustee Robert Heer objected to wasting any more of the commission's time.

Wheeling official takes on new task

6/12/02

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling decided not to reinvent the wheel when finding someone to temporarily fill the village's top administrative job.

Wheeling has appointed Public Works Director Guy Kolberg to the position of acting village manager, choosing an employee who already knows the village inside and out.

The move will take Kolberg away from his duties managing Wheeling's roads and water mains, but village officials say public improvements shouldn't suffer.

Prospects are good for filling a vacant capital projects job that will enable Wheeling to forge ahead, planning street improvements in the Dunhurst subdivision and on Cornell Avenue, officials said.

Still, some village board members



Guy Kolberg

expect that other village operations will be adversely affected.

"I think when you take on extra responsibilities, everything seems to slow down," Village President Greg Klatecki said.

"My choice was to go out and do a temporary manager because right now with so many people being missing from our staff, I think going in-house burdens the staff even greater."

Kolberg's appointment is the latest shift in responsibilities in Wheeling's top management since trustees in February dismissed former Village Manager Craig Anderson. He had served almost 14 years in the job.

His departure left four vacancies in

Wheeling's top management.

Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski temporarily stepped in but told trustees last month he'll leave June 28 to manage the town of Minooka in Will County.

Kolberg, who has been with the village since May 2000, will take up the leadership mantle after being promoted to his public works directing position last April.

The village is accepting applications to fill the job Kolberg vacated as capital projects manager to prepare for next year's Dunhurst project and other road projects.

"We'll get those projects bid if we get a capital projects manager on board or not," Kolberg said. "They are high enough priority that we'll get those done."

"All of our supervisors in our senior management personnel in public works have been here a number of

years. They all know and do their jobs exceptionally well."

Klatecki has told the board that Wheeling shouldn't begin any new projects until a permanent replacement is found for Anderson in two to three months, he said.

The majority of Wheeling trustees, who voted for Kolberg's appointment, continue to assert that the expertise of the village's staff enables them to keep daily operations running smoothly.

"I don't want a village manager where I have to create the wheel again and show them Hintz Road and Dundee Road and all that is in the village," Trustee Dean Argiris said.

"I don't think we're going to miss a step," Argiris said of the progress of Wheeling improvements. "Even with all the transitions you've seen in the last eight months, I don't think the village has missed a step."

ROADS: TRIBUNE 6/10/2002

CTA benches not a priority

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Added Robert Strand, the chief road construction engineer in Cook County: "IDOT is holding off on the portion of their project that is directly south of us on Dundee. They won't start that work until the first stage of our Lake-

COOK WORK IS COMPLETED IN JULY." A close look at the two projects shows the agencies have indeed done their joint-planning homework. But high traffic volumes—not only during rush hours—minimize the positive effects. In addition a record amount of money has been provided to fix and widen Chicago-area roads under the Illinois FIRST infrastructure improvement program, so there's a lot of construction going on. The challenge involves meeting motorists' demand for better roads while trying to limit the impact of construction.

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HERALD 6/10/2002

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HERALD 6/10/2002
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PLEASE SEE ROADS, PAGE 2.

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There's also more news on the commemorative T-shirts the village is selling for Independence Day.

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The shirts will be on sale during regular business hours for \$10 per each.

Anyone who wants to volunteer for the parade and other activities July 4 still can call Trustee Judy Abruscato, (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107.

PIONEER PRESS 6/20/2002

Board approved Route 83 improvements

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The village will pay \$172,131 of the \$8.5 million project. IDOT will pay \$1.7 million, with the federal government spending \$6.6 million.

The project does not include burying utility lines or additional street lighting. Trustees wanted to install new street lights, but put the project on hold after officials estimated a \$1.2 million price tag for the improvement.

Trustees still would like to bury the utility lines along McHenry Road. They may execute a rider in the Commonwealth Edison contract which allows the village to charge electricity users for the project. ComEd customers would be additionally charged, based on the amount of use, for the duration of the c

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These life saving advances are only a glimpse of what lies ahead in emergency response. By the end of 2002, dispatchers will be able to pinpoint an emergency location as close as 1,000 feet.

Within three to five years, MacIsaac estimated, response teams will locate emergencies within 30 feet or less from a caller's position, thanks to global positioning satellites.

"These future improvements will be a big step forward. They will eliminate the guesswork based on incomplete information from callers who may be under emotional stress. When people tell us they're near a power tower, for example, we'll know exactly where to find and help them," MacIsaac concluded.

It's nice to know that if you do need the assistance of 911 right here in Wheeling, that it is working quickly and accurately.

Workshop in Spanish: OMNI Youth Services is reaching out to its Hispanic communities by presenting a community workshop in Spanish about discrimination and fair housing.

The Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities is teaming up with OMNI, which has a center in Wheeling. The workshop will be 11 a.m. June 22 at OMNI's Prospect Heights resource center, 668-B N. Milwaukee Ave.

Each year, OMNI centers promote self-sufficiency for more than 4,500 people, many of whom are low-income and immigrant families.

The mission of the Leadership Council, established in 1966, is to eliminate discrimination and segregation in metropolitan Chicago housing markets.

Golf outing today: The 16th annual Angels with Clubs Golf Outing, sponsored by the Addolorata Villa Foundation, will be held today at Lake Barrington Shores Country Club.

The event begins at 11 a.m. with registration. There will then be lunch and a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start on the green. A 2002 Chevrolet is among the prizes. Call Bill Duncan for fee rates and other information, (847) 808-6126. Proceeds will benefit the Wheeling-based continuing care retirement community.

Plan Commission stands firm on offices

Alex Loyfman said he can make his proposed office building for the Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway intersection work, but the Plan Commission refused to reopen the petition.

Commissioners said they were not opposed to the concept of having office space at that intersection. However, the 8-acre site is in a floodplain, and officials in the engineering department still have a lot of questions concerning stormwater management.

Commissioners voted to close the case at its May 23 meeting in order for Loyfman to explore more options.

"I don't believe it's progressed to the point where it can come before us," commissioner Terry Stellen said. "When they can present something officially that meets requirements, then I'd like them to come back."

Loyfman was at the Plan Commission meeting, but did not speak. There were no commissioners willing, or able to make a motion to reconsider the project.

Volunteers still needed for

Wheeling still needs volunteers to Fourth of July celebration, which will fireworks display at the Community Recreation Center.

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she needs a few more volunteers to work at the fireworks display.

"We don't ask people to work a million hours, but you can give an hour or two of your time and enjoy the day."

This year's parade will include 64 units. Abruscato said it is by far the largest parade in the village's history.

To volunteer, call Abruscato at (847) 459-2666.

ROADS: *TRIBUNE 6/10/2002* CTA benches not a priority

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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HERALD 6/10/2002

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PLEASE SEE **ROADS**, PAGE 2.

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Park to miss party

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

It is clear the new Friendship Park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue will not be completed by the Fourth of July like some trustees had hoped.

Claus Dunkelberg, principal with Harding ESE of Chicago, said there were some "unforeseen things" on the site that made it impossible to meet the July 4 completion date, namely underground storage tanks that had to be removed.

"The site used to be a gas station," Dunkelberg said. "There were some abandoned fuel tanks there, and we lost some time digging them out."

No one involved in the project realized there were still a few tanks underground until crews dug them up. The Environmental Protection Agency also became involved, which also delayed the project.

"We've been working with the (EPA) during the course of the project," he said. "We're still working with them. We need to make sure all of our 't's are dotted and our 'i's are crossed."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann, who put the new park on the fast track to try to open it for Independence Day, said it was disappointing the park could not be completed for the Fourth of July celebration. But he also took the delay as a mixed blessing. He said it might be better if the park had its own ribbon-cutting celebration rather than share with the holiday.

"We're going to have that park for many years to come," Lehmann said. "I'd rather get it done it right."

Dunkelberg said he can't predict exactly when the park work will be complete.

"I don't guess at schedules anymore," he said. "There are too many things that you can't forecast."

Dunkelberg said all materials needed to finish the park have been ordered and are either on the site or sitting at supply houses waiting for crews to install.

WHEELING 6/25/2002

Fire and police promotions made

Several supervisory changes have been made in the Police and Fire Departments, village officials announced.

Police Sgt. William Benson, training and research officer, was promoted to commander in charge of the department's support services division, said Police Chief John Popadowski.

Benson fills the opening created by the May retirement of Cmdr. Eric Larson, who had been with the department since 1975.

Cpl. Peter Panagakis was promoted to sergeant, Popadowski said.

In the Fire Department, Battalion Chief Richard Wydra, 52, has been named deputy chief, replacing Richard Theobald, who retired after 32 years.

Also promoted were Lt. Robert Leipzig, 43, to battalion chief, and firefighter/paramedic Patrick Trunda, 45, to lieutenant/paramedic.

John Maes

HERALD - 6/24/2002

Planning committee looks at library's successes

By CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first of a series of three community meetings was held late last month, and the library board is about to embark on the second phase of the program.

"We called representatives from the communities to come in and then we asked them where they thought their communities were going in the next five years and what the needs of the community were and how the library could fit into those needs," said Earl Sabes, library board president.

The Indian Trails Public Library District is collecting community opinions to decide what type of facility the library should become for the next five to 10 years.

With the help of a consultant, the library has formed a planning committee made up of leaders from the Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove communities the library

"Now we're going to sit down with staff to review those recommendations to see if we can match them to our resources."

The library in March received the OK from voters for a tax increase that will give the library up to \$465,000 more a year to keep pace with modern needs.

Indian Trails told voters the library needs to update its technology and expand operating hours, but there could be more that residents want the

library to do.

"As far as collection and the building itself, do we need another library to serve the area?," Sabes said, listing questions the new planning committee will help answer. "Do we need more foreign language stuff? Is our collection comprehensive enough to give everyone what they need?"

Among the estimated 20 community leaders serving on the library's planning committee are Buffalo Grove Chamber of Commerce Vice President

Ron Jonas, Wheeling Trustee Trevor Lehmann and 5th Ward Alderman Darlene Ahlstedt of Prospect Heights.

"I was selected as a person who can represent what Prospect Heights citizens want, but we're taking suggestions from other people, so pass along any ideas you have," Ahlstedt told other Prospect Heights aldermen in a city council meeting last month.

The committee plans ultimately to finalize a list of improvements from which the library can act.

WHEELING 6/25/2002
WHEELING: 4th of July celebration
Thursday, Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Rd. Entertainment: Medley's in Motion DJ's
Greg Koopen noon; Jake and the Money-makers 2 p.m.; magician Joel Brash 2:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Pinkertoy Dixieland Band 3:45 p.m.; Jesse White Tumblers 4:30 p.m.; parade 6 p.m.; Dundee Road to Heritage Park; Larry Bemben Big Band Sound 7 p.m.; fireworks at dusk; Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds 10 p.m. 847-541-8783.

HERALD 6/25/2002

Wheeling rules site remains unsafe for housing project

By CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The idea that a 5-year-old child could someday play in a detention pond contaminated with gasoline killed a Wheeling housing proposal Monday.

Attorneys and environmentalists supporting a 50-unit townhouse project along Willow Road insisted children would never be at risk from soil contamination deep under the

ground's surface.

However, Wheeling trustees weren't satisfied that a site of a 10-year-old gasoline spill is clean enough for a housing subdivision.

The village board voted 5-1 to deny a petition from Concord Development Corp. to build a phase of the Avalon-Sienna subdivision north of Foster Industrial Park and next to the site of a construction accident that spilled almost 143,000 gallons of gasoline in 1992.

"I personally think the public safety should prevail over the profits of Concord," Trustee Bob Heer said. "Come back when it's clean."

Attorneys for the developer explained that the only way to get clearance to build homes from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency would be to completely clean the site or to ban residents from drinking the water.

At least three companies have struggled to clean up the proposed

housing site since a contractor installing a natural gas pipe bored into a gasoline line at a neighboring ComEd site 10 years ago.

Buried utilities and the spread of contaminants through ground water make it impossible to haul away contaminated soil.

"This property can meet residential standards if we don't allow — as your ordinances don't allow anyway — residents to install water wells," said Mark Steger, a lawyer representing the property owner, Potomac Corp.

The last time any trace of gasoline was seen in test wells on the spill site was last July, said Scott Buckner, an environmental manager for the West Shore Pipeline petroleum company.

"We are an oil company; people like to sue us," Buckner said. "If we thought there was a liability issue that was real, we wouldn't be here trying to get this through."

Trustee Dean Argiris questioned

the village's alternatives if trustees voted against Concord's development. Potomac and Concord Homes were willing to install an aggressive system to further clean up the site that has long sat vacant.

Still, Trustee Patrick Horcher was the only board member who voted against the majority's decision to deny Concord's petition.

"This does sound like an opportunity to get better than average cleanup of this site," Horcher said.

HERALD 6/26/2002
HEALTH: Airport ramp draws fire
A plane maintenance company that operates at Palwaukee Municipal Airport served notice to Wheeling officials this week that the company wants changes in how things operate at the airport. A manager at North American Jet has made repeated visits to the village board to complain that another plane maintenance firm at Palwaukee is using a public flight ramp for private use, and the other tenants at the airport shouldn't be forced to subsidize that with their rent fees. Wheeling Village President Greg Klatschki pledged to meet with Palwaukee's airport manager and with officials from Prospect Heights — which shares ownership of the airport with Wheeling — to help resolve the issue.

North American has consistently been a supporter of the residential community, making donations to the Wheeling Park District, Jaycees and the Wheeling Special Events Committee.

"This year, North American let's dedication to the local community quickly sent them to the front of the line," Lederer said in a statement provided by Palwaukee.

North American Jet President Kenneth Ross said he was gratified by the award.

"But I'm also indebted to the people who have truly made North American let a first-class operation," Ross said. "I'm honored and privileged to have such a talented and hardworking staff that provides the highest level of customer service and safety."

The Wheeling Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce includes some 300 local business members.

Palwaukee's acting manager Dennis Roubeau hopes the chamber's award is just the beginning of the recognition the airport receives for its contribution to Wheeling and Prospect Heights, he said.

Palwaukee is home to some 343 aircraft and employs 400 people.

In selecting the winner, chamber President Jim Lederer said selection "was based upon contributions in business, philanthropy and economic development."

"We were pleased to be able to declare North American Jet the winner of this year's competition," he said.

North American Jet President Kenneth Ross said he was gratified by the award.

"But I'm also indebted to the people who have truly made North American let a first-class operation," Ross said. "I'm honored and privileged to have such a talented and hardworking staff that provides the highest level of customer service and safety."



Cass Gliatt
Wheeling

The folks at Palwaukee are touting the recent announcement from the Wheeling-Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry of its Business of the Year 2001 award.

The recipient was none other than North American Jet, an airline service company at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

In business at Palwaukee for 2 1/2 years, the company provides aircraft charter, fueling and maintenance services 24 hours a day, seven days a week to private and corporate planes flying in and out of the airport.

HERALD - 6/24/2002
Chamber announces business of the year

Wheeling trustees clash over new utility taxes

Majority of board supports taxes as a way to pay for beautification of village

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents and businesses will pay new gas and electric taxes to help support the improvements some trustees are calling for to beautify the village.

Other trustees don't think it should be that way.

Trustees clashed this week over a vote on the utility taxes, as some board members questioned why other trustees seem willing to add village improvements to the budget but unwilling to pay for them.

The board voted 4-2 in favor of separate 1 percent use taxes for natural gas and electric utilities expected to add about \$25,000 to village coffers every year. Nicor and ComEd each will get 3 percent of the taxes as a collection fee.

Trustees Bob Heer and Judy Abruscato cast votes against the taxes, as they did a month and a half ago when the board voted 4-2 in favor of new ambulance fees.

"I know we've been doing lots of

projects, but ... I think if we continue tax, tax, tax, these things have to be phased in," Heer said. "What about people who are at the lower end of the scale or who don't want to turn on their heat because of the extra tax?"

Abruscato echoed those sentiments, adding she doubts the village is in such "dire straits" as to need the money.

"Maybe we need to cut back on our capital improvements, or the finery of our television, or our com-

puters," Abruscato said.

Trustee Patrick Horcher expressed frustration at Abruscato's opposition to the spending he thought was necessary to keep pace with the village's growth in the 21st century.

Horcher noted Abruscato's vote against the 2-month-old cable system that opened meetings to residents' homes. He also said spending was justified for hiring nine new firefighters over three years to safeguard Wheeling's growing population. The

new computer network replaced a 30-year-old system, he said.

"You can't want all the toys when they come on the list and then say six months later, 'Now I don't want to raise taxes or do the things to pay for it,'" Horcher said.

He said the time to look at cuts was when trustees were "hammering out the budget."

Back then, trustees charged village staff with finding ways — other than property tax increases — to support a

continued trend of aggressive capital improvements in Wheeling.

In the 2002-03 budget year, the village is spending more than it receives in revenue to pay for \$20.4 million in projects to expand and improve village buildings, roads, sewers and other infrastructure.

The majority of trustees supported the new taxes as a way to help pay for it all.

"We've been deficit spending for a couple of years now," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "Either we have to cut the programs or we have to find additional sources of revenue."

Reader board law restricting potential uses

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Electronic reader board signs are now allowed by law in Wheeling, but it is still very difficult to put one up.

The Wheeling Village Board passed a new ordinance that will allow electronic reader board signs by special use in the village. However, the new law severely limits who can have them and where they can be located.

According to the law, only government entities, community recreation centers, convention centers, hotels and theaters that sit on 5 acres of land can use the signs. Since there are no convention centers or theaters or hotels that sit on 5 acres, the law effectively allows only government entities to use them.

The electronic portion of the sign can only make up 25 percent of the total area of the sign and the signs can be no closer than 600 feet from each other.

Trustees had asked the Plan Commission to work on the ordinance. They say the signs, which post messages electronically, can be erected without violating the intent of the sign code.

"It is the best sign for marketing and advertising (for businesses)," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

Other trustees and plan commissioners said it would be nice for Village Hall to have an electronic reader board sign to inform residents about upcoming events or village news.

However, even Village Hall could not put up one of the signs according to the new ordinance. It would need at least one variance. Since Village Hall already has one free-standing sign, it would need a

Most are tasteful, and they can be a benefit to the village, but they can get out of control.

Ken Brady, chairman of the Plan Commission, on reader board signs

variance to put up a second free-standing sign. Lehmann also said any reader board allowed by the ordinance would not be large enough for use at Village Hall.

He said village ordinance states the largest sign can be 100 square feet. A 25-square-foot reader board would not be large enough he argued.

Trustee Patrick Horcher said the new ordinance was too restrictive for him to pass. He was the lone trustee to vote against it.

"The bulk of the text and the restrictions basically prohibit these signs," he said. "The improvement is so slight. It's a good beginning, but I can't support it."

Ken Brady, Plan Commission chairman, said the commission had a difficult time finding the correct wording for the ordinance to allow the signs and still restrict their use.

"Most are tasteful, and they can be a benefit to the village," Brady said. "But they can get out of control."

Lehmann, too, said the new ordinance is too restricting, and he would like to see a provision that will allow businesses to use them.

(Continued on page 14)

PIONEER PRESS 6/20/2002

Reader Continued from page 5

"The only ones who can use them, really, are government entities. Government entities who don't pay taxes," he said. "Those who do pay taxes in the village can't use them, and I think that's wrong."

Lehmann said he voted in favor of the ordinance because it is a "good first step in the right direction," but he said he would like the plan commission to take another crack at the ordinance.

There are only two

electronic reader board signs in Wheeling. One is at the Community Recreation Center on Dundee Road, and there is one at Hackney's on Milwaukee Avenue.

The signs were not permitted under the old ordinance. The Park District was able to have one under an even older law that allowed special uses like the center to have them. Hackney's received a variance for its sign.

Wheeling says goodbye to leaders

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

When James A. Rhodes arrived for his job in Wheeling two decades ago, the village had only 150 employees, an \$8 million budget to pay for town services and about half the population the village has today.

About 240 employees now work in Wheeling, and its budget has grown to more than \$50 million.

"Through his leadership and guidance, Wheeling has prospered and grown," village President Greg Klatecki said in a proclamation honoring Rhodes this week.

Most Wheeling residents probably don't know who he is, but Rhodes has worked behind the scenes in the village as its attorney since 1992.

The village board officially bid farewell to him, Assistant and Acting Village Manager James Grabowski and retiring Deputy Fire Chief Richard Theobald during its meeting Monday.

June 25, 27 and 28 were marked as days honoring Theobald, Grabowski and Rhodes, respectively.

Described as a mentor "instrumental" in improving residents' quality of life, Rhodes helped Wheeling draft new laws and push forward with redevelopment. He will retire at the end of this month.

Grabowski, who began his career in the village in 1997 as an administrative assistant, will leave June 28 to take a job managing the town of Minooka in Will County.

"I have really appreciated the opportunities that this board and the village staff have given to me," Grabowski said.

A large contingent of firefighters was on hand to say goodbye to Theobald, who is retiring after about 30 years as deputy fire chief.

His expressions of gratitude lasted less time than the prolonged applause he received for three decades of helping fight fires and rescue people in need.

"My 30 years here that I spent was a wonderful 30 years," Theobald said.

Klatecki joked that Theobald should feel gratified the village needs three men to replace him.

Wheeling swore in former Battalion Chief Richard Wydra as the new deputy chief, former Lt. paramedic Robert Leipzig to battalion chief, and firefighter paramedic Patrick Trunda as the new lieutenant paramedic.

Family farmers

Mike Horcher passes down five generations of values

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Michael Horcher's farm has been passed down for five generations and the current patriarch of the family has also passed on some valuable fatherly advice to his six sons.

Horcher said his family established the farm in 1848, which originally grew grains and raised livestock. The farm has evolved and grown smaller. Corn is still grown on the 400 acres that are left, and flowers are also a staple of the business.

Horcher was elected to the Wheeling Village Board last spring, where his second-eldest, Patrick, also serves. Four of his six sons still live in Wheeling. Working together has always been a strong value in the family.

"We always get behind each other," Michael Horcher said. "One will always help the other."

'He's your brother'

The eldest son, Michael Jr., runs his own landscaping business and sometimes relies on Patrick's greenhouses to get flowers. The two youngest, Chris and James, each own their own towing companies and help each other in their work all the time.

"(Michael Sr.) always pushed, 'He's your brother so you help him out,'" Chris Horcher said.

Michael Horcher said the Future Farmers of America take in new members and give them a demonstration with a quarter inch of rope. He said new members are asked to unravel the threads of the rope, to show that when wound together, the rope is far stronger than when it's apart. He said he has taken that lesson and applied to the family.

"Without unity, this business would not be here," he said. "The younger generations have new ideas that change with the changing times. The business needs to prosper and we need to work together for that to happen."

All six sons helped out on the farm as they were growing up. The youngest, James, would go to the farmer's market at age 5 or 6, Michael Horcher said, taking money for plants and vegetables, wearing an apron that read "Please help me make change." He said the family always found ways to get everyone involved in the business.

Michael Jr., the eldest of the Horcher sons, said that value has always stuck with him.

"We all work together and we all stay together," he said.

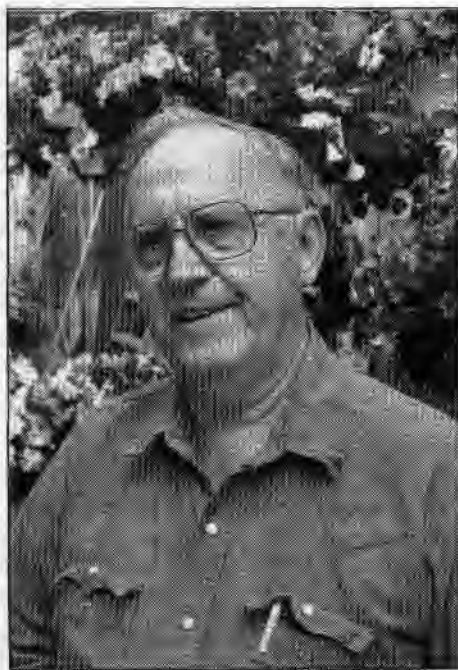
Michael Horcher Jr. also said he has received help from his father when it comes to running his own business. All six Horcher sons have their own business.



The Horchers — Pat, Mike, Mike Jr. and Chris, are tending to the farm and to the values that have been in their family for five generations.

Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Without unity, this business would not be here.



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Mike Horcher is passing along five generations of values to his sons.

Michael Sr. said he always tried to treat customers fairly so they keep coming back. Michael Jr. has found that works for his business, too.

"A lot of my customers I've worked with for over 20 years now," he said. "I appreciate them being here and keeping them as customers."

Family farm

Michael Sr. said the children always had things to do around the farm. They showed livestock at fairs, which they raised, fed, walked and took care of. He said they were always busy with their own responsibilities, which mostly kept them out of trouble.

"They always had responsibilities, but not above and beyond what they could handle," he said.

Out of six sons, only two have children of their own, Patrick and Darrell. Michael Horcher Sr. has three grandchildren.

Patrick Horcher has two of those, Asher and Patrick Jr. He said he tries to show them how his family works together and helps each other out.

During one stormy night, some shingles had blown off the roof of the house when Patrick pulled in. He helped his brother anchor the shingle while the storm was still blowing to prevent further damage to the house.

"My daughter still remembers that," he said. "I've told them, if they can't get a hold of me or my wife to call the business here, and their uncles will help them ... I've always told my kids that family comes first."

Patrick said as he has grown older, he is more thankful of his experiences growing up on the farm.

"I wish I could bring my kids here more often," he said.

He said he would like to give his own children similar responsibilities that he had when he was growing up. But living in a suburban house instead of on the farm makes it difficult.

(Continued on page 23)

■ Farmers PIONEER PRESS 6/13/2002 Continued from page 21

"I'd like for them to each have puppy so they have the responsibility of raising and training an animal," he said. "But my 20 by 20 yard isn't big enough for two dogs."

Patrick Horcher said other values he tries to instill in his children include respect for others and their opinions, and to not blindly accept authority.

"I don't want them to be puppets or members of a herd," he said. "They're willful kids, but reasonable, too. They ask for explanations."

Michael Horcher said having grandchildren is very different from having his own.

"They come by and then they go home at night," he said. "Isn't that what it's all about?"

He also said he believes it is more difficult to raise children today than when he did. He said he believes families today rely too much on television as a unifying factor.

"Some of the programs get way out there," he said. "They're meaningless. Maybe there's some benefit to them. I don't know. Maybe I have to look a bit deeper into them."



Picture courtesy Village of Wheeling

This is a conceptual drawing for Prairie Park, a 306-unit condominium development earmarked for land southwest of the intersection of Lake-Cook and Milwaukee roads. 6/20/02

Village liking what it sees in new condominium plan

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling developer Mark Smith continues to impress village officials with his Prairie Park proposal he hopes to build near the corner of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Smith took his proposal to the Plan Commission, which praised the project and had very few concerns. Commissioners examined the proposal of 306 condominiums in five buildings with enthusiasm.

"I really like what I'm seeing," said commissioner David Cantwell. "I think it's a very appropriate use."

The proposal by Smith, of Smith and Sons, shows five buildings surrounding a pond, with two buildings on the south side of the property and three to the north. The northern buildings will be seven stories high and the southern buildings are proposed to be five.

Commissioners and officials had very few concerns with the proposal. One concern was whether there was proper drainage for the area. The western part of the 18-acre site currently lies in a flood plain. However Cliff Toberman, the engineer hired by Smith, said he was confident the area will not flood.

Drainage is expected to flow out into the new diversion channel of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch. Toberman said that should take care of flooding issues, along with the pond, which will act as storage for stormwater.

"If I had any doubts of not being capable of

building this, I wouldn't bring it before you," Smith told the commission. "It wouldn't be advantageous for me, as a Wheeling resident, or my business to build something that will flood."

Village Engineer Richard Glenz said he does not believe there are any conditions on the site the developer "can't overcome" with the proposed drainage system.

Commissioner Steve Boime said his concern was with traffic. He said 306 units will generate a lot of additional traffic for Wolf Road.

"I think a traffic (impact) study would be in order," he said.

Howard Hirsch, the architect hired by Smith, said he was trying to design the development in a prairie style, which accents the horizontal features of the buildings. He also said he had two main objectives with the design.

He said he was trying to create a sense of "place within itself" since there are no similar uses in the area. He also said he wanted to take advantage of the views to the north, west and east of the site.

"We looked at the surroundings," he said. "This is not in the heart of central Wheeling. It's isolated from most residential areas."

The design leaves 64 percent of the site as open space, with an elaborate entrance that includes a waterfall and a gazebo. Smith said he was excited about the "spectacular" water feature planned for the entrance.

(Continued on page 10)

Village

Smith said it all goes smoothly, he hopes to begin construction next spring. He anticipated it would take between three and four years to complete the development.

Wheeling's Crescent marks 100 years in business

HEALD - 6/28/2002

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In a tiny box of an office, shortly after the turn of the 20th century, Charles T. Ozmun began producing promotional vaudeville theatre boards.

On his first day in business in 1902, Ozmun sold two poster boards and a bucket of paste.

Yet his company would become the country's leading supplier of cardboard shirt collars, jigsaw puzzles and picture board, and eventually one of the most well-known suppliers in the world.

Today, a fourth generation of Ozmun can tout the success of the Crescent Cardboard Co., occupying 300,000 square feet in Wheeling and celebrating 100 years of doing business.

"The village of Wheeling is fortunate to count the Crescent Cardboard Co. and the Ozmun family as long-standing exemplary stakeholders and

works here. It's been family-owned since 1902."

Ozmun wasn't available for comment, but company officials explained that Wheeling's proximity to Interstate 294 and other highways made it a logical place for the family to expand. Business had boomed after cardboard decoys and ammunition box liners supported the war effort in World War I and World War II.

Also, the growth of the American advertising industry brought more demand for Crescent's art boards after the war.

"Crescent was growing dramatically, as it is today, and needed additional space to accommodate its extensive expansion plans," said Kate McCarthy, vice president of marketing for Crescent. "Wheeling was the perfect community to grow a business in with its superb location and quality work force in the area."

Crescent will officially celebrate its 100-year anniversary Sept. 21 at the Atlanta Decor Expo.

Library district keeps Web filters policy

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents arrived for this week's meeting at the Indian Trails library armed with studies showing that Internet filters effectively protect children from pornography.

The library board had its own reports showing they don't.

The meeting became a forum for dueling research, as the Indian Trails Public Library District staff presented demonstrations to explain the library's no-filter policy.

Staff used computers to show how one of the filter programs most commonly used at local schools and libraries, Cyber Sitter, blocks sites on teen pregnancy, the town of Essex, the Center for Disease Control and such popular retail items as Muffy

Teddy Bear.

The software program Cyber Patrol was less restrictive, letting pornographic sites get through, but blocking some informational sites critical of filters themselves.

"What makes me uncomfortable from a reference point of view is we're misleading people," said Sally Dicker Smith, in charge of the library's adult services. "Not to bad-mouth my colleagues at other libraries, but if we tell parents that by using filters we're protecting children, we're lying to them."

Many residents disagreed. They said taxpayers in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights deserve to help shape their library's policy.

"I'd rather have a filter, even if it's not 100 percent," said the Rev. Paul Klopke of Living Christ Lutheran Church on the border of Buffalo Grove.

Residents pointed out that the library routinely makes selective decisions in deciding not to carry pornographic magazines. "So why would you open the World Wide Web up in your library?" former teacher Eleanor Hesse of Wheeling said.

Some residents were grateful to see how much the library had researched the issue, but they insisted the library's policies don't make sense.

"You don't use filters because they're not 100 percent. There are crooked police out there; let's do away with the police department," said Chris McClure of Wheeling.

The audience pressed for a compromise that would put filters on some Indian Trails computers, which children 14 and younger would use.

Libraries in Schaumburg, Barrington, Mount Prospect and Palatine are

among those that filter, including some with only partial filtering policies. Indian Trails library board President Earl Sabes explained the library explored those options with its attorney less than a year ago.

"Our position is schools filter, but at the school they are required to be a parent in absentia," Sabes said. "They have the responsibility to protect children from harm. On the other hand, the library's responsibility is to be a source of information. Many homes today don't have access to the Internet and we have to promote freedom of information."

Still, Sabes assured residents the issue isn't closed. "I'm sure that over the next weeks, months, years, this topic will be revisited," he said. "We really don't have a closed mind and we wish to listen to the community."

Wheeling program catches eye of White House

BY CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Efrain Fuentes is happy in his job as a restaurant cook, but he's not sure he wants to do it forever.

The 34-year-old Wheeling man has worked for Bob Chinn's CrabHouse for 12 years, but he might want to open his own restaurant some day.

That would be hard to do, however, without the ability to read, write or speak English.

"Right now I don't interact much with the clients, but it would be good to be able to," Fuentes said in his native Spanish. "Speaking English helps to provide better service at the restaurant here, and it could help me get a better position."

Fuentes came to the United States from Mexico 14 years ago to earn a living for his family. Until recently, though, the hours Fuentes had to work to support his wife and 3-year-old son didn't give him time to enroll in English classes.

Then an innovative Welfare to

"We never really expected any recognition. It was from our hearts to provide an opportunity for our employees."

Cheun Tam, human resource manager at Bob Chinn's

Work program offering language classes and management training came along to offer Fuentes and other Bob Chinn's staff new opportunities. Employees have learned to read and write English, communicate with their children's teachers and earn state certifications in food handling.

Even as debate continues in Washington over welfare-to-work reforms, Wheeling business leaders are trumpeting this Bob Chinn's success story that caught the eye of the White House.

Four staff members from Bob Chinn's in Wheeling met with President Bush in April as part of a campaign to inform Congress, local government agencies and the busi-

ness community of the progress of welfare reform.

The non-profit Welfare to Work Partnership agency invited Bob Chinn's — along with Wheeling's Inland Die Casting Corp. — to Capitol Hill after seeing the benefits of federally funded grants the agency gave the businesses for training.

Bob Chinn's piloted separate English as a Second Language and food sanitation training sessions last summer for low-income employees at risk of falling onto welfare rolls. A partnership with Inland Die Casting provided management training.

Bob Chinn's is now expanding its programs to more local businesses with the help of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of

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Welfare to Work Partnership

Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce

Bob Chinn's Crab House

Commerce & Industry and more federal funding.

"We've taken the welfare-to-work reform and reconfigured it for ourselves," said Frank D'Angelo, general manager of Bob Chinn's CrabHouse.

"We're using it to train employees who are less fortunate — where some have come to this country without the education that we've had — and we want them to go ahead and get promoted through better training and improvement of their job skills."

Chinn's staff showcased the pro-

See **TRAINING** on **PAGE 10**

Training: Language skills crucial to promoting employees

Continued from Page 1

gram's merits in a town hall meeting with Bush April 18. Chinn's was one of seven Chicago-area businesses recognized for efforts to hire welfare recipients.

The White House then reached out to Chinn's with an invitation to Bush's Chicago speech last month in support of welfare reform.

"Bob Chinn's represents the secret of why welfare reform is a success," said U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, who attended Bush's speech. "It's not in getting a cash payment to poor people and encouraging dependence that works. It's supporting programs that help people overcome linguistic or transportation or day care obstacles to keep a job."

Kirk said he agrees with the president's view that jobs offer people dignity, not just paychecks.

A Bush plan for welfare reform is mirrored in a welfare bill that Congress is debating. Republicans are calling for tougher work requirements than in the 1996 benchmark Welfare Reform Law that limits how long people can receive welfare benefits and punishes recipients who don't follow strict rules.

Democrats stress a desire to help welfare recipients move up the job ladder by letting states impose more education and training programs.

"The president also believes it's very important to empower states to seek new and innovative solutions to provide innovative programs that cater to individual needs," said White House spokesman Scott Stanzel.

The meeting with Bob Chinn's and other businesses at the White House provided an opportunity to highlight groups that already are "on the cutting edge of welfare reform," he said.

Managers at Chinn's never thought their program would become an example.

"We never really expected any recognition," said Cheun Tam, human resource manager at Bob Chinn's. "It was from our hearts to provide an opportunity for our employees."

The restaurant wanted to help employees get ahead through convenient training opportunities before



Ireneo Mendoza can prepare soft shell crab at Bob Chinn's Crab House in Wheeling but he was happy to be able to improve his job readiness skills.

and after work at the restaurant.

Chinn's cook Efrain Fuentes became one of 50 employees to graduate from English classes offered as early as 7 a.m. and as late as midnight.

"It doesn't just help for work, it's for life also, because when you have children, it's important to be able to communicate with the school," Fuentes said.

The Welfare to Work Partnership agency, spawned by the 1990s welfare reform movement, helped through a business partnership called BizLink to provide federal funding. It allows employers to offer training for free.

"We were formed to motivate, educate and support businesses that hire from welfare recipients," said Jennifer Adach, spokeswoman for the Washington, D.C.-based Welfare to Work Partnership. "We grew and have BizLink Network offices now in five cities, including Chicago."

BizLink promoted partnerships between Chinn's and Harper College for English as a Second Language classes and between Chinn's and Inland Die Casting for management training.

Alma Franco, a 29-year-old human resources assistant at Bob Chinn's, was able to learn supervisory skills that now enable her to manage the Welfare to Work programs at the restaurant.

"I didn't have any management experience before," Franco said. "If I hadn't gone through that program, I probably wouldn't have been knowledgeable to set up the other ESL program and the sanitation program."

Bob Chinn's has trained 26 employees to receive state certification in food handling and sanitation. The crab house begins another English session this month.

Because other businesses are interested in following Bob Chinn's example, the president of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, Jim Lederer, has spread the word about BizLink.

Lederer has brought BizLink together with such companies at Wapa-Ghettis Pizza, the List and Letters mail house and Hilton Northbrook that are contemplating their own programs.

"What we've also done is negotiate in the past few months to bring an off-shoot of that BizLink office to the suburbs to better service Wheeling and the surrounding area," Chamber Executive Director Cathy Powers said.

A GED course, industry safety program and the food handling and sanitation certification are among the programs businesses can offer their employees.

"I understand the ESL has been very successful and very helpful at Bob Chinn's," said Human Resource Manager Lorna Acevedo of Inland Die Casting.

The company planned to begin ESL classes this month.

"About 80 percent of our total employee population is Spanish dominant here, but most managers are English dominant," Acevedo said. "We have a lot of employees who have an excellent work ethic ... without the management and language skills, it's hard to promote them."

Specialized training could become even more widespread with the approval of the pending welfare reform legislation. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed its version of a law renewing the 1996 Welfare Reform Law that expires this year.

The Senate still has to approve a bill before Congress can send a compromise version to the president.

"It's a very popular bill, so I don't see any problem with it reaching the president's desk," Rep. Kirk said. "We took a bipartisan risk under President Clinton in 1996 to end the cash payments ... and now it's time to renew this legislation."

HERALD-7/2/2002
Is Kolberg ready to be the village manager?

There seems to be no small amount of interest in — and in some cases, concern for — Wheeling's decision to appoint Public Works Director Guy Kolberg as acting village manager.

Residents have written to question why Wheeling would appoint a person as village manager who has never been a village manager or assistant village manager before.

Well, we thought we'd clarify this matter by pointing out that towns of Wheeling's size don't often have people on staff with experience as village managers, unless those people are serving in that top administrative job.

Yes, Wheeling did have an assistant village manager (Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski had been serving as acting village manager since February, when trustees dismissed former Village Manager Craig Anderson). But Grabowski left the village June 28 to take the top staff job in the town of Minooka.

So, Wheeling didn't have a whole lot of other former village managers kicking around.

Of course, the village then had the option of hiring a former manager on a temporary basis, which some trustees advocated.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, for one, said it wasn't fair to burden current staff members with extra responsibilities.

However, the majority of the board thought it would be best not to spend weeks teaching a newcomer "where Hintz Road is," as Trustee Dean Argiris put it, for a job that will last three months.

Now, we're not saying we support Wheeling's decision, and we're not saying we don't. This is simply to explain a policy decision.

The move actually was not an unusual one. Other neighboring suburbs have established policies that take advantage of existing staff when there's a vacancy in the village or city manager position.

Rolling Meadows, for instance, appointed its fire chief as city manager for almost seven months last year until filling the position vacated when five-year City Manager William P. Barlow resigned to take a job in Schaumburg.

Rolling Meadows Fire Chief Philip A. Burns had never been a city manager, but it was his turn in the rotation.

In Wheeling's case, Kolberg will fill the top administrative job for two to three months. And why did he accept the temporary position?

"The village of Wheeling is my employer and they asked me to do this for them," Kolberg said.

"I spoke with my wife about this, and we both feel that if my employer

See **CLIATT** on **PAGE 3**

HERALD-7/2/2002
Clatt: Village officials are there to help you

Continued from Page 1

asks you to do a job, then you do it for them. If I had said, 'I prefer not to,' I'm just putting them in the spot of putting them in a position of finding another person."

Kolberg arrived in Wheeling in May 2000 to work in the public works department. He came from Sun Prairie, Wis., where he was the assistant city engineer. He worked there almost 5½ years.

And while we're talking: I guess this is a good time to say we always appreciate letters of concern or interest in village affairs, but we have a better opportunity to respond if the writer pens his or her name.

Residents who have questions about village decisions also should feel free to contact their trustees. They're your elected officials — that's what they're there for.

One more quick note: Wheeling's decision to adopt a use tax, rather than a utility tax, allows the village to collect the tax regardless of what utility a Wheeling resident or business uses. So, those hoping that a switch from ComEd or Nicor would avoid the 1 percent power and natural gas taxes Wheeling approved last month, think again.

• Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Clatt at (847) 427-4486, or e-mail cclatt@dailyherald.com.

HERALD-7/3/02
Wheeling to step up DUI patrols:

Wheeling police will conduct a roadside safety checkpoint beginning Saturday night as part of a weeklong effort to enforce driving under the influence laws surrounding the July Fourth holiday. The checkpoint will begin about 10 p.m. and end around 3 a.m. Sunday. Police will mostly look for impaired drivers, but they also will enforce other traffic laws. Also, a "selective enforcement task force" of the Wheeling Police Department will be on extra DUI patrols in the village throughout the holiday week. The enforcement program coincides with the statewide "You Drink and Drive — You Lose" campaign. The Wheeling Safe Communities Coalition will pay for the effort with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety.

HERALD 7/3/2002
Taste of Wheeling:

Noon to 11 p.m. Thursday near Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Food from a dozen restaurants, children's tent, 26-foot slide, Dino Adventure ride, moonwalk, face painting, clowns. Joel Brash the magician, Jesse White Tumblers and music by Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds, Jake and the Boys, Larry Bemben's Big Band and Greg Koeppen's Melodies in Motion DJs. Taste of Wheeling vendors are Bob Chinn's Crabhouse, Golden Chef, Joe's Pizza, Mr. E's, I Am Siam, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza, Sauer's Bakery, El Famous Burrito and Ram Restaurant. Free admission.

PIONEER PRESS-7/4/2002
Blood drive scheduled for July 10

The Wheeling Health Department has scheduled another blood drive for July 10 between 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the main fire station at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Blood supply levels in the Chicago area are very low, said Health Officer Michael Boyle, and he is hoping village residents will heed the call to bolster supplies.

Boyle suggests donors drink plenty of water several days before donating and eat within four hours of donating. The American Red Cross will conduct the drive. Appointments are highly recommended, but walk-ins will be welcome. Call Boyle at (847) 459-2621 to make an appointment. Donors must be 17 years old and in good health.

PIONEER PRESS-7/4/2002
Trustees debate new taxes

The Wheeling Village Board passed new use taxes on electricity and natural gas at its June 24 meeting. The new taxes are expected to generate \$525,000 in annual revenues.

Trustees Robert Heer and Judy Abruscato voted against the new taxes. Both said they are worried about taxing residents and businesses in town, especially after increasing the sales tax last year and implementing ambulance fees earlier this year.

Other trustees argued, however, that more money is needed as the village embarks on an aggressive capital improvement program to repair the village's roads, water mains and sewer mains. Capital improvements are costing the village over \$20 million this year.

Finance Director Michael Mondschain was given the direction to find new revenue sources after he told the board it would have to increase local property taxes by 12 percent this year to cover expenses. The board opposed raising property taxes that high.

The new use taxes are expected to raise electric and gas bills by about 1 percent for the average customer. Commonwealth Edison and Nicor will each receive 3 percent of the taxes collected as a fee.

HERALD-7/3/2002
Wheeling, Buffalo Grove prepare for patriotic celebrations

BY MAURA POSSLEY
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

As a result of Sept. 11, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials expect patriotism and attendance to be high for their Fourth of July festivities that include fireworks, music and food.

"Patriotism is on a new high," said Buffalo Grove village President Elliot Hartstein. "I think everybody takes pride in our country. People will be out in force for it."

Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato agreed that Sept. 11 has brought out the meaning of July Fourth and patriotism.

"It gives them the opportunity to be in the neighborhood and be close together and have that comradeship," she said.

Independence Day in Wheeling will be celebrated at the Taste of Wheeling. The event features a dozen restaurants.

Back by popular demand this year are Italian sausages and funnel cakes, Abruscato said.

The Fourth of July Hands Across Wheeling parade begins at 6 p.m. in celebration of the town's diversity and togetherness. The parade will start at Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road, then will head east to Wolf Road and south to Heritage Park.

In addition, the festival has a children's tent, radio-control stock car racing, a 26-foot slide, Dino Adventure ride, a moonwalk, face painting and clowns.

Entertainment features will be Joel Brash the magician, Jesse White Tumblers and music from Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds, Jake and the Boys, Larry Bemben's Big Band and Greg Koeppen's Melodies in Motion DJs.

This year there will be \$30,000 worth of fireworks that will begin at dusk, Abruscato said.

The Taste of Wheeling runs from noon to 11 p.m. near Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Admission is free.

Buffalo Grove is celebrating the red, white and blue with the annual fireworks Thursday. To kick off the night, the patriotic gala starts at 7 p.m. with patriotic music from the Glenview Concert Band at Rotary Village Green, behind the post office on Checker Road.

Following the concert at 9 p.m. will be the fireworks at the Buffalo Grove Golf Course at 48 Raupp Blvd.

"This year's fireworks are expected to be better than ever," Hartstein said.

"It should be a tremendous fireworks display," he said. "And the concert should be great."

Good views of the fireworks can be seen at the Rotary Village Green; Buffalo Grove municipal campus, at Lake-Cook Road and Raupp Boulevard; and Willow Stream Park, on Checker Road, west of Buffalo Grove Road.

PIONEER PRESS-7/4/2002
Wheeling

Wheeling will host a celebration on July 4 at Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, featuring food from 14 restaurants and vendors, games and music.

- Noon-1:30 p.m.: Medleys in Motion DJ Greg Koeppen, 2-3 p.m.: Jake and the Money-makers, 2:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m.: Magician Joel Brash, 3:40-4:30 p.m.: Jesse White Tumblers, 6 p.m.: Parade, 7-9 p.m. Larry Bemben Big Band Sound. Dusk: ★ Fireworks, 10-11 p.m.: Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds.

Remains of fuel spill hamper Avalon proposal

PIONEER PRESS - 7/14/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

“I think personal safety should prevail over profits for Concord Homes.”

Trustee Robert Heer

Wheeling trustees want a decade-old gasoline spill completely clean before allowing an expansion of the Avalon-Sienna subdivision on a site just east of the Minneapolis/St. Paul railroad tracks.

Concord Homes, the developer who built Avalon-Sienna, was hoping to build 50 townhomes on the site, which also lies west of the current development, just off Palatine Road.

But the residual effects from a gasoline spill that occurred on June 5, 1992, when construction crews struck a West Shore Pipeline gasoline main while installing a natural gas pipeline concern the Village Board. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said nearly 143,000 gallons were spilled in the accident.

Remediation has been ongoing since the spill. MacIsaac said most of the remaining contamination is in the ground water, which naturally flows

“These measures are used for developments around the entire country,” he said. “If we thought it would be a liability, we wouldn’t be trying to push this (development) through.”

MacIsaac said there is no guarantee from the IEPA that the contaminated site will ever be clean, and movement of the contamination could still permeate the development. That made the Village Board jittery enough to deny the project.

“I think personal safety should prevail over profits for Concord Homes,” Trustee Robert Heer said. “They should come back when the site is clean.”

Lawyers for Concord Homes, West Shore Pipeline and Potomac, the current landowner, were all at the board meeting. That made Village President Greg Klatecki nervous.

“If it was such an easy problem to fix, you wouldn’t need all these lawyers,” Klatecki said. “I get nervous” (Continued on page 16)

west toward the northwest corner of the proposed site. He said about 116,300 gallons have been removed from the site, with about 26,400 gallons remaining.

MacIsaac said excavation crews have had a difficult time cleaning the site partly because it serves as a Commonwealth Edison easement that has high-tension power lines on it. Those towers need the ground to remain stable, which prevents mass excavation.

Scott Buckner, an environmental manager for West Shore Pipeline, said even though the site may never be completely clean, Concord Homes could implement measures that would bring the site up to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards for residential use.

Buckner said the soil at the actual construction site could be removed and replaced, a clay slurry wall could be installed to prevent contamination moving into the development and deed restrictions preventing residents from drinking the ground water could be enforced.

Village ordinances already prevent residents from drinking well water. Although the contamination will still be in the water, the IEPA allows for residential development if a developer can eliminate the risk to residents. Buckner said the measures undertaken by West Shore Pipeline will exceed IEPA standards.

Fourth of July celebration should be the best one yet

7/1/02 (Pioneer Press)
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who oversees the Wheeling Special Events Committee, said this year’s Fourth of July celebration is going to be the largest in the 25 years she’s helped organize the event.

“We’ve got everything this year,” she said. “There’s going to be something for everyone.”

The festival starts at noon tomorrow with games and food in the field between Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee Road and the Wheeling Community Recreation Center. Fifteen Wheeling restaurants are participating, including Bob Chinn’s CrabHouse, Wa-Pa-Ghetti’s Pizza, Golden Chef and Sauer’s Bakery.

“The people will be introduced to some of our new restaurants,” Abruscato said. “We have the Ram Restaurant, I Am Siam and, on Monday, we got Benihana’s.”

There also will be plenty of entertainers performing all day. Music starts at noon and will run until 11 p.m. This is the first year music will be performed after the fireworks display. Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds will provide the tunes.

“We just thought a lot of other festivals have music after their fireworks,” Abruscato said. “A lot of people

Wheeling Fourth of July

Wheeling’s annual Fourth of July festival begins at noon tomorrow and runs until about 11 p.m. The event is held on the grounds between Wheeling Village Hall and the Wheeling Park District’s Community Recreation Center. Highlights of the day are listed below.

‘A Taste of Wheeling’

- Bob Chinn’s Crabhouse
- Golden Chef
- Joe’s Pizza
- Mr. E’s
- I Am Siam
- Senior Center Special (ice cream)
- Wa-Pa-Ghetti’s Pizza
- Sauer’s Bakery (funnel cakes)
- El Famous Burrito
- Ram Restaurant
- Subway
- Amvets (snow cones)
- V.F.W. Post #7879 (popcorn)
- Knights of Columbus (Italian and Polish sausage)
- Benihana

Entertainment

- Noon-1:30 p.m. Medley’s in Motion DJs
- 2-3:30 p.m. Jabe and the Moneymakers
- 2:30, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Fabulous Magician Joel Brash
- 3:45-4:30 p.m. Tinkertoy Dixieland Band
- 4:30 p.m. Jesse White Tumblers
- 6 p.m. Parade (along Dundee Road)
- 7-9 p.m. Larry Bemben Big Band Sound
- Dusk Fireworks
- 10-11 p.m. Jimmy Rogers and the Mauds

Games and activities

- Radio-controlled stock car racing
- Voter registration
- Dino Adventure
- Moonwalk
- Badge making
- Football throw
- Basketball toss
- Clowns
- Art Lieb “Name-Toonist” (your name in cartoon letters)
- Spin art
- Bozo buckets
- Face painting
- Beanbag toss
- Lollipop tree

Source: Village of Wheeling

Pioneer Press/LRK

don’t want to go home right away. So we’re going to try it and see what happens.” Abruscato said having music after the fireworks should also help alleviate traffic leaving the

festival, because everybody won’t be leaving at the same time.

The fireworks display also will be bigger than ever. The (Continued on page 9)

PIONEER PRESS - 7/14/2002

Fuel spill Continued from page 5

seeing so many lawyers for only 50 townhomes.”

Trustee Patrick Horcher was the sole board member who was willing to let Concord Homes build.

“This sounds like the best opportunity to get a better-

than-average cleanup on that property,” he said.

Although Concord was denied its permit, there is still a court order that requires West Shore Pipeline to clean the contaminated area.

HEALD 7/14/2002

Costs for Wheeling park rise:

The price tag has increased for the construction of a park at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road in Wheeling. Trustees Monday approved a \$297,800 increase in spending for the park near Cole Taylor Bank that has shared the names of Millennium Plaza and Friendship Park since the village began its embattled plans to develop the corner four years ago. In January Wheeling agreed to spend \$1.27 million to build a gazebo and fountains at the site, expecting a ribbon cutting July 3. Representatives from project manager Harding ESE told trustees that design changes increased costs and compliance with Environmental Protection Agency standards have delayed the project.

PIONEER PRESS - 7/14/2002

Fourth of July Continued from page 8

Village Board increased the fireworks budget to \$30,000 this year, Abruscato said.

Other performers at this year’s celebration include the Tinkertoy Dixieland Band, Larry Bemben Big Band Sound and the Jesse White Tumblers.

The parade, which steps off at 6 p.m., also is larger than ever. Abruscato said 84 units

have committed this year, which amounts to about 1,500 people in the parade. Abruscato said marching bands also will make their parade debut this year.

The Wheeling High School Marching Band is participating this year, and band members will be displaying their brand new uniforms. Other bands in the parade include

the Cubs band straight from Wrigley Field and the 90-piece Troopers drum and bugle corps from Colorado.

There will be plenty of games and activities at the festival for children. Residents will also be able to register to vote and check the Illinois Department of Revenue’s Fast Cash for lost or dormant accounts.

PIONEER PRESS - 7/14/2002

Area 2001 crime statistics

The Illinois State Police released statewide crime statistics Sunday. Following is the number of crimes per category in Buffalo Grove. The crime rate per 100,000 is calculated by multiplying the total crimes in a town by 100,000, and dividing by the population of that town.

	Murder	Sexual Assault	Robbery	Attempted murder, agy'd assault & battery	Burglary	Theft	Vehicular Theft	Arson	Rate per 100,000
2000	0	1	4	9	46	536	13	4	1,428.6
2001	0	4	0	4	32	570	20	1	1,470.5

Percent of change in rate of crime from 2000 to 2001: +2.9%

Source: Illinois State Police

Pioneer Press/J.ENC

Wheeling crime rate drops

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling’s overall crime rate dropped by 2.2 percent in 2001 compared to 2000, and decreases were found in almost all categories.

Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said any drop in crime is good, especially when police departments are just as busy as always.

“I’d rather take a 1 percent decrease than any increase,” Hermes said. “The goal, eventually, is to reduce crime as much as we can. It’s going to level off, and we want to keep it at a level rate or see small decreases.”

Thefts, criminal sexual assaults, batteries, car thefts and arson were all down in 2001.

Thefts dropped from 625 incidents to 599. Car thefts dropped from 40 to 37 incidents. Batteries dropped from 28 to 23.

The only significant increase was in burglaries. There were 90 burglaries in 2001 compared to 70 in 2000.

Hermes said residents should take all precautions necessary to try to avoid a burglary, including locking all dead bolts and locking windows to their home. He also said neighbors should try to watch out for each other.

“If you see something suspicious or someone around a house and you know the people aren’t home, you should call the police,” he said.

Deadly drunken driving weekend safe so far

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

HERALD - 7/6/2002
Halfway through what traditionally is one of the most dangerous driving holiday weekends of the year, no alcohol-related deaths had been reported in the Northwest and West suburbs.

But experts Friday said the battle to stem drunken driving grows tougher with more cars traveling more miles. This holiday, they remain concerned about the weekend nights ahead. Those nights, when family fireworks outings are over and alco-

hol parties are plentiful, will be crucial in seeing how far the region has come in trying to stop drunken drivers.

Thomas Pilewski, safe communities coordinator for the Wheeling police department, said, "We feel that these nights are more of a risk for problems like injuries and fatalities."

Authorities will be out in force tonight, almost exactly five years after the signing of a key Illinois anti-drunken driving law.

In what has become a common holiday practice, 700 agencies statewide will be pulling over drivers

at random to see whether they're driving sober, wearing seat belts and carrying driver's licenses.

The random checks and publicity help. Law enforcement experts say that in the last five years, the message in the suburbs has been loud and clear that if you drink and drive, police will go after you.

"We've got a lot of tools now," said Master Sgt. Lincoln Hampton, spokesman for the Illinois State Police.

"We're going to do our job, but it's really up to the public—those who party this weekend—to do their job

and not drive." Illinois police agencies have more tools to help them in hauling intoxicated drivers off the roads, and the toolbox grows bulkier every year.

Anti-drunken driving advocates believe one of the most effective deterrents came five years ago when Illinois lowered the legal threshold for being drunk behind the wheel to a .08 percent blood alcohol concentration.

"That was the big one," said Brad Fralick, executive director of the Illinois chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "It changed every-

thing. Now, we have some of the toughest laws in the nation."

A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated the stricter standard prevented roughly 105 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Illinois in 1998 and 1999.

But while no alcohol-related driving fatalities had been reported in the Northwest suburbs of Cook County or in Lake, DuPage, Kane or McHenry counties by Friday afternoon, no one was claiming victory in the fight to eliminate drunken driving-related deaths. Far from it;

suburban bond courts Friday morning were filled with men and women accused of DUI earlier this week.

"You're facing an increase in road-miles driven and vehicles on the road," Fralick said. "You're swimming upstream."

Alcohol-related crash fatalities in 2000 dropped to 614 from 637 in 1999, according to the Illinois secretary of state's office.

But the 1999 figure jumped from 601 in 1998, prompting advocates like Fralick to use words like "stagna-

See SAFE on PAGE 4

HERALD - 7/6/2002 Aldermen question airport group benefit

BY CASS CLAVETT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is proud of its 4-month-old outreach effort to reduce airport noise and to improve the airport for users and residents who live nearby. However, some Prospect Heights aldermen this week questioned whether a community group Palwaukee formed as part of the outreach plan has membership skewed in favor of "pro-airport" people.

Also, at least one alderman said she has fielded calls from some of those same so-called, pro-airport people on the new Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement, or PACE, group who said even their concerns aren't being addressed.

The issue arose as Prospect Heights approved a \$53,000 agreement between Mark Communications and Palwaukee to continue the community outreach plan begun in March.

The plan includes a new system to handle noise complaints and the formation of the PACE council, a community advisory group that makes recommendations to the Palwaukee Airport Commission governing body.

Because Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport, Wheeling trustees approved the \$53,000 agreement last week, but without hesitation.

"Several CASE members and PAPA pilots indicated to me that the PACE efforts seem to be nothing more than a public relations effort to talk about problems they have no way of solving," 5th Ward Alderman Darlene Ahlstedt said.

She referred to concerns from members of the Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment, or CASE, and also the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association, or PAPA, who attended

the first PACE council meeting in late May.

"It has been brought to my attention that the makeup of PACE may not be representative of the surrounding communities," 1st Ward Alderman Timothy Hattendorf said. "I feel the things they may recommend may be compromised if there is not a true makeup of the residents from the surrounding communities."

Aldermen suggested issuing surveys to residents and airport users to find out if Palwaukee's PACE plan is truly addressing community concerns.

"If we're going to spend \$53,000 and nothing's changed, that's not what we're looking for," Ahlstedt said. Robert Mark of Mark Communications said officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights have to give the outreach plan a chance to work.

He acknowledged that some of the 15 people who attended the first PACE council meeting complained there weren't enough "anti-airport" people there.

"How do we determine if it's representative or not? That is going to be a challenge," Mark said. "We can only keep asking people to come out and the only way to truly tell if it's statistically representative is to do a survey."

A resident survey of airport concerns has always been a goal of the outreach plan, Mark said. It's intended as a later phase, perhaps coming in August.

Until then, Palwaukee can say it has received a positive response to the new noise office, which answers residents' noise concerns personally.

In May, Palwaukee took 18 calls. The Palwaukee Airport Commission will further review Prospect Heights' concerns, commissioners said. Also, more residents are encouraged to attend the next PACE council meeting 7 p.m. July 11 at the Palwaukee office at the end of Industrial Lane.

7/11/02 (COUNTRYSIDE) Police, fire announce promotions

The Wheeling Police and Fire departments announced promotions to fill holes created by retiring officers.

Police Sgt. William Benson was promoted to the rank of commander as Cmdr. Eric Larson retired in May. Benson will be in charge of support services for the department.

Cpl. Peter Panagakis was named the department's newest sergeant. Panagakis has headed the department's traffic unit for the past two years and will continue to do so until the end of the month.

The Wheeling Fire Department also made some promotions after the retirement of deputy chief Richard Theobald. Theobald had served with the department for 32 years.

Battalion Chief Richard Wydra was named the department's new deputy chief to replace Theobald. Lt. Robert Leipzig was then promoted to battalion chief to fill Wydra's spot.

Firefighter/paramedic Patrick Trunda also has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Both men have served on the hazardous materials team and have 20 years of experience.

Pavilion to honor golden rings and agers

The Pavilion Senior Center is looking for residents who have been married for over 50 years or who have reached the age of 90 for a special luncheon Aug. 15.

The Celebration for Golden Rings and Golden Agers will include a catered lunch and entertainment for free to those people. Family members are invited to the celebration, but will be asked to pay for their ticket.

The Pavilion is still looking for more people to honor at the luncheon. Those interested in participating are asked to contact the center at (847) 459-2670.

HERALD 7/24/2002
some trustees had expressed opposition to the village's new sign code, the village board approved Wheeling High School's sign without debate. Northwest Suburban High School District 214 last September approved Wheeling High School's expansion as part of a districtwide improvement plan, but the village still had to give its stamp of approval.

HERALD 7/24/2002
Village OKs school expansion:
Wheeling High School received the green light this week from the village of Wheeling to move forward with a building addition designed to expand and update the school's science labs and increase parking. The building plan also includes an electronic message board sign, for which the village just last month changed its codes. Though

approved," she said. Alexian Brothers said she will continue to seek new opportu-

HERALD - 7/17/2002

Palwaukee airport: Security strong despite error

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A supposed security breach at Palwaukee Municipal Airport last month was simply a big misunderstanding, the airport's manager said this week.

Palwaukee's security is solid in the post-Sept. 11 era, acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said.

Responding to concerns from Prospect Heights aldermen regarding an incident that sent police racing to the airport June 28, Rouleau explained that two men had jumped a guardrail to take pictures.

An airport staff member saw the men but lost track of them, unaware if they had made it inside the airport.

"Somewhere between the call to cellular 911 and police, the report was changed from two individuals with cameras to two gentlemen with guns," Rouleau said. "It was not a mistake on our end."

The two men from Packer Engineering had an appointment to take pictures at Palwaukee as part of a contract to develop computer simulat Palwaukee is still in litigation

over the accident that claimed four lives, and the pictures were to aid in recreating it, Rouleau said. Wheeling police arrested the men on Industrial Drive, charging them with trespassing.

"They were kind of shook up," Rouleau said. "They didn't think anything was wrong. There's still some question of whether they came into the airport or not."

HERALD - 7/26/2002

Wings of freedom



MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD

People line up Thursday to get a look at a B-17 Flying Fortress at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Also on hand was a B-24 Liberator, part of the "Wings of Freedom Tour" run by the Massachusetts-based Collings Foundation, which maintains the vintage bombers to raise awareness about World War II history. The planes will be open to viewing and tours from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (978) 562-9182.

HERALD - 7/17/2002

New West Nile threat emerges

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With a dead crow found here and there, it was easy for Northwest suburban residents to distance themselves from the spread of the West Nile virus.

Now, a new threat from West Nile virus has emerged close to home.

The Northwest Mosquito Abatement District on Tuesday reported finding four mosquito pools that tested positive for the West Nile virus, one of them in Wheeling and three others in Northbrook.

Abatement officials say a less common type of mosquito, called the Culex mosquito, has taken advantage of the area's dry, hot weather to breed in local stagnant water.

A rapid diagnostic procedure called a VecTest found the infected female mosquitoes — thought to be the primary group of mosquitoes capable of transmitting West Nile — in traps collected July 2 and July 8, said Mosquito Abatement Director Michael Szyska.

"Before, we had found it in birds that have a wide flying area, but now that we know it's in the local mosquito population, it elevates it to a little more of a concern for us," Szyska said.

Although no human cases have been reported in Illinois, mosquitoes

carrying West Nile can bite people and cause encephalitis, proving fatal in children and senior citizens in rare cases. Most cases are mild, involving fever or body aches.

Mosquito control officials are on alert because the West Nile belongs to the same family of viruses as St. Louis Encephalitis, which swept through this area in 1975, Szyska said.

"I don't want to create alarm or anything like that, but there's always a potential for an outbreak," he said. "Right now we're looking at weather conditions that are similar to what we had in 1975 — that dry, hot type summer."

But mosquito and health officials don't know how West Nile will react here because it is relatively new to the Midwest.

Also, Culex mosquitoes are typically bird feeders and don't normally bother people, until their numbers increase to such an extent that they might bite humans.

"It's that increase that we're seeing, beginning right now," Szyska said.

The Northwest Mosquito Abatement District is strongly advising residents to inspect their property for standing water problems that could produce Culex mosquitoes.

The district provides mosquito control for 241 square miles in northwest

Cook County, with a coverage area extending into Wheeling, Elk Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, Barrington, Northfield and Maine townships.

Wheeling Health Officer Michael Boyle stressed that local residents don't have to panic over fears of a "New York type situation" in the Chicago suburbs.

West Nile first emerged in the United States in 1999 in New York. The virus in that state was transmitted to humans in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

"We have reason to be a little more concerned here from the public health standpoint, but it's important to point out that New York had mostly stopped its abatement program," Boyle said.

The fact that the Northwest abatement district found the infected pools in the first place greatly reduces any opportunity for the spread of the virus in the suburbs, Boyle asserted.

"The abatement district is doing a great job finding the pools and doing preemptive work to kill off the larval stage of mosquitoes, preventing

Preventing West Nile

• Prevent breeding: By getting rid of or empty water in tires, cans, buckets, drums, bottles or any water-holding container outdoors; emptying standing water from bird baths and plant pot drip trays once a week; and cleaning and chlorinating swimming pools that aren't being used.

• Prevent biting: By avoiding the outdoors during peak biting times before dawn and just before and after sunset; keeping door and window screens in good repair; wearing light colored, long-sleeved tops and long pants made of tightly woven materials; and spraying insect repellent containing DEET sparingly on skin and clothing.

• Learn more: About mosquito control efforts by calling the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District at (847) 537-2306 or visiting www.nwmadil.com; About tracking West Nile detection in your area by calling the Illinois Department of Health at (217)782-3987 or visiting www.idph.state.il.us.

them from becoming adults, and forestalling the opportunity for transmitting these viruses," Boyle said.

The abatement district Monday began its night spraying program and will continue spraying from sunset to midnight each day to combat the mosquito problem.

A team of 54 seasonal employees will join the district's staff of 13 in targeting areas where West Nile infected

birds or mosquitoes have been detected.

"Normally the night spraying is 2 percent of our operation, but we'll be doing it now until whenever," Szyska said. "It's medically important for us to be out there."

The abatement district wants residents to report any new stagnant water areas that retain water for more than seven days that could require treatment. Call (847) 537-2306.

PIONEER PRESS 7/25/2002

Crawdaddy Bayou leaves Restaurant Row

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Six years after opening on Wheeling's Restaurant Row, Crawdaddy Bayou has closed shop.

The restaurant, known for its Cajun menu and annual Mardi Gras celebrations, shut its doors July 6. Owner John Liataud Jr. said he plans to open restaurants with a similar theme throughout the Chicago area, and he got a deal on the building he "could not refuse." He would not elaborate on the selling price of the 412 N. Milwaukee Ave. property.

"I'm opening some smaller places and streamlining the menu," Liataud said. "It was a sad day for all of us, but I'm looking forward to my new ventures."

Liataud owned Crawdaddy Bayou with his father, John Liataud Sr. They also own Escape to Crawdaddy Bayou in Fox River Grove. Escape to Crawdaddy Bayou seats 120, compared to the 450 in the

Wheeling restaurant. Crawdaddy Bayou employed 100 people, some of whom are now working at the Fox River Grove restaurant.

The closing came as a surprise to some in Wheeling. Cathy Powers, executive director of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, said the news was sudden.

"I heard a rumor they were closing, and a week later they were closed," she said. "I was surprised. I took the kids there for Mardi Gras and it was packed. It was the middle of the week, and we had to wait 45 minutes for a table."

Chamber President Jim Lederer was not as surprised. Lederer is the general manger of Lovells of Lake Forest and was the original manager at Crawdaddy Bayou. He said many restaurants, including Crawdaddy Bayou, felt the pain of a down economy.

"Last year was a tough year," Lederer said. "There are different things happening in the industry. For any restaurant that was on the cusp, it was more dif-

ficult to turn it around."

Lederer said he was sorry to see Crawdaddy Bayou go.

"It's rather unfortunate," he said. "It was a neat restaurant."

The Crawdaddy building has already been bought by the Clean Plate Club Restaurant Group of Evanston. Lederer said the group runs four very successful restaurants in Evanston and will bring a "class act" into Wheeling. The group is planning to open Pete Miller's Steakhouse in Wheeling. The company owns Evanston restaurants Pete Miller's, Merle's Southern Kitchen and Barbecue, Davis Street Fishmarket and Tommy Nevin's Pub.

Representatives from Pete Miller's did not attend a scheduled hearing before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission for its liquor license Monday evening. Jeff Harris, Wheeling's planner, said he has spoken with the new owners, but they have yet to submit any plans or paperwork for the restaurant.

PIONEER PRESS 7/18/2002

Palwaukee to host its Airport Open House

Hello! I got that "hot, humid July" feeling as I have been "Wheeling Around Town." Here's what's happening!

Are you looking for an "Aviation Adventure?" Why not fly on down to Palwaukee?

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is proud to present the eighth annual Airport Open House on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

I have attended this event for the past several years and it has always been a highlight of my summer.

You must go on the trolley ride, which takes you on a tour of the airport. This educational tour talks all about Palwaukee, covering its past, present and future.

The airplane displays are fascinating and I suggest bringing a camera, because there are lots of great opportunities for some wonderful photos.

There are several exhibits and raffle prizes, too. And come hungry, because there will be food.

I must mention that this event is totally free!

So, mark your calendars and plan to spend a few hours at this yearly event. I hope to see you there!

Other 'flyers'

The campers at Horizons Children's Academy were excited about the two players from the Schaumburg Flyers baseball team who visited the camp on July 16, during Sports Week. The Flyers spent two hours helping the children develop their baseball skills and organized a game.

The Schaumburg Flyers, whose home base is Alexian Field in Schaumburg, are members of the Independent Northern League, an 18-team

HERALD-7/26/2002

Wheeling dispatcher honored for helping to save lost man

By CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Christine Miller was settling in for a long night working at Wheeling's 911 dispatch center last March when she took the call that became the toughest of her career.

A 76-year-old man had run out of gas and driven into a snowbank en route from Wisconsin and would freeze to death if Miller couldn't find out where he was.

The initiative and perseverance displayed by Miller, 41, of Elgin, in the next seven hours returned a man to his family and, this week, earned her two awards.

The Wheeling police department presented Miller with its Life-Saving Award, and she also received recognition from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

The association is the same group that honored Pennsylvania dispatcher Lisa Jefferson for handling a call from Flight 93 passenger Todd Beamer before he helped foil hijackers on his plane Sept. 11.

Miller, a 12-year dispatch veteran, said she was surprised to get the award for just doing her job.

"I feel what I did was within the realm of my duties, and I would hope that anybody in my position would have done the same thing," Miller said Thursday.

"I understand that I didn't have to go as far as I went, but I feel that if you're in this line of work, you have to do this, especially for an elderly male person who has been missing for several hours and has been stuck in a snowdrift somewhere in Wisconsin."

Miller said.

The Wheeling man had taken a wrong turn March 1 on his way home from the Barrington area visiting his daughter. He ended up in Fontana, Wis.

He stayed in a hotel that night, but took another wrong turn the next day. He later called his wife on his cell phone, saying he was lying in his car, off the road in a ditch.

The call came into police dispatch around 4 p.m., an hour after Miller had begun her shift.

"The outstanding thing about it is that this is something that happened outside of our jurisdiction," Wheeling police Cpl. Thomas Lorenz said. "Chris (Miller) coordinated a search with sheriff's departments in Wisconsin, police in Rockford, cell phone companies and police here."

Current cellular technology limits police in tracking a caller's location to a 10-mile radius of the tower that received the call. Police also had to deal with the challenges of darkness and snow.

"The area is remote and hilly, and I have no doubt the guy would have frozen to death," Lorenz said.

The Winnebago Sheriff's Department found the man close to midnight, slumped over the wheel of his car. He spent a night in the hospital.

He was at this week's Wheeling village board meeting to thank Miller for her help.

He and his wife preferred to remain anonymous, but his wife said she was "eternally grateful" because she is certain her husband would have died had he not been found.

HERALD 7/25/2002
Thank you! Village of Wheeling Special Events Committee sent us a very specific note saying they would like to thank the corporate sponsors who supported the Fourth of July Fourth festivities.

Here's the list: Bill Stasek Chevrolet; North American Jet; Corus Bank; Snow Systems; Waste Management Northwest; 3X Copy Center; Hoyle Savings Bank; Wheeling Park District and the village of Wheeling.

(Did we mention that this list came generously peppered with many bold-faced "thank-yous" and exclamation points?)

Now for the event sponsors: Market Square Restaurant; Jimenez Enterprises; Amvets Post 66; Taylor Rental of Palatine; Hallmark & Johnson; Property Management and Lynn Plaza.

And now for the Taste of Wheeling restaurants: Bob Chinn's Crabhouse; Sauer's Bakery; Joe's Pizza; Mr. E's; I Am Siam; Golden Chef; Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza; Knights of Columbus; Amvets Post 66; Ram Restaurant; VFW Post 7879; Subway of Wheeling and El Famous Burrito.

Last but not least, we're supposed to pass along a big thank you to the fireworks sponsors, the residents and businesses of Wheeling. Let's go ahead and throw the public works department, police and fire department and all the volunteers in there too.

As we've said before, the plans for next year's celebration have already begun. Anyone interested can call Trustee Judy Abruscato at (847) 459-2666, Ext. 4107.

*Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Cliaff at (847) 427-4486, or e-mail ccliatt@daillyherald.com.

HERALD-7/25/2002
Wheeling
resident
awarded for
saving life

A Wheeling 911 dispatcher was recognized this month for her life-saving efforts, but Wheeling police say that Christine Miller's work was an example of the fine effort many police and dispatchers put in every day.

If you missed it, Miller received two awards for spending seven hours in March coordinating a search to locate a man who had driven into a snowbank near Wisconsin...yes, well outside of Wheeling's jurisdiction. Miller worked closely with Wheeling Officer Scott Laverd, who went to the 76-year-old man's home and spoke with his wife while the victim called from a cellular phone.

Cass Cliaff
Wheeling



"My officer and I had both decided we would stay until the end, no matter how long it took," Miller said. "When it was over, I met my officer in the hall and we hugged. It was an incredible experience and we were both relieved."

Miller said it brought tears to her eyes to see the man she had helped save when she received her award last Monday.

Cpl. Thomas Lorenz, who supervises Wheeling's dispatchers, said it is unfortunate that recognition for dispatchers comes so seldom.

"There are 911 dispatchers across the metropolitan Chicago area and dispatchers across the country that do this every day and it goes unnoticed," Lorenz said.

New commissioners

Pioneer Press 7/15/2002

It is great to say "welcome aboard and thanks for taking on the responsibility" to 15 Wheeling commissioners recently appointed by Village President Greg Klatecki. The appointments were made to seven village boards and commissions. Appointments were made based on individual experience and performance. The criteria for board and commission members include previous public service or volunteer work, relevant job experience and how well the nominee's views of the village mesh with those of the elected officials.

As President Klatecki

noted, "It is essential to the village that residents present their views on these boards and commissions. They live here and in many cases work here. They bring their opinions, as well as the wishes of their neighbors to the public table."

Congratulations and

gratitude are extended to the committee appointees as follows: Board of Health - Pat Drewes and Judith B. Cameron; Economic Development Commission - John R. Flanagan, David Kolssak and Thomas R. Webber; Fire and Police Commission - Joseph Ratajczak; Human Rights Commission - William Maloney and Gary Hittelman; Plan Commission - Steven J. Boime, David S. Cantwell and Pam Dorhand; Police Pension Board - Glenn Hartman; Senior Citizens Commission - Dolly Hein, Virginia Isherwood and Barbara Steinberg.

Wheeling residents are encouraged to become involved in their community by considering their own service to a village board or commission. The commissioners help guide the Wheeling Village Board in their ongoing efforts to move the village ahead. There are openings on the Economic Development Commission, the Board of Health, the Senior Citizens Commission and the Human Rights Commission. Applications for are available at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, or on the village Web site at <http://www.wheeling.il.us/ReferenceDesk/FormsAndPermits/CommissionQuestionnaire>. The description of each commission is provided in detail, along with the names of each commissioner. Check it out! And don't forget to submit the application for consideration.

Friendship Park costs continue to escalate

Pioneer Press 7/18/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

"We ran into a lot of issues on the site. With the changes in the conceptual design, you still would have paid (more)."

Increasing material costs, changes in design and newly discovered buried oil tanks are driving up the cost to build Friendship Park, which now has a \$1.56 million price tag.

Trustees approved a \$297,865 change order to the plans at their July 8 meeting. Claus Dunkelberg, a representative of Harding ESE, the project contractor, said the company had to ask for more money due to an increase in material costs and because the Village Board expanded the scope of the project since the planning process began.

The park, which is planned for the

northeast corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, and whose completion has missed four target dates, has gone through several design variations over the past few years. The park will include a gazebo, fountains, landscaping and other natural amenities. The most recent changes include a fountain 60 percent larger than first proposed.

Dunkelberg said the discovery of four underground oil tanks on the

northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue also added to the increased costs. Harding had to get new permits to remove the tanks and perform more soil borings for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency before continuing with the project.

"We ran into a lot of issues on the site," he said. "With the changes in the conceptual design, you still would have paid (more)."

The change order created a 19 per-

cent increase to the \$1.27 million the Village Board approved in January. The initial cost of the project back in 2000 was \$1 million.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the village would have saved money in material costs if the board had elected to go out for bid on the project instead of fast-tracking it. Material prices, Klatecki said, would have been locked in if companies were forced to compete for the project.

Trustees were hoping to have the park done for the Fourth of July by electing to waive the bidding process last December. The park, initially dubbed Millennium Plaza, was first scheduled to open in June 2000. The

(Continued on page 6)

Park

Continued from page 5

completion date was then bumped back to March 2001 and then November 2001. Village officials are now hoping for an August completion date.

"My concerns in the beginning were time line and cost," Klatecki told Dunkelberg. "I hate to say I was right, but ... I was right."

Klatecki said he had fears that project costs would esca-

late, but he was surprised that they jumped so high.

"When you bid, prices are guaranteed," he said. "But once you start (a project), you can't stop."

Money from the village's tax increment financing fund is being used to pay for the construction of the park. The village also has received a \$50,000 grant for the project.

Mistake in tax bill will cost residents only pennies

By CASS CLJATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents can rest assured there were no new taxes approved by the village last week.

A vote on a change in a tax measure approved last month sparked renewed debate over the village's gas and electric taxes, but trustees last week weren't voting to add new fees to Wheeling's tax rolls.

Still, residents might think the

change in the tax laws, which trustees approved, brings a bit of good and bad news. The good news is that execution of the tax will be delayed a month, from Thursday to Sept. 1.

The bit of bad news is that the wording of the original ordinance that established the gas and electric taxes mistakenly charged residents too little, so the amended ordinance charges a bit more.

But it all comes down to pennies. For the privilege of using or con-

suming gas in the village, consumers will pay 0.6 cents per therm, as opposed to the .006 cents per therm stated in the original version of the tax law.

"So it's just slightly more than a half a penny per therm," said Village Finance Director Michael Mondschain. "That's what it was always intended to be, but it was just worded wrong."

Trustees had to vote on an amended tax laws because represen-

tatives from ComEd and Nicor notified the village that incorrect wording in the ordinances would result in incorrect rates applied to customers' bills.

The 1 percent use taxes for gas and electricity are still expected to raise the same amount of revenue, giving the village about \$125,000 for natural gas and \$400,000 for electricity per year, Mondschain said.

Trustees again approved the taxes as a way to support an aggressive plan for beautifying and improving

the village.

Trustees Robert Heer and Judy Abruscato continued to object to the taxes, voting against them as they did last month. Heer and Abruscato took the opportunity to reassert their belief that the timing for new taxes is bad.

Most trustees say the taxes will help pay for \$20.4 million in projects to improve village buildings, roads and other infrastructure in the 2002-03 budget year.



Widow's query leads to re

Widow's query leads to re
Senior center programs
Visits from Kirk highlight
HERALD - 7/31/2002

BY CASS CLJATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
From hosting a congressman to sponsoring a visit from the secretary of state's office, Wheeling's senior residents from Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights and other towns because Kirk will discuss issues affecting the entire Northwest suburban community.
"This isn't about politicking."

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PIONEER PRESS 7/18/2002

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(Continue

Park Continued from page 5

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HERALD - 7/21/2002 Visits from Kirk highlight

Senior center programs

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

From hosting a congressman to sponsoring a visit from the secretary of state's office, Wheeling's senior center will soon draw residents from across the suburbs for a series of special programs.

It begins Thursday with a visit from U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk of Deerfield, who is expected to share news about the state of homeland security, the war in Afghanistan, the patients' bill of rights and other national issues.

Kirk will then return Aug. 9 to the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center for a follow-up visit. The visits are among at least 20 stops during Congress' five-week recess Kirk will make to update residents throughout the area on the state of the union, said Kirk spokeswoman Dottie McCracken.

"You'd think when he comes out to talk to groups like this, he just talks about health care, Medicare modernization, with prescription drug coverage and health care in general," McCracken said.

"He will talk about those things, but we actually end up getting more questions about the issues going on, and the big issue right now is corporate accountability, homeland security and the war."

Nancy Janssen, Wheeling's director of senior services, said the Pavilion Senior Center is opening its doors to

residents from Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights and other towns because Kirk will discuss issues affecting the entire Northwest suburban community.

"This isn't about politicking," Janssen said. "These are information sessions everyone can benefit from."

That same philosophy will open the center's doors Aug. 21 for a visit from the Illinois secretary of state's office.

Residents within a five ZIP-code area will be able to get state ID's and vision tests and take Rules of the Road classes during a program offered at the senior center every other year.

"It's really an opportunity for people to get their state ID's in a geographically convenient place," Janssen said.

Residents from Buffalo Grove, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Northbrook, Deerfield and parts of Mount Prospect can register to get Illinois ID cards from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Aug. 21. Vision tests will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and classes on road rules will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

To register, call the senior center at (847) 459-2670. All of the programs are at the center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling.

Kirk's visit this Thursday will be 12:30 p.m., after the Wheeling senior center's regularly scheduled potluck lunch.

Mistake in tax bill will cost residents only

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Leaders want your feedback about Fourth of July festival

7/12/02 (Herald)
 BY CASS GLIATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials this week declared the recent Taste of Wheeling a success and one of the best ever. Plans already have begun for next year's Fourth of July festival. Before the holiday is a distant memory, trustees want residents to let the village know what they thought of the day's events. "If you have remarks — and we

say it every year and get no feedback — we encourage your remarks good and bad," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, a Wheeling Special Events Committee member. The Taste of Wheeling, the Fourth of July parade and fireworks drew more than 10,000 people who enjoyed funnel cakes from Sauer's Bakery, performances by the Jesse White Tumblers and the big-band sound of the Larry Bemben orchestra. "We had units in the parade this

year that were heartwarming," Abruscato said. "We had the band all the way from Casper, Wyoming, and of course we had the Wheeling High School Band, so all in all we were very pleased." After the typical last-minute cancellations, Wheeling's parade ended up with almost 80 groups, Abruscato said. "The parade went great and everybody enjoyed it," Trustee Michael Horcher said.

Trustee Dean Argiris said the residents' reactions to the \$30,000 fireworks display were equally positive. The village board thanked all the volunteers and corporate sponsors of the event who helped raise about \$30,000. Words of appreciation also went out to staff from the police, fire and public works departments. Village President Greg Klatecki said Abruscato and all of the village trustees and staff showed an

increased zeal in their work this year. "We do it for ourselves, and staff because we get paid," Klatecki said, "but what I didn't see in years previously was a smile on their faces, and that's what I want to thank — the staff for working as a team to get things done." Residents should mail their comments about the events to Trustee Judy Abruscato's attention, Village of Wheeling, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Trustee eyes school board seat in Dist. 21

BY CORRIE CUTREK
 Daily Herald Staff Writer



Pat Horcher

Worried that some special education and bilingual students are not efficiently being integrated into regular classrooms in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Wheeling Trustee Pat Horcher said Monday that he will run for a school board seat in April. Elected as a village official in 1995, Horcher, 39, said he will decide within the next week whether he also will seek a third term as a village trustee next spring. "I want to see that there is a review process to get kids out of special curriculums, like special education or bilingual courses," he said. Horcher said he fears that some bilingual students, for example, are not being mainstreamed into regular classrooms as quickly as they should be, possibly because the district wants to hold onto federal funding it receives for these students. He is being backed by a group of about 20 residents in District 21 who have formed an election committee to bring new faces to the school board next spring. These residents also are worried that some students are not being properly promoted, said committee spokeswoman Staci Allan, Horcher's sister-in-law. "We've spoken to current and former teachers and bilingual parents in District 21 who are telling us

this," Allan said. Rosemarie Meyer, District 21's director of bilingual and ESL programs, said the district's methods are in line with state requirements. District 21 tests bilingual kids every year in reading, writing, speaking and listening, she said, and the district's bilingual program is overseen by the Illinois State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. "We assess our kids and look at them as individuals," Meyer said. "We make sure they are being appropriately challenged." Meyer said that between 100 students and 130 students graduate from the bilingual program yearly. Out of District 21's 7,500 students, about 2,000 are in bilingual programs. Meyer did not have information on how long the average student stays in a bilingual classroom. While board member Ellen Clark said she does not doubt that students are being treated fairly, she thinks the school board should review the bilingual program. "There's always been talk about how it takes kids too long to move through the program," Clark said. "The board should be educated on how the system works."

PIONEER PRESS 8/1/2002
Board continues search for manager
 The Wheeling Village Board met with representatives from the PAR Group, the search firm hired to find a new village manager, on July 15. Village President Greg Klatecki said board members reviewed applications of candidates at the meeting and cut the list "in half." Klatecki said the PAR Group will contact those finalists to schedule interviews with the board. Klatecki would not say how many candidates remain on the list. Under the contract with the village, the PAR Group needed the board's guidance to proceed with the process. Klatecki said the board hopes to conduct its interviews in early August.

PIONEER PRESS 8/1/2002
Freedom Tour last July
 The attendance was the largest of any of the 130 cities the freedom tour visited and it's expected to increase during this year's visit that begins 3:30 p.m. Thursday and ends at 1 p.m. Sunday. "I think we're drawing people from all over Chicago and," said Robert Mark, coordinator of Palwaukee's community outreach program, "the B-24 is the only flying example of a B-24 left in the world, so there's not a whole lot of chances to see them." The nonprofit Collings Foundation completely restored the two WWII heavy bombers and has flown them in the tour as air museums for the past 13 years. The planes are the only ones like them in the world used to give the public flight experiences, Schild said. The proceeds contribute to the \$2,000 an hour it costs to present the planes to the public.

BY CASS GLIATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer
 Sixty years ago, the mighty roar of America's bombers signaled the strength of a nation rebounding from the devastation of Pearl Harbor. The B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator became the backbone of the country's air power after the United States was thrust into World War II. On Thursday, the thunder of those aircraft engines will resonate over the Northwest suburbs as the Wings of Freedom Tour arrives at Palwaukee Municipal Airport to remind the public of America's strength and patriotism. The Massachusetts-based Collings Foundation, which maintains the vintage bombers, said it hopes that a walk through history will give Chicago area residents a new perspective on dealing with Sept. 11, said Thomas Schild, site coordinator for the bomber visit. The Wings of Freedom Tour stops annually at Palwaukee to raise awareness about the history of World War II. Yet, last year's terrorist attacks should give the tour new meaning for the thousands of people expected to walk through and fly in the planes during their four-day stop at Palwaukee, Schild said. "I think we're acknowledging more our history — what our current and past military have done to preserve our freedom," Schild said. "And I think it's a nice testament to the whole veteran population of keeping the memories alive and making people aware of the sacrifices that our veterans have made and continue to make. So, population attendance has been up since last year." Between 5,000 and 7,000 people visited Palwaukee during the Wings of Freedom Tour last July.

BY CASS GLIATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer
Quick! Here's your chance to fly in real B-17 or B-24
If you go
 What: Two WW II aircraft bombers visit for national Wings of Freedom Tour.
 When: Planes land at 3:30 p.m. and remain on display through 6:30 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.
 Where: Palwaukee Municipal Airport near the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.
 How: Donations of \$7 for adults and \$3 for children requested for tours of both aircraft. A \$350 donation pays for a 30-minute flight Thursday and Friday only. For flight reservations, call (978) 562-9182.

PIONEER PRESS 8/1/2002
Commission denies apartment expansion
 The Wheeling Plan Commission elected to deny a special permit to the owners of Fairway Green Apartments to add an eighth building to the complex. Arthur Goldner, owner of Fairway Greens, said he has been waiting for a single-family home in front of the complex to go up for sale since he bought it in 1984. He wants to use that land to open up the complex and build another building with 36 units. Plan commissioners said they were not pleased Goldner was going to build the new building in the same style as the current buildings. Commissioners said the current buildings have a "throw-back" look to them and wanted something more modern and upscale. Goldner argued he wanted to maintain the continuity of the complex. He also said it would cost him too much money to remodel the other seven buildings to match one new one.

Police to cooperate with District 214
 The High School District 214 Board of Education is planning to approve a reciprocal reporting agreement with area police departments. The agreement will allow police departments to share information about students as a way of preventing crime. "Sometimes we're able to help kids if a situation is warranted," said Tom Hansen, assistant superintendent for student services. Participating police departments include Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The agreement is scheduled to be on the board's Aug. 8 agenda. **PIONEER PRESS 8/1/2002**

PIONEER PRESS - 7/18/2002

Cops, kids build a bridge of respect

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Wheeling Police Department are spending some time with local children now so that they don't have to spend any serious time with them later.

Each year, police resource officers from Holmes and London middle schools try to identify at least 24 children who they believe can benefit from a week of camp, where police officers act as camp counselors. The Police and Children Together camp consists of a week of activities, including a community service project.

Officer John Bonk, who is the resource officer at Wheeling High School, said officers are looking for specific children to participate in the program.

"We recruit middle school kids (who) we usually call 'at-risk,'" he said. "Those are kids who we think might have contact with police in the future or may fall into drug use."

Bonk said the idea is to give the children a chance to work closely with police officers and to see them as positive role models. Bonk said the officers know most of the students they recruit because of their contact with them in



Carlos Viteri and Cesar Valdovilos, both 12, enjoy a snack during the Police and Children Together camp.

school all year long. After six years of the program, most graduates do not get into trouble with the law.

"Contact after camp has been mostly positive," Bonk said. "I'd say maybe one of the 24 gets into trouble (after camp)."

The kids do not pay for the camp. Bonk said the program is funded by a grant from the

Law Enforcement Foundation of Illinois, Inc.

Camp begins each day around 7 a.m., with the officers picking the children up at their homes. They all gather at the police station for breakfast every morning. After breakfast, the activities begin. Lunch is also included each day, and at the end of the day, the officers bring everybody

home.

The first day of the week-long camp includes a tour of the police station and the fire station, and a demonstration from K-9 Officer Michael Porzycki and his partner, Sabre.

The second day, the kids went to Wheeling High School to work with students in the special-education program there. Campers spent the day

playing sports with the students and sharing lunch. Other activities included team-building activities at the Sunrise Recreation Center in Bartlett and a trip to Great America.

The campers enjoyed spending time with the police officers and meeting new friends. Most said they were most excited about going to Great America.

"I wish we could stay for two weeks ... three weeks," said Itahan Asemota. "I want to come back next year."

The children also gave each other, and their counselors, nicknames for the week.

Bonk said the program helps many of the kids by building their self-esteem, team-working skills and a sense of community.

"We're fortunate the Police Department has the foresight to put this together," Bonk said. "Kids are getting involved in (risky behaviors) at a younger age. We really have to help these kids, and the schools, deal with those issues."

Bonk praised the fact that the department is willing to part with six officers for one week each year for the program.

"That's a lot of man-hours," he said. "It's nice the department sees the benefit of this program."

HERALD 7/18/2002
Donations
needed to help plummeting blood supplies

Unfettered by post-graduation activities and aware that school will begin again in August, families often choose July as the prime time for vacations.

Unfortunately, such comings and goings of the summer months contributes to decreased blood supplies in the Chicago area. Wheeling hopes to help shore up levels at area blood banks with its blood drive Wednesday.

"Many major cities, such as Chicago, typically use more blood than they collect," Wheeling health officer Michael Boyle said. "That means we have to rely on blood shipped from other areas of the country to meet the need. We want to help reduce that reliance with a good turnout next month."

Type O-negative, the so-called universal blood type, is in especially short supply, Boyle said. But the village is calling on donors of all blood types to give from 2:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Wheeling Main Fire Station, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Residents can make their donation experience easy and simple by following a few of Boyle's suggestions. "People should eat within four hours prior to donating to bring blood levels up in the body," he said. "Doing so will help make people stable and comfortable for donating."

Donors should also drink plenty of water for several days before they give blood. Boyle recommended drinking up to 12 glasses a day. "Drinking plenty of water hydrates the veins, and makes them easier to locate," he said.

Wednesday's blood drive will be held in cooperation with the American Red Cross. The agency encourages appointments to provide enough staffing to accommodate donors, but walk-ins also will be welcome.

To make an appointment, call Boyle at (847) 459-2621, or e-mail him at mboyle@vi.wheeling.il.us. Here come the requirements: Donors must be at least 17 years old, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds.

HERALD - 7/18/2002

Blood supplies dwindle in Chicago area

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TRIBUNE 7/14/2002
Child-care agency gets cash advance

Trustees voted to give Horizon Children's Academy an advance on the second installment of a \$22,000 allocation it is to receive from the village this year to help the institution survive cash problems.

The village will give the academy about \$11,000 immediately, said Susan Tash, executive director of the organization. Normally, the village makes the second payment in November, but the school needs the funds now, she said.

The state, the academy's major funding source, contributes \$360,000 a year but has fallen about three months behind on payments, Tash said. The school, at 8316 Schoenbeck Rd., provides after-school and emergency day care for nearly 100 children, many of them from Wheeling.

In other action, village officials announced the appointment of James F. Kelly as building director. Kelly, 47, previously held a similar post in Prospect Heights and is a former Buffalo Grove building plan examiner. He replaces Daniel Ozanich, who was promoted recently to director of community development.

John Maes

HERALD - 7/17/2002
Checkpoint nabs 55 drivers:

Those who might have avoided safety checks by Wheeling police on Milwaukee Avenue might not have escaped a recent checkpoint on Wolf Road. Wheeling police this week reported making 15 arrests and issuing almost 40 other traffic tickets during its roadside safety checkpoint July 27. The arrests included three for DUI, two for suspended licenses, 10 for people driving without a driver's license and 14 safety-belt violations. Police Chief John Popadowski said the department realized that people were using Wolf Road to circumvent the safety checks, so police set up the four-hour checkpoint near Dundee Road.

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ops, kids build a bridge of respect

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

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Your Guide to Craft Shows: 427-4495; arts&crafts@dailyherald.com
Local religion notes: 427-4496.

FedEx center stalls at Plan Commission

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Plan Commission will hear from Federal Express Ground again on Aug. 8 as it proposes to build a new distribution center on Wolf Road.

FedEx Ground first appeared before the commission July 18 to propose the 96,000-square-foot facility just south of Hintz Road. The operation would send out 50 delivery vans a day onto the already congested Wolf Road.

Plan commissioners said they wanted to see the facility at the site. However, some commissioners said they were concerned about the added traffic onto Wolf Road. They asked for a traffic study conducted on that section of Wolf Road to see if FedEx could arrange its schedule to avoid peak hours of heavy traffic.

"I think we have a traffic problem there, and we need to look at this closely," said Ken Brady, plan commission chairman. "I'm not excited about the traffic on the site. Traffic on Wolf Road is getting worse by the year."

It was Brady's suggestion to require FedEx to conduct the traffic study. Kevin Jones, of Jones Elgin I, LLC, which owns

the property, asked the commission for a favorable recommendation with a condition FedEx conducts the study. The commission refused to follow to his suggestion.

"The problem with that is the study will be the basis of the decision," Brady said.

Not all commissioners were as anxious to see the study done.

"Fifty trips (from the center) is like spitting into the ocean," Commissioner Steve Boime said. "We know the impact is there. ... We can do the study, but I think it's a waste of time."

Commissioner David Cantwell agreed.

'Study of the obvious'

"I don't think we need a study of the obvious," he said.

With Commissioner Terry Steilen absent, a motion to approve the study came to a 3-3 vote. The commission could have sent the proposal to the Village Board without a recommendation at that point, but members instead elected to continue the hearing until Aug. 8.

FedEx wants to move from its current Northbrook facility to Wheeling because the Northbrook center cannot accommodate the company's growth. FedEx representatives said the business has been growing at an average rate of 20 percent a year.

Brad Poulter, manager of the Northbrook center, said most traffic from the proposed Wheeling center would head north up to Antioch and the Wisconsin border. Only 25 percent of delivery van traffic would head south from Wheeling. Poulter said the facility would deal strictly with ground packages and there are no plans to use Palwaukee Municipal Airport to bring in packages by air.

Poulter said between 20 and 30 tractor trailer trucks would also be pulling into the Wheeling facility, mainly at night.

The facility would be built on an 11.75-acre lot that was once owned by Commercial Cam. Commercial Cam had plans to expand its facility, but company officials decided to subdivide the property last year and sell the vacant portion.

FedEx said the facility would bring up to 147 full-time jobs to Wheeling right away. Projections show up to 263 part-time, full-time and contracted jobs could come with the center in 10 years.

PIONEER PRESS-8/1/2002

Space crunch keeps pinching public works

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The debate to create more space in the Wheeling public works facility continues to simmer even as the Village Board is trying to build new offices for department employees.

The board elected to spend \$19,000 to partition an area above the maintenance garage to create an office for fleet supervisor Chuck Spratt, but not before getting an earful from David Kowal, acting public works director, about the greater need for garage space.

Kowal said the department does not have enough room to store salt, sanitary waste, scrap metal or concrete at its facility. He also said the department has to keep one-third of its fleet outdoors because it does not have enough garage space.

"The problem is a severed jugular, and this is putting a Band-Aid on it," Kowal said.

Kowal also said water and sewer crews can spend up to 30 minutes maneuvering trucks in the garage to get at the equipment they need, even in emergency situations.

Kowal continued to list off the needs of the department at the July 22 board meeting until Trustee Trevor Lehmann cut him off to get back to the matter at hand, which was creating the new office.

Trustees all agree the department can use more garage space, but not all are willing to put money into it right away. They said their priorities this year revolve around the \$20 million capital improvements program now under way that includes water main and sidewalk replacement and street repairs, leaving very little money left to work on the space issue. Many trustees said they believed Kowal used the opportunity at the July 22 meeting to vent his frustrations.

"He's fired up, and that's OK," said Trustee

Dean Argiris. "I like that. It means he's not sitting on his hands. He wants to make things better."

Guy Kolberg, acting village manager, said Kowal accurately described the conditions of the current facility and did not believe his action represented the frustration of the department as a whole.

"Public works can operate with the facilities they have," he said. "They would appreciate a new facility, but who wouldn't?"

The board has already paid for a space needs study for Village Hall and the public works facility. Architectural firm FGM conducted the study and then came back with a \$750,000 price tag to design a \$16 million facility. The board elected to hold onto the study and hold off paying for design work. Village President Greg Klatecki said that decision may have added to the frustration of some village employees.

Klatecki said as the village continues to grow, the need for more garage space is going to increase and the village needs to address the problem soon.

"I think it will come to a point where services could be hampered," he said. "I firmly believe we have to address this in the near future. If we don't, it will hinder our capabilities."

Lehmann said he would prefer to eliminate some of the village's \$17 million debt before borrowing for a new facility. He also said he would prefer to wait for a flood mitigation study from Christopher Burke Engineering to see if Village Hall can be built on a flood plain in order to expand current facilities and keep all services on one campus.

"I can't go to the residents and ask for \$16 million in debt so public works can move their trucks around easier," he said. "We need to find out all the options."

HERALD-8/5/2002

Apartment plan hits big hurdle

By CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners dealt a heavy blow to plans for the Fairway Greens apartment complex to expand.

Saying the village is trying to improve its image, commissioners recently voted 3-2 against a preliminary proposal to add an eighth building to the existing Fairway Greens complex at McHenry Road and Fairway Drive.

Arthur Goldner, the owner of the complex, proposed to landscape the entrance of the complex, while adding a three-story building in the same style as the rest of the complex, which was built in 1972.

"There is no deluxe rental stock in Wheeling right now and we believe that we would be filling a void there," Goldner said. "This is more of what would be built in Buffalo Grove or Northbrook."

The interior of the new building would be an upgraded version of the current design, but Goldner proposed keeping the exterior the same because changing the other seven buildings to match the new one would add \$3.2 million to the \$5 million expansion cost.

Some trustees said they didn't want to set a precedent for developers who might want to build in Wheeling using "dated" architectural styles.

"I don't see very much deluxe about this," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro told Goldner. "I have seen your property in Buffalo Grove, and I don't think you would take something like this to them, so I'm asking you why you brought it to us."

Goldner insisted that plan commissioners didn't have to fear setting a precedent because his situation is unique. Fairway Greens merely proposed to "fill a gap" in its current development.

Two plan commissioners agreed, voting in favor of the plan.

"We really aren't doing anything but completing something that originally couldn't be done," plan commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said.

"I'm glad you're doing this and it's nice to see that you're adding landscaping to your entrance there," Brady told Goldner.

However, the majority of commissioners voted against recommending that the village allow Fairway Greens to proceed forward in developing a final

Wheeling answers call for more firefighters

BY GASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For the first time in a decade, Wheeling is expanding its fire department.

An aging population, the construction of more high-density housing and the growth of nursing facilities in the village has prompted a three-year expansion that will eventually add nine new firefighter-paramedics to the department, fire officials said.

The new firefighters will give the department enough staff to operate a third ambulance daily at a time when firefighters handle one emergency call for every 10 residents per year, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

Herald

"Ambulance calls are the bulk of our service, and we anticipate continued growth."

Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac

"Ambulance calls are the bulk of our service, and we anticipate continued growth," MacIsaac said.

"The population in the community has grown almost 5,000 in the last few years, and we still haven't seen the affects of the new Greek nursing home we've just added to the community, and they're also adding an addition to Addolorata."

MacIsaac referred to the potential for increased calls to the Greek Amer-

ican Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre and Addolorata Village.

The fire department estimates it already responds to 3,500 calls a year, and the new hires will be able to serve on ambulances and fire trucks. With three firefighter-paramedics already hired, two other phases of hiring through May 2003 will bring to 51 the number of Wheeling's firefighters.

"The decision was made to do it over three years to minimize the

impact on taxes," MacIsaac said. "We want to spread the costs out over growth in the community."

For three new firefighters, salaries, protective equipment and training will cost the village about \$199,000 a year, the chief said.

The fire department was able to delay hiring new firefighters for several years by carrying medical equipment on its fire engines to respond to medical calls when ambulances were busy. However, the construction of developments such as the Park Point condominiums, One Milwaukee Place and the anticipated Kimball Hill project made it imprudent for the fire department to continue its "stopgap" measures, MacIsaac said.

NEWS BRIEFS

PIONEER PRESS - 8/15/2002

Trustees interview manager candidates

The Wheeling Village Board interviewed six candidates in the running to become the next village manager. The six people were interviewed Aug. 5 and Aug. 6 at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the opening has attracted the interest of candidates from across the country. Klatecki said the candidates were all "very highly qualified" to be the new manager.

The board is expected to cut the list of six to about three candidates, Klatecki said. Those making the cut will be invited for another round of interviews.

The board looked at 12 resumes before making its first cut. After that, those six candidates were invited to take a tour of the village and be interviewed by the board.

Klatecki said it is still the board's intent to hire a new manager by September.

PIONEER PRESS - 8/15/2002

New building director appointed

James F. Kelly was named Wheeling's new building director last week, replacing Dan Ozanich, who was promoted to community development director.

Kelly has spent the past five years in Prospect Heights in a similar position before arriving in Wheeling. He has also served as plan examiner in Buffalo Grove and owned his own contracting firm before entering the public sector.

Kelly holds degrees from Harper College and the University of Wisconsin's Department of Engineering Professional Development at Madison. He also was president of the Northwest Building Officials and Code Administrators. In 1999, his chapter was recognized as chapter of the year by the BOCA national office.

Kelly is a member of the Illinois Building Commission Communications Subcommittee. He is a resident of Arlington Heights.

HERALD - 8/14/2002

Water park expansion hits snag

BY GASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

The biggest outdoor water park in the Northwest suburbs is all set to get bigger.

Except the Wheeling Park District hasn't decided whether to let plans to expand the Wheeling Aquatic Center sink or swim.

The problem is that cost estimates for putting a 7,500-square-foot addition on the water park are proving to be higher than expected, park officials said Tuesday.

The park district planned to pay about \$1.3 million to replace an existing hot-tub area at the park with a zero-depth water playground for tots and a separate water basketball and "lily pad challenge crossing event" area.

The design for the project already received an enthusiastic thumbs-up from the Wheeling Plan Commission last month, and the village board Monday approved the use for the property.

Trustees voted unanimously on the plan because it was meant to help the Aquatic Center compete with the new water park in Gurnee and expanded water facilities in such towns as Carol Stream.

"There wasn't even a question," Village President Greg Klatecki said.

"I think it was a jewel that it was created for this village, and they want to improve it after 10 years. They want to improve it for the modern era."

However, the park district has encountered problems with low quality soil that is unsuitable for building a foundation on the site of the proposed expansion.

"We're not 100 percent we're going to go through with the project now," said Mark Harrison, the park district's director of parks and planning. "We encountered some poor soil and we need to do some remediation. We are working with the architect and the contractors analyzing bids and costs."

Replacing the soil could drive the price tag of the project up to \$1.4 million or \$1.5 million, Harrison said.

Parks officials hope the project can proceed because the park district was looking forward to attracting more grade-school children and young teenagers with the new facilities.

The district has seen a slight decrease in its normal 75,000 to 100,000 annual Aquatic Center attendance since new water facilities have opened elsewhere, officials said.

The park district expects to reach a decision about the expansion by its next board meeting Tuesday.

HERALD 8/21/2002

Extradition in Wheeling jeweler's murder sought

BY RHONDA SCIARRA

Daily Herald Staff Writer

An extradition hearing was held Tuesday in Los Angeles for a man who police suspect killed a Wheeling jeweler in January 2000.

Manuel Murillo, 47, was arrested Friday on a first-degree murder warrant out of Cook County for the shooting death of Vinod C. Mehta.

Murillo was taken into custody at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the suburban Los Angeles residence where he was staying, said Los Angeles police Sgt. John Pasquariello.

The murder case has remained open as authorities sought out the fourth person — the gunman — in a jewel-theft ring suspected in Mehta's death.

Three others have pleaded guilty to

involvement in the robbery and murder of the precious gem salesman. On Jan. 19, 2000, Mehta was followed to his home on Honeysuckle Drive, where he was robbed and shot to death in his driveway.

In July, Emilio Bolanos, 27, formerly of Chicago, pleaded guilty to armed robbery. He will be sentenced Sept. 3.

Francisco G. Soliz, formerly of

Chicago, was sentenced in April to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty. In May, Jorge Trevino Castillo, 33, also formerly of Chicago, was sentenced to 20 years after he pleaded guilty.

Wheeling police detectives alerted Los Angeles authorities that Murillo may have been in the Los Angeles area, Pasquariello said. Murillo remained in custody in Los Angeles Tuesday.

HERALD - 8/19/2002

Aquatic Center lifeguards praised for boy's rescue

Just after 1 p.m. on a sunny Tuesday last month, two lifeguards at a Wheeling pool brought life back to a 4-year-old child.

Last week, those two lifeguards — Derek Karcz and Max Vilchik — were recognized by the village of Wheeling with the village's Life Saving Award.

Karcz and Vilchik were on duty July 9 at the Wheeling Park District Aquatic Center, when they had to spring into action to save a child seen floating face down in the water.

About 200 people were in the pool at the time, including a group of kids who had arrived at the pool with the 4-year-old as part of a church camp.

Vilchik and Karcz immediately recognized the seriousness of the situation, and Vilchik entered the pool to get the boy. Assisted by Karcz, Vilchik moved the child to the pool deck. Firefighters would later say the boy had a pulse but he wasn't breathing.

The two lifeguards called upon their life-saving training and began performing CPR.

The pool, meanwhile, was evacuated and paramedics were called. Soon after CPR began, the boy revived and began crying. Paramedics took the child to Holy Family Medical Center and later to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge for overnight observation.

Battalion Chief Michael Probstle of the Wheeling Fire Department praised the lifeguards for doing "a wonderful job."

Last week, the village applauded Karcz and Vilchik for their "heroic efforts and personal commitment in making the village of Wheeling a safe community."

If you know either of these fine gentlemen, give them a pat on the back for us.



Cass Cliatt
Wheeling



William and Alliene Wright proudly show off their wedding picture at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center during the Celebration of Seniors that honored couples who have been married 50 years or more and individuals 90 years and older.

PHOTOS BY GILBERT R. BOUCHER II/DAILY HERALD

HERALD-8/27/2002

Celebrating long lives and marriages

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It was a time when 20-year-old outfielder Willie Mays joined the New York Giants.

The classic "I Love Lucy" was just debuting on television, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were being convicted of selling atomic secrets to the Soviets, and Tupperware was just coming on the scene.

Many of the senior citizens who crowded the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center recently were celebrating their birthdays as young tots when Charlie Chaplin was starring on the big screen, Woodrow Wilson was president, and news came that Mark Twain had died.

The senior center held a celebration of longevity and golden marriages Aug. 15 for this rare group of individuals and married couples that has experienced generations of history.

"To be married 50 years today is really something, and we just thought it would be kind of a nice

thing to do something to recognize them," said Pat Maziarka of the Wheeling Senior Commission.

The commission's Celebration of Seniors honored "golden ring" couples who have been married 50 years or more and "precious diamond" individuals who have celebrated 90 or more birthdays.

"For the village as a whole, it's rare to see people who have lived 90-plus years," Maziarka said.

Almost 40 couples and 11 birthday honorees gathered for a special luncheon, where they were recognized by Village President Greg Klatecki.

They also got to share stories.

"We asked all the celebrants to fill out a questionnaire about their spouse, when they met and what's important to marriage to them," said Nancy Janssen, the village's director of senior services.

After taking pictures, the participants enjoyed music from Don Reitsma's keyboard orchestra and carried home with them new memories to add to those they've built during their long lifetimes.



A display of family photos from a bygone era gives testament to the longevity of the couples married 50 years or more and individuals 90 years and older who were honored at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center. At left, Herta Hadelor, 94, is introduced as the oldest person at the Celebration of Seniors.



Wheeling OK with developer taking risk on condos

HEM/hld - 8/27/2002

BY GASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Moving forward with building a large condominium development on Wolf Road could be a risky proposition — but it's OK with Wheeling trustees because they're not the ones taking the chances.

The developer proposing to build 306 condos on an extensively landscaped 17.6-acre parcel at 566 N. Wolf Road is the one who stands to

waste time and energy if plans fall through, officials said.

The village board Monday approved the concept plan for the long-proposed Prairie Park, acknowledging there are still a lot of "ifs" to overcome.

Developer Mark Smith & Family will be able to pay for the project only if it gets funding help from a new tax increment financing district the village hasn't yet approved.

The developer will be able to

build all five buildings of Prairie Park only if the Federal Emergency Management Agency agrees that flood maps are incorrect in showing part of the proposed development in a floodplain.

And city engineers and the village board might approve final design plans for the project only if the two aforementioned "ifs" are resolved.

Without the federal OK to build, the developer wouldn't be able to

construct three of the buildings, meant for the second phase of Prairie Park. However, the design firm received support from plan commissioners last month was for five buildings circling a pond and waterfall along a ring road.

"How would you feel if we hold it until we knew we had all our ducks in a row, rather than have you spend the money?" Trustee Judy Abruscato asked the developer.

Mark Smith said he is confident

the developer

the biggest obstacle — the floodplain issue — will be resolved by spring.

The Picardy subdivision neighboring the proposed Prairie Park had a similar two-part building schedule and was completed successfully, Smith said. Also, engineers have signed off on the project.

"In the worst-case scenario, which I don't see happening, is you'd end up with two beautiful buildings and a play area and a nice

entrance," Smith told trustees. "But I don't think that would happen or I wouldn't be standing here right now."

Smith acknowledged he has spent more than a year and thousands of dollars on the project, though he didn't specify exactly how much he has spent.

"The only person sticking his neck out is the developer," Village President Greg Klarecki said as trustees approved the condo plans.

PIONEER PRESS 8/18/2002

Riverwalk plan raises questions

By KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF WRITER

The development firm Hamilton Partners has impressed village officials with projects such as the Riverwalk office complex and the Chevy Chase Business Park, but some members of the Buffalo Grove Plan Commission think this time the developer might be trying to do too much on one site.

Hamilton Partners has proposed building an eight-story office building, a six-story hotel, a six-story apartment building and a five-story parking garage on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue north of the Riverwalk development. A new restaurant in the spot where Hans Bavarian Lodge used to be also might be included in the plan.

"Hamilton is a top-quality developer; you do fabulous work," Plan Commission Chairman Lester Ottenheimer told Hamilton partner Tim Beechick. "I don't know of anything you have done that I haven't liked." Still, Ottenheimer was concerned the new proposal, referred to as Riverwalk North, is "awfully dense."

One of the commissioners suggested the office building be dropped from the plan, and another thought the apartment building wasn't suitable on the site.

Beechick didn't want to give up the office building, because that is his company's forte.

"What we do best is office development, so I would like to see that stay part of the development," he said. And the apartment building is "a crucial and key element of the plan."

Beechick told the commissioners the entire project could fail if he had to eliminate any of the components.

The traffic consultant for the project, Michael Werthmann, said the proposed complex would not have a significant impact on congestion in the area.

"In fact, it would be minimal," he said.

He acknowledged that traffic headaches exist along Milwaukee Avenue, especially at the intersection of Milwaukee and Deerfield Parkway.

"Milwaukee and Deerfield is a regional problem," said Werthmann. "The problem is Deerfield is only a two-lane road all the way through Riverwalk."

(Continued on page 13)

PIONEER PRESS 8/18/2002

Riverwalk

Continued from page 11

erwoods." But access onto Milwaukee from Riverwalk Drive "works fine," he said.

But even if the development does not generate a lot more traffic on Milwaukee, "all we are doing is making it worse," said Michael Samuels, a member of the Plan Commission.

Beechick argued the characteristics of the site allow a more intense use of the property. The property is adjacent to the Des Plaines River and Lake County Forest Preserve District land. He also pointed out that all the buildings would not be built at once. The office building, for example, would not be built until a company agreed to occupy at least a portion of it.

The proposal will be discussed during another workshop tentatively scheduled for the Plan Commission's Aug. 21 meeting at Village Hall.

Police arrest 15 at checkpoint

Wheeling police arrested 15 motorists during their Roadside Safety Check held July 27 and July 28 and issued nearly 40 additional citations.

The checkpoint was conducted on Wolf Road, just north of Dundee Road, between 10 p.m. July 27 and 2 a.m. July 28. Police charged three people with driving under the influence of alcohol. Two arrests were made for driving on a suspended license, and 10 more were arrested for having no license at all.

Police issued 14 seat-belt citations and one child safety-seat ticket.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said checkpoints, typically held on Milwaukee Avenue in the past, were moved to Wolf Road after police determined motorists were using Wolf Road to avoid the Milwaukee Avenue stops. The checkpoint was funded by the Wheeling Safe Communities Program, with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

PIONEER PRESS 8/18/2002

Dundee repairs to start next week

The Illinois Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin repairs to Dundee Road next week, a few weeks later than expected.

Guy Kolberg, acting village manager, said the project had been slightly delayed due to construction on Lake-Cook Road. The Cook County Highway Department has been working on the railroad overpass on Lake-Cook since the spring. IDOT agreed to hold off on its repairs until two lanes of traffic in each direction were open on Lake-Cook.

Kolberg said Cook County Highway Department representatives told him two lanes of traffic in both directions will be open next week. IDOT will then go to work on Dundee Road.

IDOT plans to resurface and patch along Dundee Road. One lane of traffic in each direction will be closed on Dundee Road during the repairs.

IDOT is spending \$5.5 million to repair 8.5 miles of Dundee Road. The Cook County Highway Department is spending \$6.9 million on its Lake-Cook Road project, which is scheduled to be completed in November.

PIONEER PRESS - 8/18/2002

New restaurant owner gets liquor license

Larry Huber, co-owner of the Clean Plate Club Restaurant Group of Evanston, was granted a liquor license by the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission for his new restaurant at the former Crawdaddy Bayou location.

Huber said he plans to open Pete Miller's Steakhouse at the site. Huber said the Wheeling restaurant will be very similar to the Pete Miller's Steakhouse in Evanston. The restaurant will offer live jazz music, a billiard lounge, banquets and private seating.

Huber said he is excited to locate on Restaurant Row and believes he will bring a new element into the neighborhood.

"There really isn't a steakhouse there," he said.

Huber must submit designs for the new seating arrangement to the village in order to obtain a special-use permit for the new restaurant. He said he does not plan on opening until March or April.

"That's how long it's going to take in order to get the design, special permit, construction and train the staff," he said. "It just takes that long."

The Clean Plate Club Restaurant Group owns Pete Miller's in Evanston, along with Merle's Southern Kitchen and Barbecue, Davis Street Fishmarket and Tommy Nevin's Pub.

The menu at Pete Miller's in Evanston offers a full variety of steaks, as well as many seafood dishes that include whitefish, salmon, lobster and shrimp. The restaurant also offers rack of lamb, veal and sandwiches.

Crawdaddy Bayou's last day of open business was July 6. The owner, John Liataud Jr., said he plans to open smaller restaurants in the Chicago area like his new Escape to Crawdaddy Bayou in Fox River Grove.

Kirk pays a visit to Wheeling seniors

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, stopped by the Pavilion Senior Center recently to talk about what he has been up to in Washington, D.C., over the past year and other issues facing Congress.

Kirk addressed three major issues during his hour-long visit to the center July 1: health care, corporate crime and the war on terrorism. He also fielded questions from the audience.

Kirk said he expects the House of Representatives to work out a patients bill of rights when it reconvenes in September. He said the legislation will include a patient's right to a second opinion of a diagnosis, the right to see a specialist and a review of treatments that are rejected by HMOs.

"The goal is to separate the HMO from the physician," he said.

Kirk said Republicans' and Democrats' patients' rights legislation differs over a patient's right to sue HMOs. The Republican version does not include the right to sue. Kirk said he would like to see quicker solutions to patients' issues, and the legal system takes too long to sort them out.

Another major concern voiced by the seniors in attendance was prescription drug coverage included in Medicare, which Kirk supports. Currently, Medicare only covers drugs that are administered in the hospital.

"That needs to change," Kirk said. "There are more prescription drugs available now."

One senior, complaining



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, talks with residents at the Pavilion Senior Center about developments in Washington, D.C., and beyond.

about the cost of prescription drugs, asked Kirk if he had any ideas on how to keep the costs down. Kirk responded by saying he voted in favor of legislation that allows American citizens to purchase drugs in Canada, which are considerably cheaper. He also said he favored a ban on drug commercials and advertising.

"They cost too much and inflate costs," he said. "Maybe then people will listen to their doctors and not an ad they see in a magazine."

Enron and so on

Kirk also talked about the wave of corporate crime that has surfaced over the past year. He touted legislation

passed last month to put white-collar criminals in prison.

"The bill includes fines ... and jail time up to 20 years," he said. "They are going to serve hard time, not stay at 'Club Fed.'"

The new law allows the government to seize assets of white-collar criminals to reimburse investors. And Kirk said the way to ensure prosecution is to find "young, hard-working prosecutors who are as smart as the criminals." He likened it to the way organized crime was busted. Kirk said corporate criminals use similar tactics to hide their money and loot the company's assets.

Military matters

Kirk also talked about the war on terrorism. He applauded the efforts of the U.S. military's campaign to topple the Taliban, but he said there is still a lot of work to do.

"One thousand Al Qaida have been captured or killed," he said. "There were 10,000 before."

Kirk called Osama bin Laden a "unique threat" to Americans. "We have never faced a super-rich terrorist before," he said.

One audience member asked Kirk if he would support an invasion of Iraq. Kirk avoided the question by giving a brief history lesson, saying the country's forefathers

gave the power of using military force to Congress and not the president. "President Bush needs to make a decision," he said, "but he'd better ask Congress first."

Kirk did not say if he would approve of an invasion or not.

Kirk avoided talking about politics during the hour and focused on issues. He spent most of the time fielding questions. He and audience members felt free to talk about most anything. Some even made jokes.

"I'm from the government, so I'm here to help you," he said at the beginning of the meeting.

Even the congressman had to chuckle when one man responded, "Is that something new?"

Those who heard Kirk speak said they were appreciative of the visit and liked what they had heard.

"He hit on everything that is happening today," Dolly Hein said. "And a lot of issues that seniors are concerned about."

Kirk, a freshman congressman paying his second visit to the Pavilion, seemed more in tune with the issues, audience members said.

"You can tell he's more seasoned," Jean Lowery said.

Although they said they liked what they heard, many said they want to see more results from their representative.

"We've had these issues for many years, and they haven't gone away," Hein said. "They don't get resolved."

Kirk is scheduled to appear at the Pavilion, 199 First St., again Friday at the men's breakfast gathering. All men are invited to attend the meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m.

Palwaukee's open house gets prepared for takeoff

By CASS CULIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The unlikely combination of the U.S. Coast Guard, goose-chasing dogs and radio-controlled planes will attract crowds next week at a local airport.

More than 4,000 people are expected to crowd the runways at Palwaukee Municipal Airport for the open house that annually invites the community to learn more about its operations.

The airport is jointly owned by the village of Wheeling and city of Prospect Heights, but the open house Aug. 24 will draw pilots and plane lovers from as far as Wisconsin.

"It's free to the community and our focus really is Wheeling and Prospect Heights," Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said. "We want to show what we're about."

A helicopter crew will conduct a mock rescue to show residents how they give emergency aid to downed aircraft and boats. The Northwest Radio Club will present an extensive display of radio aircraft, and Migratory Bird Management will show off the dogs used to chase geese from runways.

As always, there also will be a display of antique and modern aircraft.

"It is going to be a little different this year because of Sept. 11," Rouleau said. "The control towers won't be open."

The Palwaukee tower still has limited access because of the security measures imposed at municipal

If you go ...

What: Palwaukee open house

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 24

Where: East side of Palwaukee Airport, along the 1000 block of South Milwaukee Avenue

Parking: Free parking is available near the control tower and along Wolf Road. Free trolley will be available from one side of the airfield to the other.

Call: (847) 537-2580, Ext. 150

airports nationwide after the terrorists hijacked commercial planes last year.

Also missing from the open house will be the plane rides that were hosted by Priester Aviation. The company sold its plane maintenance operations at the airport last year, Rouleau said.

On the plus side, though, the new Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council will have a booth to listen to residents' concerns about airport issues, and there will be more planes on display.

"In the past, the open house was scheduled later so we missed the planes going off to air shows held this time of year," Rouleau said.

Among the planes will be antique Stearman biplanes, aircraft used for business travel and training, such as the popular Cessnas, Beech and Piper models, and also new corporate jet and turboprop aircraft.

Dispatcher really answers the call

Guides police to motorist stranded in snowy ditch

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Communications Officer Christine Miller is credited for helping save a lost 76-year-old Wheeling man who drove his car into a ditch on a lonely rural road during a snowstorm.

Miller was awarded the Wheeling Police Department's Lifesaving Award and an award from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officers for helping to locate the lost man on March 2. She earned the accolades at a Village Board meeting July 22.

After contacting several police departments, Miller was able to get an idea where he was stranded by tracking his cellular telephone calls.

"We all hate cell phones, but to be able to do what we did because of them is pretty amazing," Miller said. "I don't think we would have found him alive without them."

The man, who requested his name not appear in this article, had left Fontana, Wis., around 11 a.m. At 4 p.m., his wife became concerned and began calling police departments in that area. She also called Miller.

"His wife knew her husband had left Fontana, and she knew he was taking Route 14," Miller said. "Route 14 splits into (Route) 67. We thought he didn't take that split and ended up confused and lost."

Miller's concern for the man was heightened because of the cold and the snow falling that night. Miller said the man was driving a white car, making it even more difficult to find him.

"It was scary, given his age and the situation," she said. "I was very concerned for him."

When Miller got the call, she sent Officer Scott Laverd to the man's home. Laverd learned that the man had contacted his wife with his cell phone. He told her he was stuck in a ditch. He had no idea where he was.

"He did a very good job trying to describe where he was, but there was nothing there," Miller said. "At one point, I was on the phone with (Laverd) and he was on the phone with (the missing man). A pickup truck had pulled up, and he said he was on the phone with the police and they were on their way. So the truck left."

That was two hours before police found him.

Miller was able to get the man's cellular telephone provider and phone number. Miller said she contacted the provider, Cellular One, who said he was in "roaming" status, meaning he was not using Cellular One towers. She did discover, however, that U.S. Cellular maintained the towers in and around Madison, Wis., and decided to contact them.

"(U.S. Cellular) Tech support was able to get the location of the tower," Miller said. "They said he was up to 17 miles from the tower."

The man was stuck in Durand, Ill., about 96 miles northwest of Wheeling, and within seven miles of the tower. Miller contacted the Winnebago County Sheriff, who initiated a search.

"I called Scott (Laverd) to get a list of (the man's) medications," Miller said. "When I called (Winnebago) back with the list, they told me they had just located him."

The man, who has diabetes and who had no food with him in the car, was found seven hours after he drove into the ditch. The police found him



Richard Bajajieh/Pioneer Press

Communications Officer Christine Miller received two awards for her part in locating a Wheeling man who had driven his car into a ditch in Durand, Ill., during a snowstorm.

semiconscious. His car had run out of gas, but the man did have a blanket to help him keep warm.

"About five minutes later, they called me back, saying he was warming up in the ambulance and appeared to be fine," Miller said. "I really wanted to hear that."

Cpl. Tom Lorenz, who runs the radio room for the Wheeling Police Department, commended Miller for her work.

"She did a really good job," he said. "But this is the kind of thing that happens to dis-

patchers every day across the country."

Miller was surprised by the awards and attention she has received.

"I just did my job," she said. "I would expect it out of anybody who does my job."

The man spent the night at Rockford Memorial Hospital and was able to go home the next day. He is now fully recovered from the accident.

The man's wife praised the officers' efforts.

"She is a very caring person," the wife said of Miller. "I

am very thankful for that."

Miller said she could have never accomplished what she did without the help of all the other police departments, cellular telephone representatives and her partner in the radio room, Communications Officer Javier Alanis.

"When you're working an emergency, you're working that call," she explained. "So the other (dispatcher) has to pick up the slack. He still had five, six, seven officers to deal with, and he did it for four hours. He did a great job."

HERALD - 8/12/2002
New director
to build from
ground up
in Wheeling

James Kelly shouldn't have a hard time finding his way to his new office.

It's just a matter of moving right next door — to the next town, that is.

Kelly has been named Wheeling's building director, leaving a similar position he held for five years in Prospect Heights.

It's one of those behind-the-scenes jobs a lot of residents might not know much about.

Kelly now becomes responsible for all new residential and commercial construction in the village. He has the face you'll see at plan commission meetings from time to time when a condo developer wants to build, or a new eatery wants to put down stakes.

Kelly will review construction plans to make sure all the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed when it comes to meeting Wheeling's building codes. A staff of building, plumbing and electrical inspectors also will be Kelly's responsibility.

The 47-year-old Arlington Heights resident fills a vacancy left in one of Wheeling's top jobs when Daniel Ozanich was promoted two months ago to director of community development.

But just because he is the "new guy," doesn't mean Kelly is a novice. He has 13 years of experience serving local governments.

For eight years, he was the plan examiner in neighboring Buffalo Grove before working in neighboring Prospect Heights. Kelly also owned a general contracting firm in Prospect Heights for a decade before that.

Among the list of credentials and accomplishments the village provided, Kelly was president of the Northwest Building Officials and Code Administrators in 1999, when the group was recognized by the national BOCA organization as Chapter of the Year.

He is also a family man, married and the father of four children. We would like to congratulate Jim Kelly on his new job, and also to Wheeling for snagging him.



Cass Chitt
Wheeling

Patrick Horcher weighing more public service

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher is considering a run for a seat on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board.

Horcher, who is serving the last year of his second term on the Village Board, said his main impetus for running is to examine the district's bilingual education program and the English as a Second Language program. He said he is not convinced the district is admitting students into the program correctly or getting them into standard classrooms quickly enough.

"If a kid doesn't speak English well, then fix it and transition them," he said. "What if that doesn't occur? The federal policy is teach these kids, although they are not learning."

Horcher said he had a Punjabi-speaking neighbor from

India who was enrolled in the regular educational setting and flourished in school only after being held back a year. The same thing happened to that girl's cousin. A third Indian girl Horcher knew, however, could not keep up, and was entered into the ESL program.

"I just have a lot of questions about the whole thing," he said. "I want to see what works. If it doesn't work, we should let the (federal government) know. This could potentially be a big problem."

Rosemarie Meyer, director of bilingual and English as a Second Language programs for District 21, said the goal is to get bilingual students into a standard classroom. But it is a deliberately slow process based on how well the student grasps the language.

"Math is typically the first subject (to move)," she said. "It's a gradual process. It's to (Continued on page 9)

■ Horcher *Continued from page 8*

give the kids experience in the classroom."

Meyer said a student will spend between 60 percent and 80 percent of his or her time in a standard classroom the year before being "fully mainstreamed." She said the district typically mainstreams between 100 and 140 students from bilingual programs into standard classrooms each year.

Students in bilingual programs follow the exact same curriculum as students in standard classrooms, Meyer said. The decision to begin the mainstream process is based on annual assessments of English skill, performance on standardized tests and teacher recommendations, Meyer said.

District 21 offers bilingual programs in Spanish, Russian and Polish.

Horcher, whose two children will attend Field Elementary School next fall, said he has not decided whether he will seek re-election to the Village Board. He said he has been in contact with the Illinois Attorney General's Office to see if there are any laws that would prevent that.

"The initial take is there is no official ruling, but infor-

“I feel like I’m leaving the job half-done, but doing what I said I’d do.”

Patrick Horcher

mally, it shouldn't be done," he said. "I'm not sure if it's possible."

Horcher said he was only interested in serving two terms on the Village Board when he ran for re-election in 1999. However, he said there are still a lot of things he has yet to accomplish as a trustee.

"I feel like I'm leaving the job half-done, but doing what I said I'd do," he said. "It's a moral dilemma question."

Horcher said many residents have asked him to run for a third term on the Village Board, complicating his decision.

"It's weighing heavily on my mind," he said.

There are three seats on the District 21 board up for election next April. Those seats are held by Ellen Clark, Larry Krulewich and Pamela Becker Dean.

Pilots take to sky to help the sick

Pioneer Press 8/15/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Vince Scott flies his Mooney 201 aircraft from Palwaukee Municipal Airport for many reasons.

Sometimes he flies for business. He'll often take to the air for pleasure.

But nothing gives him more satisfaction than flying to help others.

Since 1999, Scott has been volunteering his plane and his time to AirLifeLine, a non-profit organization that helps people in financial need travel to hospitals across the country to receive medical treatment.

"It's about helping people in life-threatening situations," Scott said. "I find it's very rewarding. It's given back to me what I've given to the program. I know I've helped, in a small way, to keep these people living."

Scott picked up a 39-year-old woman from Rush Presbyterian Hospital Aug. 6 and drove to Palwaukee before flying her home to Minneapolis after receiving chemotherapy and analysis for cancer in her lymph nodes.

"She's 39 years old, with three children and a husband, and she'd been fighting for six years," Scott said. "That's a tough road to go. I was happy to be of some help."

Most of the people that use

AirLifeLine's services are very sick and need to travel across the country to get specialized care. However, most insurance companies do not cover travel costs.

"Most patients wouldn't be able to get treatments without these flights," said Annie Blake, operations manager for AirLifeLine. "Most patients need to make multiple trips, which can be difficult financially."

Besides flying patients, Blake said AirLifeLine volunteers will fly family members to visit loved ones in hospitals. She said some will use the service as their dying wish to go home. After Sept. 11, Blake said volunteer pilots flew nurses and trauma experts into New York City from across the country.

AirLifeLine began in 1973. Blake said they started out flying organs and blood. The group began flying patients about 15 years ago. About 2,000 pilots across the country volunteer with AirLifeLine.

"More and more are volunteering," Blake said. "It's a good excuse to fly, and they love to give back to someone else who needs help."

Scott said he got involved after he heard other pilots talk about the program. Every once in a while, he will receive an e-mail with a list of possible flights and will choose one that fits his schedule. Some-



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Vince Scott volunteers his time and his Mooney 201 to fly patients to different hospitals with the AirLifeLine program. The program offers free transportation to very ill people with financial difficulties.

times, Scott will even take time off from work to make a flight.

Scott said one of the most enjoyable parts of volunteering is meeting the patients and their families.

"Most of them are pretty sick, but that doesn't mean they're not wonderful people," he said.

Scott said he flew a 12-year-old Russian boy to Columbus, Ohio, to receive treat-

ments for radiation exposure. The boy, Scott said, was a victim of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

"He was very bright and had a huge smile on his face all the time," Scott said. "He was very interested in the plane and aviation."

Scott typically flies patients to destinations between 200 and 400 miles away. Sometimes it's the patient's final destination. Other times, they will get on another plane with

another AirLifeLine volunteer.

"We can fly them just about anywhere across the country," he said.

There were 13 AirLifeLine flights in Illinois last year, and all of them used Palwaukee as either a starting point or a destination. This year, AirLifeLine has increased its total flights in Illinois to 88. About one flight a month leaves from Palwaukee, said Robert Mark, airport spokesman.

FedEx traffic impact doesn't scare commission

PIONEER PRESS 8/15/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Plan Commission is recommending the Village Board approve a 107,000-square-foot Federal Express Ground facility to be built on South Wolf Road.

The commission voted 6 to 1 in favor of the facility, with Commissioner Ray Lang casting the dissenting vote. The commission first heard the proposal July 18 and asked for a traffic study of the area. Most commissioners said

they were satisfied with the results of the study.

The study, completed by Luay Aboona of Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. in Rosemont, showed most traffic from the distribution center would not affect peak traffic times on Wolf Road just south of Palatine Road, where the facility is proposed to be built.

According to Aboona's study, the peak hour on Wolf Road in the morning is between 7:15 and 8:15, with peak travel into the FedEx facility being 6

a.m. until 7 a.m. In the afternoon, peak traffic on the road is between 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock. The facility's peak is between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Aboona said.

"Because it doesn't coincide with peak hours, (FedEx) traffic will not affect Wolf Road," Aboona said.

FedEx representatives said the facility will send out about 50 delivery vans during the day, with most of them leaving after noon. They also said about 20 tractor-trailer trucks will pull in and out of the facility, mainly

at night.

Aboona said the total number of trips moving in and out of the proposed facility will be 168. He said most other industrial businesses would use up to 202 trips. Commissioners agreed any use will produce more traffic.

"There is going to be more traffic no matter what (is built there)," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady said. "There couldn't be a worse area on Wolf Road for this."

Commissioners asked FedEx to see if the Illinois Department of Transportation (Continued on page 10)

FedEx Continued from page 5

tation will allow the company to build a right turn-off lane in front of the building on the southbound side of Wolf Road to ease traffic flow. Kevin Jones, the owner of the property, said he would do just that.

Aboona said IDOT was also putting plans together to widen Wolf Road from two lanes to four between Palatine Road and Euclid Avenue. If that goes through, it would help the traffic flow there, he said.

Commissioners also were concerned about the visibility of trailers on the lot. Most of the 13-foot high trailers will be parked on the south side of the lot, visible to nearby condominiums. FedEx agreed to plant different evergreen and deciduous trees to screen the trailers and block noise. Commissioners said they believed that would be enough to satisfy the residents.

"That's been an industrial area all along there," Commissioner Steve Boime said. "Other plants there run two or three shifts. Any industrial use will add to the situation. It shouldn't let us stop this."

Lang, who voted against the proposal, said he was pleased FedEx wants to move into

Wheeling, but his traffic concerns remained despite the traffic study.

"The fact is, there is too much truck traffic there," he said. "We can't support another truck terminal."

One Wheeling resident, Francine Bentley, spoke in favor of the facility, saying it would create much-needed jobs.

"I'm tired of seeing condos, condos and no economic development," she said. "They're going to be adding jobs. What more can you ask for? We're always looking for businesses to move in, and here they are."

FedEx expanded its original proposal from a 96,000-square-foot facility after officials determined that the larger facility would be more accommodating to future growth.

The facility will move ground packages only. There are no plans to use Palwaukee Municipal Airport for the operation. FedEx said the facility would bring up to 147 full-time jobs to Wheeling. Projections show up to 263 part-time, full-time and contracted jobs could come with the center in about 10 years.

Village Board next stop for Prairie Park plan

PIONEER PRESS 8/11/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Plan Commission gave unanimous conceptual support for Mark Smith's proposed Prairie Park of Wheeling at the corner of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Smith had to receive a concept approval from the commission before submitting final plans for the 306-unit condominium development. Commissioners had a few concerns with the plan, but they believe the issues can be worked out before the plan is finalized.

"Traffic is a big concern. Norman Toberman, an engineer hired by Smith, reported the results of a traffic study he performed at the commission's request. He said peak traffic in the morning is from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., when 933 cars travel along Wolf Road. In the afternoon peak hour of 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., 1,358 cars used Wolf Road near the development site.

Toberman said the proposed development is going

to be marketed to retirees and young professionals, similar to One Milwaukee Place. Toberman said he took a traffic study there to give the Plan Commission an idea on the kind of traffic Prairie Park might generate.

He said 35 cars left One Milwaukee Place during the peak morning hour of 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. His study showed the peak afternoon hour of 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. had 28 cars leaving One Milwaukee Place.

"One Milwaukee Place has about half the units as (Prairie Park)," Toberman said. "You can double those figures to get an idea."

Toberman said the traffic light at the corner of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue provides adequate gaps in traffic to allow Prairie Park traffic to move in and out of the development.

Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said he hoped Smith could acquire some land behind the proposed development and somehow include Meadow Lane as a traffic outlet.

"I'm concerned traffic needs to be funneled out,"

he said.

Smith argued traffic will increase regardless of what is built on the site.

"You're going to have more traffic no matter what. It's part of our society," he said. "You have to take a disciplined approach. We think this is the least stringent usage."

Commissioner Ray Lang said Toberman's figures could represent higher counts than usual, considering the construction on Lake-Cook Road. He said he believed the construction is keeping more cars on Milwaukee Avenue and spilling them onto Wolf Road.

Commissioners also were concerned about investors buying units to rent out. They said they would prefer the units to be owner-occupied. Smith said he was considering allowing the condominium association to make that determination.

Commissioner Steve Boime said that provision could be written in the original declaration of the de- (Continued on page 10)

Prairie Park Continued from page 5

velopment.

"That allows for change, but it makes it more difficult," he said. "The trend now is to restrict (renting) from the get go."

Smith said he would look at other declarations from other condominium developments and then make that determination. However, he also said it is not his intention to sell the units for rentals.

Residents from Picardy Lane, which abuts the proposed to the south, attended the July 25 meeting. Most said they were appreciative of Smith's efforts to meet with them and consider their suggestions to make the project more acceptable to neighbors. After meeting with those residents, Smith altered the proposal greatly, including reducing the scale of the buildings. He originally wanted to build 10-story structures. Now, the tallest buildings will be seven stories and will be located on the north side of the property. Five-story buildings will be on the south side.

"He eased our concerns through those meetings," Picardy lane resident Linda Baulou said. "We thank Mark for

“We determined we had plenty of multifamily housing... When is it going to stop?”

Mark Cooper Resident

his time and patience.”

Not all Picardy Lane residents were entirely pleased with the proposal. Mark Cooper worked on the Wheeling 2000 and Beyond study, heading the housing subcommittee. That committee determined Wheeling needed more single-family housing.

"We determined we had plenty of multifamily housing," he said. "Since then, we've seen One Milwaukee Place, Park Point, Kimball Hill. When is it going to stop?"

Smith will have to take his proposal before the Village Board to get final concept approval. After concept approval, he must go before the Plan Commission with final plans.



Suspect in Wheeling killing held in L.A.

By Mitch Martin
Special to the Tribune

A man wanted in the 2000 slaying of a Wheeling jewelry salesman has been arrested in Van Nuys, Calif., authorities said Monday.

Los Angeles police arrested Manuel Murillo, 47, Friday on a first-degree murder warrant issued in Cook County.

Murillo is suspected of

shooting Vinod Mehta, 58, on Jan. 19, 2000, once in the chest in Mehta's driveway.

Three other men have pleaded guilty in the fatal armed robbery. None of them was believed to have shot Mehta.

Two of the men, Francisco Soliz, 63, and Jorge Castillo, 33, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder under an Illinois law that holds accomplices to a murder as responsible as the

killer. Both men received 20-year prison sentences. A third man, Emilio Bolanos, 27, pleaded guilty to armed robbery but has not been sentenced.

In a confession, Castillo stated that an accomplice known only as "Orlando" shot Mehta. A Wheeling Police Department criminal complaint states that Murillo shot Mehta. The complaint lists Orlando

do Herrera as one of Murillo's six aliases.

Cook County Assistant State's Atty. Steven Rosenblum said Wheeling police may have suspected Murillo was living in the Los Angeles area because he had lived there before.

Murillo was in custody there Monday, Los Angeles police said. No date for an extradition hearing has been set.

HERALD - 8/30/02

Muscular Dystrophy Association, fire officials reported this week. The Wheeling Firefighters Association passed the boot Aug. 23 at the intersections of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and Wheeling and Hintz roads. Firefighters also took up positions at Wal-Mart, 1055 Old McHenry Road, and received a \$1,000 matching grant from the store. The grant brought the fundraising total to \$12,169.

8 injured after two vans collide

BY RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Eight people were injured — two seriously — after two vans crashed head on in Wheeling Tuesday morning.

The white vans, one with one driver and another with seven people inside, collided about 7:45 a.m. at the intersection of McHenry Road at Aptakisic Road.

A 44-year-old woman from Chicago sitting directly behind the front seat as well as a female driver in the second van were taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital with serious injuries, Wheeling fire Battalion Chief Charles Gallant said.

The other six people suffered minor injuries and were taken to area hospitals, he said.

Police could not release additional information on the crash.

Parts of McHenry and Aptakisic roads were shut down for hours, causing police to reroute traffic, authorities said.

HERALD 8/26/02

Meeting clarification: About that meeting between Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Rob Roy Country Club in Prospect Heights — you should know the town officials hope to keep things relatively private.

They are required by law to hold an open meeting (a quorum will be present for each town board).

However, Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said no attorneys and no city or village staff from the towns will be there, because Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials hope for a chance to speak freely to resolve their differences.

Just in case you haven't kept up with current events, Prospect Heights aldermen think Wheeling trustees have been slighting the city when it comes to realizing benefits from Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Both towns share ownership of the facility.

A chance for these officials to freely express their frustrations and get to the bottom of these issues should help residents by allowing Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen to concentrate on important matters rather than taking up time with protracted bickering.

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MDA fund drive a success: Wheeling residents and motorists passing through the village earlier this month dug deep into their wallets to help Wheeling firefighters raise more than \$11,000 for the

TRIBUNE - 8/29/02

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The plan was approved Monday by the Village Board.

FedEx Ground will construct a center for package collection and distribution to serve the northwest suburbs, said William F. Connor, senior manager for real estate projects.

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Initially, the company will employ about 150 people in Wheeling.

Construction is expected to begin this fall.

John Maes

PIONEER PRESS 8/22/2002

Palwaukee open house set for Saturday

The public is invited to Palwaukee Municipal Airport Saturday for its annual open house, which will feature displays, demonstrations, food and soft drinks.

There will be 15 airplanes on display ranging from antique Stearman biplanes to modern aircraft like Cessna, Beech and Piper models, as well as corporate jets and turboprops.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter will demonstrate how it is used to assist downed aircraft. The Northwest Radio Club will also be there with various radio-controlled airplanes.

Other participants will include the Palwaukee Airport Pilot's Association, the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council and Women in Aviation. The Wheeling and Prospect Heights fire departments will also be on hand at the open house, as will flight school representatives.

The main event will be held on the east side of the airport, closest to Milwaukee Avenue. Plenty of free parking will be available near the control tower and on the Wolf Road side of the airport. A shuttle will bring visitors from Wolf Road to the other side of the airport. The open house is free and will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Aug. 24.

PIONEER PRESS - 8/29/2002

Woman rescued from flooded creek

An 18-year-old Wheeling woman was rescued Aug. 22 after she drove her car into a creek near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Meghna Parekh was clearing the windshield of her 2003 Toyota when she ended up in the creek just before 8 a.m. last Thursday. The creek was at high levels after heavy rains Wednesday night and Thursday. The creek carried the car nearly 100 yards downstream, said Wheeling police officer Preston Robertson. Rescue crews found Parekh clinging to the car door to keep from being washed further downstream.

Wheeling Fire Battalion Chief Bob Leipzig said three passers-by who tried to help the woman were prevented from doing so because the current was too strong. Parekh was pulled out of the water without any injuries.

HERALD 8/26/2002

This time,
west side
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Last week's heavy rains created an unusual flooding situation in Wheeling.

While the village typically floods on the east side of town, the storms late last week created problems on the west side.

Anthony Stavros, the village's acting assistant public works director, had a theory about that: "It all depends on direction of the water flow."

"The water from Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove enters Wheeling at Buffalo Grove Road and Hintz, and this time the water was coming from that direction," he said.

Streets in the Mallard Lake and Tahoe Village areas of Wheeling became impassable, and public works crews spent the night Thursday pumping water from the basin at Lakeside to lower the water level on the streets and to provide more water storage in the basin.

After all, the folks at the Woodland Creeks Apartments found out what happens when a basin fills. A building at the complex had to be evacuated when an underground garage flooded, posing a threat to the electrical system.

The city's emergency operations center, used only every three to four years, became a base for firefighters, police and public works staff to meet and coordinate strategies for fighting the rising water.

As officials met at 10 p.m. Thursday, their biggest fear was that the Des Plaines River would overrun its banks, preventing the Wheeling drainage ditch from draining.

Public works staff thought it might be the first time the village had a chance to use the diversion channel it took 20 years to build. The channel is meant to divert water around the town in flood emergencies.

However, "we didn't get any water in the diversion channel," Stavros said. "We're all looking forward to seeing how it works. But, of course, we don't want anything to happen."

Poor soil slows pool plans

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Plans to expand the Aquatic Center have been delayed after Wheeling Park District officials discovered poor soil conditions where new attractions are to be built.

The Park Board decided to hold off on accepting a bid on the project at its Aug. 20 meeting so officials can re-examine engineering proposals to fix the soil problem. Park District Executive Director Jan Buchs said the board will try to find the most affordable option to continue the project.

"We have a few options, so that's good," Buchs said. "They asked the engineers to address what's feasible."

Mark Harrison, director of parks and planning, said the soil underneath where the new features are going to be built contains a lot of organic material that makes the area too weak to support the proposed new pools for children.

"We're trying to work with the existing soil instead of replacing it," Harrison said. Harrison said the poor soil was discovered right before bids on the project went out. However, the severity of the problem was not discovered until later.

"There's only so much you can discover with those first few (soil) borings," Buchs said. "You don't know completely what you're dealing with."

The Wheeling Village Board unanimously approved the proposed improvements to the Aquatic Center at its Aug. 12 meeting. The improvements will add nearly 7,500 square feet of new play areas at the center. Two new pools are proposed. One is for very young children and will include a zero-depth pool with play features like geysers, water sprays and a tipping bucket.

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When it was all over, we hope Wheeling's public works staff had a well-deserved weekend of rest.



Cass Clatt
Wheeling

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By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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Neighboring towns to work on

By CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials will meet later this month to try to mend the deepening rift separating the two towns on Palwaukee airport issues.

Prospect Heights for months has been calling for the meeting, accusing Wheeling leaders of intentionally undermining efforts to ensure Palwaukee Municipal Airport benefits

both towns. Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport through an intergovernmental agreement, but have repeatedly but heads over airport efforts to build new T-shaped hangars for private planes and efforts to bring a new plane maintenance company to Palwaukee.

Some Prospect Heights aldermen say Wheeling trustees keep "stabbing them in the back," prompting a meeting Aug. 28 they expect to become a "free for all" to allow both sides to learn

what has motivated their recent decisions.

• Wheeling initially wouldn't approve a budget item to pay for installation of a water main on the Prospect Heights side of the airport for fire sprinklers required to build new T-hangars.

• Prospect Heights refused to let Wheeling annex pockets of unincorporated Cook County along the airport unless the water main was approved.

• Wheeling approved the water main, but then approved a sublease to

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PIONEER PRESS - 8/22/2002

Training pays off in pool rescue

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Lifeguard Max Vilchik's first rescue is not one he will soon forget.

Vilchik, an 18-year-old first-year lifeguard at the Wheeling Aquatic Center, had to put his instincts and training to the test July 9 when he pulled 9-year-old Andrew Cha out of the pool. Cha was floating face-down, unconscious, when he was found. As Vilchik was assessing Cha's vital signs, Pool Manager Derek Karcz rushed over and began rescue breathing on the child.

Both young men received the Life Saving Award from the Village Board for rescuing Cha, a Korean visitor who was at the center with a summer camp group.

"He was swimming in the water to my left," Vilchik explained. "At first, I didn't see him. When I looked over, I said, 'Oh my God, he's not moving,' so I jumped right in and got him out."

Karcz, 22, was in the guard house at the time. The air horns went off, he said, as they do when a serious situation arises at the center. Karcz



Richard Bajajieh/Pioneer Press

Derek Karcz helped save a 9-year-old boy's life after he was found face-down in the pool at the Wheeling Aquatic Center July 9. Both he and lifeguard Max Vilchik received the Life Saving Award from the village for their actions that afternoon.

said he rushed over to find Cha on the ground unconscious, vomiting and not breathing.

"He had a pulse, so we didn't have to do CPR," Karcz said. "There was a problem clearing his airway. But we got it all cleared and I began the rescue breathing sequence."

After a few sequences, Cha's eyes opened and he began crying.

"That's a good sign," Karcz said. "It means that he's breathing."

Vilchik said he was relieved after hearing the boy cry.

"I felt so much better," he said. "I think everyone had that sense of relief."

After Cha regained con-

sciousness, the paramedics arrived and took him to the hospital.

Vilchik said he sees children safely floating in the water all the time, but it was his training that made him recognize Cha was in trouble. He said he noticed foam around the boy's face, a clear sign of trouble. He fell back on his training to fish the boy

out.

"The guards train really hard," Karcz said. "There's a lot of repetition in the training, so the response is automatic. It's emotional to see something like that, but nobody panicked. You can't panic. You have between 200 and 300 people here at any time. You just have to clear the area and make sure nobody else gets in and starts drowning."

Vilchik and a few other guards who were on duty that day took a few days off after the rescue. Karcz said the Wheeling Park District provides support and counseling to guards who want it after such an incident.

Karcz said such an incident makes all the guards more aware and more attentive at their jobs. Most of the guards are between the ages of 15 and 18, he said.

"They mature pretty quickly," he said.

Vilchik said the rescue changed his perspective of the job.

"I thought it was going to be fun in the sun, you know? I was going to work on my tan and be outdoors," he said. "I was wrong."

PIONEER PRESS 8/27/2002

Village wants one good plan

Two builders need to find common ground on proposal

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Although two developers have rights to build on two adjacent lots near the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road, the Wheeling Village Board wants them to work together on a single development.

Tantillo Homes, which has been trying to build a condominium development across from the intersection of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue for nearly a year, is being asked to work with Smith Family Construction, which recently obtained development rights for the Wedgewood Riding Center.

The Village Board has repeatedly announced its desire to create one "spectacular" development at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road. Board members have said they want to create a gateway into the village there, one of the most visible spots in the village.

The single development would encompass the riding

immediate south and the Wonder Bread facility. The Village Board wants to see a mixed commercial and residential development there.

Both developers showed preliminary concepts for the site at a meeting last week. Both included condominium buildings anywhere between six and 13 stories high along with commercial development. The main difference between the two plans is that Smith included commercial space on the bottom floors of the condominium buildings, while the Tantillo plan had two commercial buildings set off to the northern side of the site.

Both plans showed a main entrance that lined up with the Wolf Road traffic light. Both developers also attempted to develop the site as a community within itself.

Even though the two developers have rights to develop on different properties, the Village Board will not accept anything but a uniform, cohesive development.

"You've got to start playing together and get coordinated,"

the two developers. "There's a lot of good things on the table, and you need to get them together."

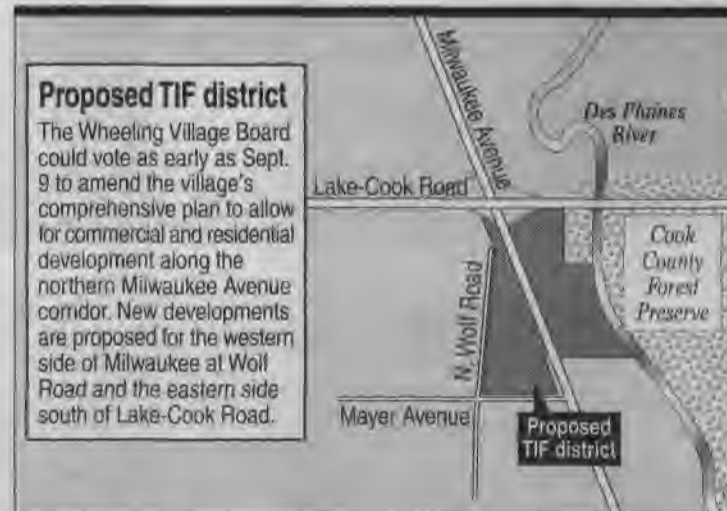
Mark Smith of Smith Family Construction said he will not be able to develop the Wedgewood property for nearly two years under the contract agreement so that Wedgewood owners can relocate.

Anthony Tantillo of Tantillo Homes said he already owns the vacant lot and the Wonder Bread property and does not want construction held up because of Smith's contract. He said he has already spent a lot of money on design costs and purchasing and wants to recoup those funds.

"We're willing to work together," Tantillo said. "We have 7.8, 7.9 acres and we're ready to go now. Residential with this kind of density is going to make the commercial worth more."

Smith said he, too, is willing to work with Tantillo to create a worthwhile development.

"I don't want to hold up (Tantillo's plan)," Smith said. "But I want what's best for



Source: Village of Wheeling

Pioneer Press / abc

In the eyes of the Village Board, the developers have only one option, and that is to work together. With a new tax increment financing district getting closer to a reality in that area, the board made it clear the village will condemn the land and bid it out to another developer if the two cannot put a plan together.

"You guys are fortunate, because we could TIF it and condemn it," Trustee Dean Argiris said of the site. "Don't mess it up. If you do, this

Village Planner Jeff Harris said there can be advantages and disadvantages to having more than one developer work on a single project. He said having more developers means more ideas could be generated with more than one person looking at the project.

However, he also said it could take more time to get the project completed.

"There are complications in getting multiple minds to agree," he said. "It could take longer, because it's more involved and there are more

Where does all the money from the Palwaukee Airport go?

To the editor: With over 18,000 people impacted by Palwaukee jet noise and all the air pollution by these jets, Wheeling and Prospect Heights as co-owners should benefit financially in some way from the airport users. So it was fantastic to see in today's Daily Herald that our "airport purports to deliver a \$37.5 million direct economic return to the community each year." What the Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment (CASE) would like to know is what community is our airport talking about? It certainly can't be the towns of Prospect Heights and Wheeling, as both towns are struggling financially.

We know from the intergovernmental agreement that by state and federal law, all airport generated revenues must be returned to Palwaukee Airport for airport use. Any sales taxes have been reported as

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580
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so minuscule that neither town has been able to identify exactly how much is coming from our airport. CASE has said repeatedly through the years that what the two co-owners spend on police and fire protection for the airport and attorney fees to review airport matters, far exceed anything that we receive from Palwaukee. To date, this has not been challenged and there doesn't appear to be any documentation from both towns.

So it's time for a careful accounting. What is going on? Where is this \$37.5 million? It's time for an investi-

gation, and it's time for the people impacted to benefit in some way for the extreme burden our airport has placed on our communities.

Warren Sunde
Prospect Heights

8/18/02
9/5/02
Wheeling hires village manager

Des Plaines' former city manager will return to the north-west suburbs as the top administrator in Wheeling.

Wally Douthwaite, 48, city manager of Springboro, Ohio, for about two years, will start in Wheeling Sept. 16, village officials announced this week.

He will be paid \$124,000 a year and receive a \$500 monthly car allowance. He was city manager of Des Plaines from 1993 to 2000.

"It'll be nice to come back to the area," Douthwaite said Tuesday. "The village is a community with potential. My job is to help implement the vision and the policy of the board and render routine services in a cost-effective manner."

He will replace Craig G. Anderson, who was fired this year because of what trustees called "failure to meet goals."

James Grabowski, assistant village manager, was interim village manager but quit in June to become administrator of Minooka.

Wheeling finds new village manager

The Wheeling Village Board was expected to appoint Wallace Douthwaite as village manager at Tuesday night's meeting.

Douthwaite, who most recently served as city manager in Springboro, Ohio, has 27 years experience in local government administration. He has served as the chief executive for Greenacres City, Fla.; Gresham, Ore.; Moline, Ill.; and in Des Plaines. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Miami University, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas.

"We believe that we have found a city manager who will work closely with the Village Board to see Wheeling achieve its true potential," said Village President Greg Klatecki.

"Wally's experience in economic development and ability to lead the municipal organization is exactly what we need at this time in Wheeling."

Douthwaite, according to a statement issued by the village, has experience with downtown redevelopment, tax increment financing and adaptive reuse of land in order to maximize a city's tax base. He has been extensively involved in successful economic development projects in Springboro, Moline, Gresham and Des Plaines, according to the statement.

Douthwaite fills the position that became vacant in February when Craig Anderson, Wheeling's village manager for more than 13 years, was fired.

8/29/2002
Village zeroing in on Lake-Cook, Milwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Officials are considering changing the zoning of properties on the northern edge of the village to pave the way for future development.

The Wheeling Plan Commission is recommending the Village Board approve an amendment to the village's comprehensive plan in order to establish a new tax increment financing district near Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

The new TIF district would extend west to Wolf Road and south to about Mayer Avenue. Village planner Jeff Harris said the comprehensive plan must conform to what will be developed in the TIF district before it is established. Villages create TIF districts as a way to fund new projects and redevelop older properties.

The existing comprehensive plan calls for office/research uses in that area. Two developers, Mark Smith of Smith Family Construction, and Anthony Tantillo of Tantillo Homes, are looking to build condominiums, which is prompting the change in the comprehensive plan. The new use for the area will be for commercial and residential development.

Harris said that although the village is working on a complete overhaul of the comprehensive plan, the amendment is being drafted separately because of the TIF issue.

Jeanne Linwall of Camiros helped draft the amendment. Camiros is working with village officials on the comprehensive plan overhaul.

"This is the best and most appropriate use for the (property)," Linwall said, "especially for the TIF."

Camiros consultants Linwall and Bill James presented the land-use changes for the area in July.

They also suggested the village look to build a hotel and resort at the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue where the Wedgewood Riding Center is located.

Tantillo and Smith pitched a proposal to the Village Board Aug. 19 for a development they plan to work on together — Smith using the Wedgewood property and Tantillo using the vacant lot and Wonder Bread store immediately to the south.

Smith also is working on Prairie Park of Wheeling, a 306-unit condominium development slated to be built on the Simmerling Fence property along Wolf Road, which is included in the proposed TIF district.

Plan commissioners Stuart Shapiro and Ray Lang asked why the comprehensive plan amendment only showed land-use changes for a few parcels. Linwall explained it was strictly for TIF establishment purposes. (Continued on page 16)

PIONEER PRESS 8/29/2002
Remembering the Sept. 11 victims

Hello! I've got that "Labor Day feeling" as I have been "Wheeling Around Town." Here's what's happening!

It has almost been a year since the tragic events of Sept. 11. Wheeling will be hosting a memorial service to remember the day that all of us will never forget.

The Wheeling Village Board would like to invite the community to a candlelight service Sept. 11 to honor those who died in the attacks. The service will focus on a theme of "Reflections." It will begin at 8 p.m. at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Noted Chicago sports and radio personality Wayne Messmer will be the featured singer and presenter. He has been the "voice" of the national anthem for various local sports events, including games for the Chicago Cubs. He also produces "Messmerizing Moments," a series of motivational audio essays heard on a local radio station six times each weekday.

Candles for the event will be supplied by the village. Opening remarks will be followed by the posting of the colors by Amvets Post 66. Messmer will then sing "God Bless America," followed by his own remarks.

The evening also will include a tribute to Wheeling firefighters, paramedics and police officers. Police chaplain **Keith Plummer**, pastor of Our Savior Free Church, and **Don Medernach** of Abundant Life Worship Center in Arlington Heights also will speak. There will be a silent remembrance where all those attending will be able to think about what this horrible event has meant to them.

Wayne Messmer will then conclude the evening with the song, "America The Beautiful."

If you would like more information about the event, you may call Trustee **Judy Abruscato** at (847) 459-2666 ext. 1407.

Let's all unite to remember this event!

PIONEER PRESS 8/29/02
Village Continued from page 5

poses.

"As far as developing goals, objectives and policies, that's more a debate for the vision of the TIF," she said. "Right now, we're just looking at kinds of (land) uses."

The village has been looking to establish a TIF district in the area for some time. Amending the comprehensive plan is one step in getting it established. Village President Greg Klatecki said establishing the TIF district will help improve Milwaukee Avenue as a whole.

"We're looking at making Milwaukee Avenue look good," he said. "There are lots that don't belong there."

Klatecki said possible contamination of some parcels along Lake-Cook Road could be cleaned up with the use of

the TIF dollars. TIF funds can also be used for utility and other infrastructure improvements. The TIF money is generated from bonds issued by the village. The bonds are paid off through revenues generated from increased property taxes.

Smith could use TIF dollars for Prairie Park because of soil conditions that will force him to build the condominium buildings on pilings, which drastically increases the costs of construction. The pilings are necessary because a wetland was covered with poor soil when Simmerling Fence was built. Harris said TIF dollars can only be used for infrastructure improvements or demolishing existing buildings. They cannot be used to defray the costs of constructing the actual buildings.

Neighboring towns to work out airport problems

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials will meet later this month to try to mend the deepening rift separating the two towns on Palwaukee airport issues.

Prospect Heights for months has been calling for the meeting, accusing Wheeling leaders of intentionally undermining efforts to ensure Palwaukee Municipal Airport benefits

both towns. Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport through an intergovernmental agreement, but have repeatedly but heads over airport efforts to build new T-shaped hangars for private planes and efforts to bring a new plane maintenance company to Palwaukee.

Some Prospect Heights aldermen say Wheeling trustees keep "stabbing them in the back," prompting a meeting Aug. 28 they expect to become a "free for all" to allow both sides to learn

what has motivated their recent decisions.

• Wheeling initially wouldn't approve a budget item to pay for installation of a water main on the Prospect Heights side of the airport for fire sprinklers required to build new T-hangars.

• Prospect Heights refused to let Wheeling annex pockets of unincorporated Cook County along the airport unless the water main was approved.

• Wheeling approved the water main, but then approved a sublease to

allow the new Palwaukee Service Center to repair and sell aircraft at the airport, except out of a hangar on the Prospect Heights side of the airport.

• Prospect Heights accused Wheeling of trying to prevent new sales taxes from benefiting the city. Aldermen again decided to hold off on letting Wheeling annex land along Wolf Road Estates—land for which Wheeling said it already provides police and other service.

"These are the things that we need to talk about," Wheeling Village Presi-

dent Greg Klatecki said. "It's tit for tat and we're not solving any issues. When you create problems with a joint venture like this in the airport, the airport is not moving forward."

The airport purports to deliver a \$37.5 million direct economic return to the community each year.

The meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Rob Roy Country Club will have no attorneys and no city or village staff from either town, as officials hope to speak privately about their differences.

PIONEER PRESS - 8/22/2002

Training pays off in pool rescue

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Lifeguard Max Vilchik's first rescue is not one he will soon forget.

Vilchik, an 18-year-old first-year lifeguard at the Wheeling Aquatic Center, had to put his instincts and training to the test July 9 when he pulled 9-year-old Andrew Cha out of the pool. Cha was floating face-down, unconscious, when he was found. As Vilchik was assessing Cha's vital signs, Pool Manager Derek Karcz rushed over and began rescue breathing on the child.

Both young men received the Life Saving Award from the Village Board for rescuing Cha, a Korean visitor who was at the center with a summer camp group.

"He was swimming in the water to my left," Vilchik explained. "At first, I didn't see him. When I looked over, I said, 'Oh my God, he's not moving,' so I jumped right in and got him out."

Karcz, 22, was in the guard house at the time. The air horns went off, he said, as they do when a serious situation arises at the center. Karcz



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Derek Karcz helped save a 9-year-old boy's life after he was found face-down in the pool at the Wheeling Aquatic Center July 9. Both he and lifeguard Max Vilchik received the Life Saving Award from the village for their actions that afternoon.

said he rushed over to find Cha on the ground unconscious, vomiting and not breathing.

"He had a pulse, so we didn't have to do CPR," Karcz said. "There was a problem clearing his airway. But we got it all cleared and I began the rescue breathing sequence."

After a few sequences, Cha's eyes opened and he began crying.

"That's a good sign," Karcz said. "It means that he's breathing."

Vilchik said he was relieved after hearing the boy cry.

"I felt so much better," he said. "I think everyone had that sense of relief."

After Cha regained con-

sciousness, the paramedics arrived and took him to the hospital.

Vilchik said he sees children safely floating in the water all the time, but it was his training that made him recognize Cha was in trouble. He said he noticed foam around the boy's face, a clear sign of trouble. He fell back on his training to fish the boy

out.

"The guards train really hard," Karcz said. "There's a lot of repetition in the training, so the response is automatic. It's emotional to see something like that. But nobody panicked. You can't panic. You have between 200 and 300 people here at any time. You just have to clear the area and make sure nobody else gets in and starts drowning."

Vilchik and a few other guards who were on duty that day took a few days off after the rescue. Karcz said the Wheeling Park District provides support and counseling to guards who want it after such an incident.

Karcz said such an incident makes all the guards more aware and more attentive at their jobs. Most of the guards are between the ages of 15 and 18, he said.

"They mature pretty quickly," he said.

Vilchik said the rescue changed his perspective of the job.

"I thought it was going to be fun in the sun, you know? I was going to work on my tan and be outdoors," he said. "I was wrong."

PIONEER PRESS 8/29/2002

Village wants one good plan

Two builders need to find common ground on proposal

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Although two developers

immediate south and the Wonder Bread facility. The Village Board wants to see a mixed commercial and residential development.

the two developers. "There's a lot of good things on the table, and you need to get them together."

Public Library Sept. 13. Heather J. Smith at a workshop held at the Indian Trails High School students interested in learning more about improvisational theater will have the chance to learn from

Library to offer improv workshop

the two developers. "There's a lot of good things on the table, and you need to get them together."

Registration is required to attend the workshop, open only to members of the community.

Public Library Sept. 13. Heather J. Smith at a workshop held at the Indian Trails High School students interested in learning more about improvisational theater will have the chance to learn from

Library to offer improv workshop

the foundation, said running the bookmobile year-round will help the library partner with other organizations' literacy efforts.

Proposed TIF district

10/17/02 0200

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DEPARTMENTS

AT THE LIBRARY	83
CAMPUS CLOSE-UPS	80
CLASSIFIED ADS	C1
CROSSWORD	B30
DIVERSIONS	B3
ENGAGEMENTS	79
FOOD	75
PROPERTY TRANSFERS	86
IMAGES	17
PAUL SASSONE	14
SCHOOL SCENE	22
SHOWTIME	B10
MARCY STILLMAN	20
SPORTS	12
PEEK AT THE WEEK	18
OPINION	14
POLICE BLOTTER	12

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A day for healing, remembering

Pioneer Press 9/19/2002

Ceremonies mark year since terrorist attacks

BASEL PITTSBURGH
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents gathered with friends and neighbors in simple candlelight ceremony in front of Village Hall Sept. 11 to reflect on the tragic events of a year ago.

One year later

A similar ceremony was held nearly a year to the day, while the images of the terrorist attacks were still fresh. Those who attended were shocked, confused and grief-stricken.

On Sept. 11, 2002, they came waving American flags, and some wore T-shirts and sweatshirts with the logos of the New York City fire and police departments. No one had forgotten what had happened a year ago that day, but they were stronger and more hopeful for the future.

The evening featured the unmistakable voice of Wayne Messmer singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America."

Messmer sang the national anthem early in the ceremony. Many mouthed the words to themselves, but no one dared to try to sing over Messmer's booming voice. He wrapped up the ceremony singing "God Bless America," inviting the whole crowd to join him. Most everyone did and raised their lit candles in the air while they sang.

Messmer also talked about his own memories of the day of the attacks. He was scheduled to speak at the senior center in Park Ridge that day. None of the seniors there were aware of what had happened that morning, as the television was turned off and there was no radio.

"The director pulled me aside and said 'You have to



Jim Atwood/For Pioneer Press

Wayne Messmer sings the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the Sept. 11 reflections ceremony at Wheeling Village Hall.

tell them," Messmer said. "A polite visit had turned into an interesting moment, as I was going to give them the worst possible news."

Messmer quoted George Washington and Abraham Lincoln about the human sacrifices that are needed in order to live in a free society. After the ceremony, Messmer greeted residents who attended the service and signed autographs.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Wheeling police and fire department chaplains Keith Plummer and Don Medernach.

Plummer said tragedy provides the backdrop for courageous acts. He spoke about Secret Service agents who



Jim Atwood/For Pioneer Press

Wheeling Fire Lt. Pat Trunda (left), firefighter/paramedic Chris Riley, who is holding 12-month-old Masona, and Riley's wife, Jennifer, listen to speakers at the Sept. 11 reflection ceremony.

stepped in front of President Ronald Reagan when he was shot in March 1981.

"They acted as they did because of the kind of people they were — people of courage," Plummer said.

Plummer then said those same people of courage can be found on the streets of Wheeling in its police officers.

"They never know what awaits them during a routine traffic stop or a domestic violence call or when they serve a warrant," he said. "They show their courage every day."

Medernach spoke about the village's firefighters, who, he said, always respond unselfishly to every call.

"Firefighters respond with intense focus in saving a burning building or saving an injured person, and never think if that person is good enough," he said. "To Chief (Keith) MacIssac and the rest of the Wheeling firefighters, I pray and wish for many safe

years of service ahead."

The Wheeling Knights of Columbus served as the ceremony's color guard. Trustee Judy Abruscato acted as the master of ceremonies.

Other messages of hope were shared at St. Mary Catholic Church last week, when the community came together in a ceremony to honor their children and to commit to their well-being. Local officials joined clergy and Catholic educators in reminding St. Mary students not only about the pains of Sept. 11 but about their place in a changing world.

"Children were often anxious and not feeling very safe last year," said St. Mary School Principal Gary Campione. "We wanted them to know we will take care of each other and we will protect them; that there is hope in this world."

The students' confidence in that message was evident as

they helped sing songs with smiles on their faces and as the St. Mary School band members tapped their feet as they played "America the Beautiful" and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Dan Dowd, St. Mary's eighth-grade Student Council president, said he and his fellow students have found one year later that their school played a major role in dealing with the effects of the attacks. He said last week's ceremony reaffirmed that commitment.

"We are very united as a school. It is great for all of us to come together," the 14-year-old youth said. "That is what really helped us through Sept. 11."

And does he think that his school and his community are trying to keep him and his classmates safe?

"Yes," Dowd said. "I feel safe."

The children of St. Mary (Continued on page 14)

■ Healing Continued from page 5

played a central role in the ceremony, which was titled "A Day of Reflection and Remembrance." They led the gathering in song. They presented the colors. They led the national anthem, and they placed flowers in a basket under the glimmer of two small candles held by two of their peers.

They heard inspirational

messages from village leaders and clergy, including a call to never give in to those who prefer violence over civil discourse and compromise.

"No matter our age, old or young. No matter our race. We must hold on to hope," said the Rev. Richard Oliver of Kingswood United Methodist Church. "We must hold on to peace."

And not everyone in Bartlett is rushing to take their children out of the game.

"I have been involved with the league for seven years," said Bartlett resident Mary Beth Belcher, "and I have seen girls play that are as good or better than the boys.

"It shouldn't be that after taking one step forward, they should now

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Messmer to lead services

PIONEER PRESS - 9/15/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The voice known for singing about the "home of the brave" will make a special appearance at a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony scheduled for Wednesday in Wheeling.

Wayne Messmer, who is well-known for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" at many sports venues in Chicago, said he was immediately interested in coming to Wheeling after Trustee Judy Abruscato called him with the invitation.

"I knew on Sept. 11 there were going to be celebrations of all sorts," he said. "I had left my evening void, not that I was actively searching for something. Wheeling thought of me and called, and I told them that I would be interested."

Abruscato said the idea to call Messmer hit her while she was watching him singing on television.

"I was ecstatic to get him," she said. "What a way to give reflection and remembrance to 9/11."

The theme of the evening will be "Reflections." Abruscato said it made more sense to her to reflect upon both the events of Sept. 11 and on the public servants who protect the public every day.

Aside from singing "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful," Messmer is scheduled to give some remarks that evening. He said he will be using many historical quotes he recited while he narrated with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra earlier this year in a piece called "Liberty for All."

"I've always said the next best thing to being clever is to quote others who are," he said. "The words really fell in my lap."

Messmer said he plans to use quotes from John F. Kennedy, George Washington and Patrick Henry, to name a few. He said the events of Sept. 11 affected different people in different ways, and he hopes to reflect that in his remarks.

Abruscato said the service also will include a tribute to wheeling firefighters, police officers and paramedics. Police chaplains Keith Plummer of Our Savior Free Church and Don Medernach of Abundant Life Worship Center in Arlington Heights also will make remarks.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday in front of Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Candles will be provided by the village.

Other ceremonies will be held that day, as well, including one at Addolorata Villa.

Addolorata spokeswoman Beverly Kennedy said the residents gathered to organize an event to commemorate the tragic events that will include a display of gratitude for public servants.

Firefighters, police officers and paramedics have been invited to attend the day's events, which include a morning Mass and a flag-raising ceremony to follow. Residents and staff who served in the military will lead the procession to the flagpole, Kennedy said.

"(The residents) feel very strongly about this," Kennedy said. "We never really think about how this event affects people who have seen 80 to 85 years of tragedy in this country. They're very passionate about this."

Kennedy said the residents, many of whom have relied on the help of firefighters and paramedics, also wanted to express how grateful they are to their public servants.

"It's an emotional package," Kennedy said. (Continued on page 10)



Pioneer Press file photo

Rhoda Wehner (left) and Trustee Judy Abruscato lead the group in "America the Beautiful" during a vigil held last year on Sept. 25. The village will host another ceremony Wednesday to remember Sept. 11.

Messmer Continued from page 7

PIONEER PRESS - 9/15/2002

"This cuts through. Not just 9/11, but a day-to-day relationship with their public servants," rather than looking at our daily survival," she said.

The Pavilion Senior Center also will host a group discussion allowing local seniors to talk about how the attacks affected them.

The discussion will be led by Pavilion Director Nancy Janssen, social worker Jan Christensen and bereavement counselor Gert Trudy. Janssen said the goal is to get participants to find a way to make positive changes from the events.

"The idea is to take a look at our own lives and the people we love, and make priorities in the grand scheme,

Christensen said the attacks made people ask a lot of questions about the world around them and about themselves. She said she thought it would be helpful to some to think about their direction and what they might want to change.

"Since 9/11 a lot of people have been re-evaluating their lives," Christensen said. "It impacted so many of us and made a lot of us ask, 'Who knows what tomorrow will bring?'"

The discussion will be held at the Pavilion at 1 p.m. Sept. 11 and is open to all seniors.

HERALD - 9/15/2002

Wheeling hires ex-Des Plaines city manager

BY CORRIE CUTRER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Village officials in Wheeling wanted someone firm and aggressive to lead the city toward further economic growth. Now they're hoping that the seven months they spent searching for a new village manager is going to pay off.

Wheeling trustees announced this week the appointment of Wallace "Wally" Douthwaite, 48, as the new village manager. He will be paid \$124,000 a year.

The selection of Douthwaite signals the end of a lengthy search to replace former Village Manager Craig Anderson, who was dismissed in February. Trustees blamed Anderson for stagnant development and a lack of strong leadership skills.

Since Anderson left, filling even the interim position for village manager became a juggling act for trustees.

Former Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski agreed to take over but left four months later to manage the village of Minooka in Will County. Public Works Director Guy Kolberg was then named to the spot and has occupied the position since early June.

The city manager of Des Plaines until two years ago, Douthwaite was dismissed from his most recent job about five months ago as city manager for the town of Springboro, Ohio.

"We had a controversy surrounding the appointment of a new police chief," Douthwaite said.

Douthwaite explained that he withheld from the council background information about a candidate that did not seem pertinent to the police job.

Although the council agreed on the irrelevance of the information in theory, they were upset about the way Douthwaite handled the issue. "The council asked me to resign," Douthwaite said. "I had no choice but to leave."

He had only worked in Ohio for a little more than a year.

wait's dismissal did not tarnish his record in their eyes. The situation surrounding the prospective Ohio police chief had to do with personal, family issues that had occurred six years prior to the council's discovery.

"I've got no problem with this guy," Trustee Pat Horcher said of Douthwaite. "He was judged too harshly for what he did."

It was actually Douthwaite's experience as city manager in Des Plaines for the eight years preceding his move to Ohio that helped to land him the job, Horcher said.

Throughout his tenure there, Douthwaite was involved in several initiatives to develop areas of Des Plaines into tax increment financing districts.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki said he is planning on Douthwaite jumping into a similar situation when he begins his job Sept. 16.

Klatecki said he would like to see the area at Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue be made a tax increment financing district.

And Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he also wants the downtown area near the train station to undergo renovation.

"He will have to hit the ground running, not walking," Lehmann said.

Added Klatecki, "We're looking for a village manager who will take the lead and direct us."

A licensed aviation pilot, Douthwaite said he also anticipates helping address issues surrounding growth at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, shared by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Aside from focusing on these specific issues, Horcher said he hopes Douthwaite will be a leader who takes charge and stands his ground.

"The main thing I want this guy to do is make sure everybody else is doing their job," Horcher said. "The style that I've seen of him is that he'll listen, but then he'll make a decision and that's the way it is."

"He's going to make everybody the

HERALD 9/14/2002

Open house offers fingerprinting:

Horizons Children's Academy in Wheeling wants parents to take advantage of the opportunity to let Wheeling police fingerprint their children at an open house the academy is hosting today. Other events at the back to school open house include face-painting, storytelling, a Wheeling fire department fire truck set up for children to explore and classroom tours. Horizons is a Wheeling Township and United Way agency and is set up to provide school for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. The open house is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Horizons, 3316 Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling.

HERALD 9/14/02

Wheeling checks for seat belts:

The Wheeling Police Department will check vehicles today to see if riders are complying with seat-belt laws. An "enforcement zone" will be set up from 4 to 7 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Drivers entering the zone will have to drive slowly enough for police to see if they're wearing seat belts. Those who aren't will be stopped and ticketed.

9/25/02 - HERALD

Homes evacuated over gas leak:

Construction crews ruptured a gas line in Wheeling Tuesday night, forcing the evacuation of nearby houses and sending a natural gas odor as far as Buffalo Grove, authorities said. Firefighters responded about 5:05 p.m. to the area of West Wayne Place and North Dennis Road, said Wheeling fire Battalion Chief Robert Leipzig. A contractor replacing sewers along Wayne Place struck a two-inch gas line in the neighborhood. About 10 homes had to be evacuated before the almost five-hour ordeal ended, he said. People were allowed back in their houses late Tuesday, but most people had made arrangements to stay with family, he said. There were no injuries, but the smell of the leak was detected as far away as Buffalo Grove. "We were getting calls from the next block to miles away," Leipzig said.

Wheeling's Fall Fest features 5K run

BY CASS CLYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While most families will hop in the car to enjoy an afternoon of games in Wheeling this weekend, others will walk, jog and run to have fun at Fall Fest 2002.

For the first time, the Wheeling Park District is adding a 5K run to the activities of its annual fall festival.

The park district took over hosting the run, along with a 1.5-mile family walk and a Kids Dash, from the village, which typically hosted the walk during its spring Pageant of Nations cultural event, said the park district's Steven Schapiro.

The park district and the village teamed up last winter to offer the Passport to the World cultural festival as an alternative to Pageant of Nations. Now, the park district has decided it should offer the 5K run because it is within the district's "realm of expertise."

"There's a fitness component and also a recreational component," Schapiro said. "And plus, we wanted to piggy-back on our annual fall festival, which comes after that."

The 5K run, family walk and Kids Dash are at 9 a.m., 9:10 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. respectively Sunday at the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

Fall Fest 2002 is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering a comedy hypnotist, climbing wall, pumpkin moonwalk, crafts and carnival games.

Admission to the festival is free, but there are fees for concessions and for rides on ponies, a hay wagon and a trackless train.

"It's just a feel-good way of giving back and thanking the community for their patronage," Schapiro said of the event the park district has held for eight years.

The 5K run is drawing registrations from jogging enthusiasts from Wheeling and surrounding suburbs, many of whom use such events as training.

"The Chicago marathon is in October, and sometimes, a lot of these events held in the fall are used as training for longer runs," Schapiro said.

Race fees are \$20 for the 5K run, \$10 for the family walk and \$7 for the children's dash. All registered participants get a T-shirt and a goody bag.

Pioneer Press - 9/12/02

Pavilion opens SeniorNet

The Pavilion Senior Center will be offering computer classes for anyone over 50 through the SeniorNet program. SeniorNet classes run for eight-week terms and are led by volunteers. Classes at the Pavilion are scheduled to begin Sept. 23, with the first term ending Nov. 16. SeniorNet runs four terms each year.

Registration for classes will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pavilion, 199 First St., Wheeling, Saturday. Classes are offered at different times, including evenings, Mondays through Saturdays.

The first class offered, Introduction to Computers, will help people understand different terminology, learn keyboarding and mouse skills, as well as learn about different software programs.

Fees include a \$40 annual fee for membership in SeniorNet and another \$45 for each class.

Pioneer Press - 9/12/02

Seat belt checkpoint nabs 65

In less than three hours, Wheeling police officers issued 65 tickets for seat-belt violations during an enforcement checkpoint over the Labor Day weekend.

The village has an ordinance allowing officers to stop motorists whom they see are not wearing a seat belt. During the recent enforcement effort, a spotter would sit a few hundred feet from the zone and alert officers as to who was not wearing a seat belt. Only drivers who were seen not wearing a seat belt were pulled over.

Police also increased patrols to find drunk drivers over the holiday weekend, resulting in 10 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The enforcement programs were funded by the Wheeling Safe Communities Program with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety.

Pioneer Press - 9/12/02

Horizons to host open house

Horizons Children's Academy will be hosting an open house Saturday to educate the public about its services and to entertain children.

Members of Horizons' staff will be there in open classrooms to answer questions about classes and the early childhood education program. The Wheeling Police Department will be there to fingerprint children for identification purposes. The Wheeling Fire Department also is expected to be represented, bringing a truck for children to explore.

Other activities include face painting, storytelling, origami, circle games, computer games and music. Refreshments will be served.

The open house will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at the center, located at 3916 S. Schoenbeck Road, across the street from the Indian Trails Public Library. Horizons is licensed to care for children between the ages of six weeks to 12 years. For more information about the open house, call (947) 459-1617.

Reflection of 9/11

A "Reflections" Candlelight

Service is scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki and the Board of Trustees invite the community to the candlelight service to commemorate the 2001 attacks on our nation. Focusing on the theme of "Reflections," the service will honor those who died. The village of Wheeling will provide candles.

The posting of colors by the color guard from Philip Carpenter Amvets Post 66 will follow the 8 p.m. opening remarks. Wayne Messmer, a noted Chicago sports and radio personality known as the "voice" of the national anthem for various local sporting events, will be the featured singer and presenter. If you have ever heard him sing the national anthem, you will agree that he is right up there with Kate Smith when he sings "God Bless America."

Police chaplains Keith Plummer, pastor of Our Saviour Free Church, and Don Medenach of Abundant Life Worship Center in Arlington Heights, will provide a tribute to Wheeling firefighters/paramedics and police officers. There will be a silent remembrance and then Messmer will close the ceremony with "America the Beautiful."

Personal schedules may not allow for each neighbor to attend the candlelight service, but perhaps you can have your own moment of reflection sometime during the day or evening of Sept. 11. We will be together in that spirit as a nation. God bless America!

Pioneer Press 9/15/2002

Wheeling takes lead in training volunteers for disasters

BY CASS CLYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Rescue planners in Wheeling realize that police and firefighters would be too busy to help all of Wheeling's residents if a catastrophe ever hit town.

When the fiercest tornado to rip through northern Illinois in two decades touched down in Plainfield in 1990, almost 500 homeowners were left searching for a place to sleep and to mend their rattled nerves.

Four years earlier, the Des Plaines River charged its banks, leaving

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Red Cross training opportunities

15,000 people searching for a hot meal and dry clothes while police and emergency workers were busy piling sandbags and paramedics tended to the injured.

With such catastrophes in mind, Wheeling decided two years ago to

take advantage of a seldom-used American Red Cross training initiative to help residents displaced by disasters.

Now, the village has the distinction of being the first in the Northwest suburbs to have a team of volunteers complete training for an emergency first-response unit, Red Cross officials said.

After Sept. 11, the potential value of the first-responder program grew for many communities, but Wheeling's Community Assistance Relief Effort had a head start.

"The advantage is, if something

were to happen in Wheeling, with them having individuals trained, I don't have to pull volunteers from Elgin," said Elsie Serrano, disaster specialist with the Greater Chicago Chapter American Red Cross out of Arlington Heights. "If we were to have some kind of mass casualty, obviously our resources would be a bit slim."

It could take up to four hours to organize Red Cross workers from Waukegan to Joliet to help people in a local emergency, like a hazardous materials spill, officials said. A wide-

See TRAINING on PAGE 4

Training: Wheeling looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers

Continued from Page 1

spread disaster could tie up crews for up to two days.

Said Wheeling's Safe Communities Coordinator Thomas Pilewski, "There might be tornadoes, or a hazmat spill, or a gas main leak where you might have to evacuate a portion of the community to put them somewhere if for no other reason than to give them a place to find a relative or people they can stay with."

"So instead of having that three- or four-hour delay when something happens, we have that first response," Pilewski said.

The Greater Chicago Chapter of the Red Cross has offered the mass-care training to towns for about 15 years.

Yet less than a dozen of the 170 communities the chapter serves in a seven-county area have taken advantage of it, Red Cross officials said.

"We trained Naperville several years ago, but we don't have specific outreach so it's not something that a lot of them might know about," said

Providing a first response

What: The Greater Chicago Chapter American Red Cross offers communities training for volunteers and emergency management staff to provide emergency shelter for residents displaced by disasters.

Who: Wheeling, Palatine and Glenview are the first North and Northwest suburban towns to use Red Cross training to form first-response teams for shelter relief. Other towns include Naperville, Evergreen Park and Schiller Park.

How: To learn more about bringing the program to your community, call the Greater Chicago Chapter of the American Red Cross at (312) 729-6100.

Red Cross Training Coordinator Doug Overmyer.

Naperville, Evergreen Park on Chicago's southwestern border, Schiller Park southeast of O'Hare International Airport, Palos Park and about six other towns in that area put their emergency management team through the training, but Wheeling is one of few to rely so heavily on volunteers to help disaster victims.

"Wheeling was the first one," Serrano said.

For most towns, the Red Cross continues to use "shelter trailers"

equipped with cots, blankets, non-perishable snacks and other supplies the agency can drop off during an emergency, Overmyer said.

The benefit of first-response training, though, is that local residents are closer to the scene of emergencies and have a greater stake in making sure their communities are sheltered and safe, officials said.

Hello, Dolly: It's so nice to have you in Wheeling

Editor's Note: The Community Heroes column is written by Paul Safyan, a member of Wheeling's Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission seeks to recognize that individuals from many backgrounds enable Wheeling to appreciate its past and shape its future.

By PAUL SAFYAN

Dolly Hein is a dynamo. An 83-year-old dynamo. A double amputee dynamo.

How can this be? Hein believes fervently that you can do something about "anything that you want to do, if you set your mind to it." And then she proves it.

A Wheeling resident for almost 50 years, Hein is one of the pioneers who first settled in the Dunhurst subdivision. She moved here from rural Ironwood in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with her husband and three children and immediately took to the "small-town-near-a-big-city life," as she calls it. The family moved to Wheeling in order to care for her husband's mother, who was in failing health.

Gordon Hein soon opened a Mobil service station on the site of what is now the Hoyne Savings Bank. It became a community hub, a place for service and for exchanging the latest news. He often helped members of the growing business community get their cars or bikes going in the morning. Dolly was involved, too.

After eight years, Gordon realized he could have more independence and a less physically taxing job in his own business so he started what eventually became a small chain of auto parts stores. The first two were within the village of Wheeling — the first on what became the site of the old Union Hotel and is now a fashionable condominium complex. Subsequently, the couple opened stores in Mundelein, Northbrook and Buffalo



Dolly Hein

Grove. Dolly was involved in general office work and in sales in all of the stores, but especially the ones in Wheeling.

She enjoyed the partnership with her husband both in and outside of the business. Two of the three Hein children have also been involved in the business. As they began to sell the auto parts stores to "slow the pace a little," the couple operated a

Dolly said she likes to be in the middle of things, and she intends to keep it that way.

pub for several years that became a favorite village gathering place for young and old.

After Gordon's death at the relatively young age of 67, the family gradually sold the stores and Dolly began her more active period of volunteerism. Her principal work has been with senior citizens. She is chairwoman of Wheeling's Senior Citizen Commission and very involved in the activities at the Senior Center on First Street, where she is a member of the Senior Pavilion Advisory Board. For 12 years, she has enjoyed singing in the center's choral group, the

Pavilionaires. Dolly also is the president of the local chapter of AARP, which has about 80 members.

For many years, Dolly has been active in the work of the Wheeling Historical Society, holding a number of offices. She is serving as treasurer now. She has participated in both documentation and restoration activities. Dolly feels strongly that the last 50 years of the village's history is unique in this nation, and that more current citizens should learn that these events must be preserved and cherished.

Still, Dolly remains just as interested in the present. She regularly attends meetings of both the village Plan Commission and its Village Board. One of the members of the Plan Commission said Dolly knows as much and cares as much about Wheeling as anyone he has ever met in his many years as a resident. He greatly values her intellect and judgment, particularly when it comes to assessing people.

As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Wheeling Park District Board, Dolly was a strong advocate for cultural activities, including theater, dance and art. She still would like to see a cultural center become part of Wheeling's long-term plans.

When the park district sought to build the new Aquatic Center and more recently the modern Community Recreation Center, Dolly was out front on both referenda. She was active in convincing scores of people, especially seniors, how these facilities would add to the quality of life in Wheeling.

She talked with great joy about attending the 2002 Wheeling High School graduation ceremony. Her strongest impression was of how richly diverse the graduating class was and how people of all ethnic backgrounds — nearly 90 percent of the class — were going on to some form of

(Continued on page 78)

■ Dolly PIONEER PRESS - 9/5/2002 Continued from page 17

higher education. She said she learns a great deal from young people and wants to continue to do so.

How does a person who voluntarily gave up driving a number of years ago manage all this and continue to look for more? She has three "great" friends, and her son Bill, who transports her where she needs to go. Sometimes they ask her before she has a chance to ask them.

"I believe in angels," Dolly said.

Dolly said she likes to be in the middle of

things, and she intends to keep it that way. Keeping things moving. She is as sharp intellectually as anyone half her age, and she has a great knowledge of the village and how it works.

There is nothing retiring about her. You sense a great energy and sense of purpose about her. Aside from her family's business, she has made the village of Wheeling's betterment her life's work, and there doesn't seem to be any reason why she won't continue to do so for some time to come.

Seniors can get help with the Net

Greetings, Neighbor. SeniorNet is almost here. Registration is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Sept. 14 at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First Street. The doors will open at 8:15 a.m. The purpose of SeniorNet, a nonprofit organization, is to provide older adults with education for and access to computers and the Internet to enhance their lives and enable them to share their knowledge and wisdom with others.

Classes will be held twice a week for an hour each day. Morning and afternoon classes will be offered Monday through Friday with one morning class on Saturday with schedules to be provided. Evening classes are being considered based on the availability of volunteers to teach the classes.

Computer fundamentals, introduction to computers and word processing are the classes to be offered this first session in a joint agreement between the village of Wheeling and the Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council's Senior-Net program. Computer fundamentals will meet two hours per week for four weeks beginning the week of Sept. 23. Introduction to computers and word processing will each be eight-week classes. The second session of SeniorNet begins on Jan. 20, with additional course selections.

Now is the time for all interested adults age 50 and over to learn the basics of the computer world. Registration in SeniorNet requires a \$40 annual fee for membership in the national program and the local cost for the class. Computer fundamentals has a \$35 fee. Word processing and introduction to computers are each \$45. Membership at the Pavilion Senior Center is optional and residency in Wheeling is not required. So you can join with a friend from another community.

Hey, volunteers are still welcome to get trained as teachers for the SeniorNet program. You can learn more about that by contacting the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center at (847) 459-2670. This contact is also good for getting on the mailing list for class offerings and schedule information due out in December for the January 2003 classes.

Once you get comfortable with the workings of the computer, you will be ready to drop an e-mail to this neighbor to say "hi!" I will surely be looking forward to hearing how easy it was to get started.

WHEELING VILLAGE
TRIBUNE - 9/20/2002
WHEELING

Planner says bike paths needed

The village should consider creating a bicycle path network, trustees were told this week. Aside from the bikeways on Park District property, Wheeling lags behind neighboring suburbs, said Steven Boime, a Wheeling plan commissioner.

As part of a comprehensive plan being developed, officials should include bikeways and designate certain streets as bicycle routes, he said. Extensive stretches of utility company rights of way could be used for paths, Boime said.

John Maes

PIONEER PRESS - 9/5/2002 Board approves FedEx building

The Wheeling Village Board gave its unanimous approval to Federal Express Ground to build a new distribution facility on Wolf Road.

FedEx Ground will build a new 107,000-square-foot building on Wolf Road, just south of Palatine Road. FedEx will be moving into the new facility from its current Northbrook building.

The new facility will mainly have delivery vans driving in and out of it during the day. About 50 vans will be added to the already congested Wolf Road, but most of that traffic will be during off-peak hours. The facility also will have tractor-trailer trucks coming and going, mainly at night.

FedEx still needs to get its signs approved before construction can begin.

FedEx officials said the distribution center will bring 147 full-time jobs to Wheeling immediately and projected a total of 263 part-time, full-time and contracted jobs will be there in 10 years.

The new building will be built on a vacant 11.75-acre lot just south of the Commercial Cam building. FedEx officials said the center will move ground packages only, and there are no plans to use Palwaukee Municipal Airport as part of its operations.

Teenager dies in lake accident

Victim had gone for a swim at forest preserve

BY JON DAVIS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Sunday morning swim in a Northwest suburban forest preserve turned deadly for a 19-year-old Stone Park man.

Luis Cerna of Stone Park was pronounced dead at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates at 1:25 p.m., about an hour after he was pulled from Bode Lake South in the Poplar Creek Forest Preserve.

An autopsy at the Cook County medical examiner's office is scheduled for this morning.

Cerna was at Poplar Creek with two friends and apparently decided to swim despite the presence of several "no swimming" signs, said Steve Mayberry, spokesman for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Police.

"He began to have some trouble in the water, and a second friend (Raul Cabral, 19, of Franklin Park) went into the water to assist him," Mayberry said.

Cabral's attempt was unsuccessful, and a nearby fisherman, Chuck Chase of Streamwood, called Hoffman Estates police, Mayberry said.

Battalion Chief Mike Kelly of the Hoffman Estates Fire Department said that call was logged at 11:10 a.m., and firefighters were on the scene five minutes later.

Cerna's body was found 50 feet from shore and 12 feet underwater.

Cerna was "viable" when pulled from the water, Kelly said. Paramedics, including those from a Flight for Life team, gave him advanced life support in the ambulance and at the hospital, he added.

Hoffman Estates Fire Department divers were helped by divers from the Arlington Heights, Palatine, Palatine Rural Fire Protection District, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg and Wheeling fire departments.



PHOTOS BY GILBERT R. BOUGHTER III/DAILY HERALD

Divers and paramedics from several suburban fire departments search Bode Lake South for 19-year-old Luis Cerna of Stone Park. Divers found him Sunday after searching for an hour. Cerna later died at St. Alexius Medical Center.



PIONEER PRESS - 9/26/2002

Police to host child seat inspection

The Wheeling Police Department will be hosting a child passenger safety seat inspection in the parking lot of Sam's Club Saturday.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, four of five safety seats are incorrectly installed. At the inspection, parents can drive through for a free inspection and fitting by a NHTSA certified child seat technician. Technicians will check for proper fit of the seat to the child and advise parents of any recalls on seats. No appointment is necessary.

Wheeling police officer Dorann Swanson, who is also a certified seat technician instructor, said technicians will also be able to answer questions regarding the appropriate weight and age to move children from one type of seat to another. She said it is the department's hope the inspection will increase awareness for the use of booster seats for children as they outgrow convertible seats but are still too small for seat belts. Swanson said an improperly fitting seat belt is just as dangerous as an improperly fitted child safety seat.

The inspection will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sam's Club, 1055 McHenry Road. The event is being funded by the Wheeling Safe Communities Program with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

NEWS BRIEFS

PIONEER PRESS - 9/26/2002

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HERALD - 9/30/02
How Wheeling was first: Many people think that something bad has to happen before people start thinking about how to prevent it from happening again. That wasn't the case with Wheeling's emergency response unit.

We already told you the village was the first in the Northwest suburbs to take advantage of a seldom used Red Cross initiative to provide emergency shelter to residents displaced by weather disasters and other emergencies. A team of 24 certified volunteers stand ready to shelter up to 25 people at Wheeling village hall and the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center for up to 48 hours.

What we didn't tell you is why Wheeling was first.

"Wheeling just wanted to be prepared, and that's what we try to encourage," said Doug Overmyer, training coordinator for the Greater Chicago Chapter of the American Red Cross. "There's preparedness and then there's response, and we want people to get prepared first."

After months of planning, Wheeling offered 20 hours of Red Cross training to 12 residents a little more than a year ago.

The concept for the response unit first developed when police and firefighters teamed up with the village's senior center to consider ways to help senior citizens in emergencies. The village later decided to expand the program to cover the entire town.

"This program supports police and firefighters by freeing them to deal with the immediate needs of the event that's occurring," said Wheeling Health Commissioner Pat Drewes, who led development of the emergency unit.

The next step for Wheeling is to enlist Spanish-speaking volunteers.

"We're looking for a Spanish instructor for fall so we can provide the service more comfortably to that segment of our community," said Tom Pilewski, the village's safe communities coordinator.

HERALD 9/30/2002

Steakhouse

just might

replace former

Cajun eatery

It could be official on Oct. 11 — Wheeling could have a new eatery to replace Crawdaddy Bayou Cajun Restaurant.

Representatives for Pete Miller's Steakhouse have received a thumbs up from the Wheeling Plan Commission to transform the shuttered Crawdaddy Bayou at 412 Wheeling Road into a Pete Miller's.

Cass Clatt
Wheeling

If village trustees give their OK, Crawdaddy's funky lobster will

be replaced by Peter Miller's trademark scrawl. The new restaurant will be painted beige, maroon and green.

Pete Miller's would offer a blend of cigars, jazz music, a billiards room, and indoor and outdoor seating for 407 people who enjoy fresh seafood and aged steaks.

Pete Miller's is operated by The Clean Plate Club Restaurant Group, which owns several Evanston-area restaurants.

Representatives for Pete Miller's told plan commissioners they plan to close on the purchase of the former Crawdaddy Bayou building Oct. 11 with hopes of reopening the restaurant's doors in April.

Park may finally open next month

Pioneer Press 9/26/2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

clude a fountain with a pool and stone benches built into a stone wall surrounding the area.

Construction of the park was put on a fast track last November, when Trustee Trevor Lehmann brought in a design that board members overwhelmingly preferred to the scrapped Millennium Plaza.

The goal at that time was to open the park by the Fourth of July. However, four underground oil tanks were found below the ground on the northeast corner, creating a delay as construction crews had to work with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to make sure the soil was not contaminated and to remove the tanks. A gas station used to sit on that corner.

After the environmental issues were cleared up, crews have been working vigorously to finish the project.

Lehmann said the village is planning a grand opening ceremony for the park when it is finished. He said he hopes it's



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

A gazebo sits on the top of what will be a waterfall when crews finish up construction on Friendship Park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The park is expected to be ready in about two weeks.

After years of discussions and revisions, a park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled to open in about two weeks.

Claus Dunkelberg, a representative with Harding ESE, the Chicago firm handling the project, said he believes the park will be completed by Oct. 4 or Oct. 11. He said crews still have some stone work to finish on the site, as well as about two-thirds of the landscaping.

"We're pushing as hard as we can," he said. "It's like building a giant puzzle."

The park will encompass the northeast and northwest corners of the intersection. The northeast corner is the larger of the areas and includes a gazebo perched above two water falls and most of the landscaping. The smaller area across the street, in front of Walgreens, will in-

done by Oct. 4, but he wouldn't mind waiting until the 11th.

"I want it 100 percent done, even if it takes an extra week," he said. "And I want both corners done."

The village is spending \$1.56 million on the new park. The money is coming from a tax increment financing district fund. The village also received a \$50,000 grant for the project.

The cost is about 19 percent higher than what was originally anticipated to be spent, but an expanding size of the park and removal of the oil tanks increased the costs since January.

Motorists continue to switch lanes

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

have all six lanes completed by the end of October. The two new lanes of traffic will not open, however, until November, when sidewalks and the median are built and new landscaping is installed, Vitner said.

As soon as four lanes of traffic were open on Lake-Cook Road, crews hired by IDOT began closing off one lane of traffic in each direction on Dundee Road. IDOT has been resurfacing Dundee Road all the way from state Route 53 to Waukegan Road. IDOT resident engineer Yousef Alhamed said the section between Buffalo Grove Road and Milwaukee Avenue where crews are currently working is the last phase of the project. He said crews waited to work in Wheeling until Lake-Cook Road could handle more traffic.

"I'm glad we waited," Alhamed said. "It made it easier for the motoring public."

Alhamed said crews have been working steadily throughout the entire project, and that he does not foresee any problems with the work in Wheeling. He said crews are working long hours to make sure the project is done by Nov. 1.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Traffic lanes along Dundee Road are closed while crews from Plote Construction resurface the road in an Illinois Department of Transportation project. Work is expected to continue through October.

Heavy traffic and the mess created by the work has affected some businesses along Dundee Road. Tim Chun, of Wheeling Flowers, said business has slowed since the crews arrived.

"If it's hard to get in, they'll just pass by," he said of potential customers.

Chun said he was aware the

work was coming, and the shop had prepared for a slow down in business. He said he hopes it isn't too painful.

"It depends how things shape up out there," he said.

Henry Schneider, the manager of the Ace Hardware on Dundee Road, said he has seen fewer customers, too, and he expects it to get worse.

Some have said it is difficult getting from the street into the Ace parking lot.

"It's going to hurt us when they come back (in front of the store)," he said.

Mike Bastone, manager of B&L Liquors, said business has not slowed much yet. However, he is expecting a

(Continued on page 10)

Lanes

Continued from page 5

drop in sales when crews move closer to the Elmhurst Road intersection. The cement surface along that stretch of Dundee Road will slow progress on the work, he fears, which means crews will spend more time in front of his building.

"I don't know what the future brings," he said. "I'm just hoping they don't goof it up." Not all businesses are reporting losses. Jesus Altamirano, who works at Video Center in the Center Plaza, said customers have kept coming. "Everything's fine here," he said.

Dave Jonsei, manager of Radio Shack in Lynn Plaza, said he has noticed customers are changing their habits a bit, but business has remained steady.

"Fortunately, our customers are really loyal," he said. "At certain times, like rush hour, we're not getting as many people. But it seems like they're just coming in at different times."

Wheeling's new village manager takes reins during time of imminent c



Wallace Douthwaite

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A relentless journey toward change this year has brought Wheeling to a fork in the road—one that sets out two paths for the village's future.

More than holding the title of Wheeling's new village manager, Wallace "Wally" Douthwaite has become the one man entrusted with the task of helping

decide which road to take.

Douthwaite, most recently the city manager in Springboro, Ohio, began his job this week armed with 27 years of experience in city government and redevelopment—and with a job description to lead Wheeling's 229 employees.

Yet he brings that leadership to a town at a crossroads.

A group of Wheeling trustees has been staging an aggressive push the past eight

months to make the village a place where families can walk along freshly laid sidewalks on the way to manicured parks.

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Change: Trustee doesn't want village to do too much at once

Continued from Page 1

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Lehmann spoke in a recent interview before Douthwaite was appointed the new village manager.

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The issues at times have raised the question of power struggles on the village board and spawned debates about trustees having "pet projects."

There's a group of veteran board members who want to move more cautiously, fearing that Wheeling could become a wasteland of unfinished projects.

Village President Greg Klatecki and trustees Judy Abruscato and Robert Heer share visions of a new and improved Wheeling with those in the "new regime," but they fear Wheeling could suffer if it tries to do too much too fast.

"Of course, we're accountable to the taxpayers," Heer said. "I tell my fellow trustees, 'It's easy for us to sit up here and come up with all these ideas, but take some time and go out and talk to people about what it will mean to their taxes.'"

Abruscato said she wants to make sure Wheeling isn't biting off more than it can chew.

"Things are moving rather swiftly," Abruscato said. "We're already working on one end of Milwaukee Avenue, and now we're working at the other end of Milwaukee and looking at Dundee Road. But we need to focus on one thing at a time and get one project done."

Wheeling has two tax increment financing districts along Milwaukee Avenue designed to use property tax money for redevelopment. Some trustees have been pushing for redevelopment of the Wheeling municipal complex, and also the formation of a new TIF district along Lake Cook Road.

Since February, the village has spent about \$1.1 million buying many properties on Milwaukee Avenue with money earmarked for redevelopment in the existing financing districts.

The purchases began soon after the Wheeling village board dismissed former Village Manager Craig Anderson, saying he wasn't

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Douthwaite, 48, made a big splash with trustees for his experience managing the city of Des Plaines for eight years before taking a position in Ohio in 2000.

He saw the city through the redevelopment of its downtown, and Wheeling trustees on both sides of the village board said they're confident Douthwaite's financial and developmental experiences have equipped him to help determine the best path of economic growth.

Douthwaite says his first priorities will be to get an assistant village manager on board and to talk to trustees about how to fill the vacant village attorney position.

Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski left Wheeling to manage a small town in Will County after Village Manager Craig Anderson was dismissed by trustees.

Village Attorney James Rhodes surprised the board with early retirement after trustees voted to contract with an outside law firm to help with a development push.

"One of the things that impressed me is that the board committed to a goal-setting session within six months," Douthwaite said.

He acknowledged he had an "inking" about differing views on the board related to some issues before he took the job. "The first thing I want to do is sit down with the trustees, either individually or collectively, and get a sense for what their priorities are," Douthwaite said.

Village

Continued from page 5

"That's about all of any interest," Agerboard said. "He was only with us for a short period of time."

Agerboard declined to comment about the circumstances that led to Douthwaite's resignation. Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki said Douthwaite was very forthcoming about his resignation from the Springboro job, and that it had no bearing on the board's unanimous decision to hire him.

"We understood his reason for not telling the (council)," Klatecki said. "We asked him if he would ever do it again and he said, 'No.'"

Klatecki said Douthwaite's experience in redevelopment and finances put him above other candidates who applied.

"He's done a lot of redevelopment, especially in Des Plaines," Klatecki said.

Douthwaite said working on redevelopment will be one of his priorities. He said it is vital that the village stay focused on the Crossroads TIF District around the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, and continue to acquire property in the district and formalize a redevelopment plan there. He also said he plans to work on finalizing a new TIF District in the northeast area of the village.

Douthwaite has found a home in Wheeling and will be moving into the village with his wife and two daughters. He replaces Anderson, who left his duties in February. The Village Board cited Anderson's lack of aggressiveness in redevelopment issues as a big reason for his dismissal. Douthwaite will be Wheeling's sixth village manager since 1970, when the manager/board style of government was adopted locally.

Douthwaite served as Des Plaines city manager from 1998 until 2000. He then took a job as city manager in Springboro, Ohio, located about 15 miles

south of Dayton, with a population of about 12,000. Douthwaite grew up in the suburbs of Dayton and took a 25 percent cut in pay to become the Springboro manager. His salary there was \$87,000, compared to the \$116,000 he was making in Des Plaines. He signed a contract with Wheeling that gives him an annual salary of \$124,000. Craig Anderson, Wheeling's former village manager, had a salary of \$105,000.

Douthwaite did not last very long in Springboro. His 15-month stay ended in April when he resigned after hitting a new police chief.

"The (Springboro) City Council gave me a choice—resign or be fired," he said.

Douthwaite learned the newly hired chief had a five-week affair with another officer's wife at least 10 years ago while he was a police officer. Douthwaite said he did not believe the indiscretion was germane to the position and hired the man as police chief anyway. However, he did not tell the City Council about the affair. The council learned about it after a reporter uncovered the story and gave Douthwaite the ultimatum, he said.

"The council agreed that it wasn't germane to the position, but they got upset with me," he said. "It was one of those things: City councils do interesting things sometimes, which is their prerogative."

Springboro Mayor John Agerboard said Douthwaite's accomplishments included straightening out the city's audit with the state government and re-vamping a water treatment plant in the city.

Village manager ready to get down to business

By Casey Morfitt
Staff Writer

"I think I'm more in tune with the issues than someone else because of my time in the area."

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite

Monday will mark the beginning of Wallace Douthwaite's tenure as Wheeling's village manager.

Douthwaite, 48, already has plans to work on redevelopment in Wheeling, and he said his experience in replacing the old with the new will help in revitalizing the village. As city manager in Des Plaines, Douthwaite worked on the downtown redevelopment project there and established special construction areas known as tax increment financing districts to move the projects along.

"I think I'm more in tune with the issues than someone else because of my time in the area," he said. "There are many similarities. I think it will be a good fit."

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(Continued on page 9)

Wheeling's new village manager takes reins during time of imminent change



Wallace Douthwaite

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A relentless journey toward change this year has brought Wheeling to a fork in the road—one that sets out two paths for the village's future.

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decide which road to take.

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"I think the difference is that some of us are younger and have this exuberance and this energy that we want to move for-

ward and get things done and check things off the list," Trustee Trevo Lehmann said.

"Wheeling has an influx of young families and they want amenities," he said. "They want to have a downtown, they want to have parks, they want to have sidewalks and streetlights and be able to walk to go shopping, and there's nothing

See CHANGE on PAGE 11

Change: Trustee doesn't want village to do too much at once

Continued from Page 1

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PIONEER PRESS 7/20/02

Village

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Village manager ready to get down to business

BY CASEY MORFITT
STAFF WRITER

"The (Springboro) City Council... resign or be fired," he said.

Douthwaite learned the news five weeks ago while he was a pollster. He said he did not believe the news at the time, but he did not believe the news anyway. However, he did not believe the news anyway. However, he did not believe the news anyway. However, he did not believe the news anyway.

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\$17.6 million in bonds helps dev

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's decision this month to help a developer refinance a loan is simply a matter of good village relations, Wheeling attorneys said.

The village will enjoy little direct benefit from signing off on \$17.6 million in bonds to refinance a loan for the Woodland Creek Apartments complex on the corner of Wheeling and Palatine roads.

The 240-unit development was already completed as a project to offer housing to low- and moderate-income residents after the village first signed off on \$19.3 million in bonds in 1985, said Terrence Barnicle, an attorney with a Chicago law firm contracted by the village.

"It's more a matter of there being no disadvantage in doing it," Barnicle said. "The developer or the person who owns the apartments at the complex guarantees the pay-

ment of bonds. It's strictly where a municipality's name has to go on the bonds, but there is no obligation for the village to do anything or pay anything."

An outside credit agency guarantees that Wheeling has no liability.

Yet Wheeling comes out on top by cooperating with the developer because the village gains the reputation of having good village-developer relations, Barnicle said.

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School council members sought 9-26-02

Gary Mical, Wheeling Elementary School District 21 superintendent, is looking for volunteers to serve on a special council to examine attendance boundaries.

The Superintendent's Advisory Council will meet four times during an eight-week period beginning in November to examine school attendance boundaries and possible changes to those boundaries to help solve overcrowding in east-side schools.

The council will be asked to study the current enrollment in district schools and develop a position paper that will include options for the District 21 School Board to consider as solutions. The position paper is to be delivered to the board at its Jan. 16.

Mical said he is looking for volunteers from all areas in the district and the community, including business leaders. Mical said the council could have as many as 40 to 50 people serving on it. Applications are available at the district office, 999 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, or by calling (847)520-2727. All applications should be submitted by Oct. 11.

Despite deficit, District 21 hires Whitman teacher

Pioneer Press 9-29-02
By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board elected to hire one more teacher at Whitman Elementary School after an intense debate over the academic benefits and financial cost of the new position.

Kris Knudsen, assistant superintendent of human resources, said enrollment at the Wheeling school is higher than expected. The new teacher will be used to float between three classrooms — a first-grade room, a fourth-grade room and a combined fourth and fifth grade room.

Knudsen said the first-grade room has 33 students, and the other two have 29. She said the district likes to keep classes in kindergarten through second grade at 25 students. Administrators prefer classes of 26 in grades three through five and 27 in grades six through eight.

Superintendent Gary Mical supported the request for the additional teacher, although money in the district is tight.

"We're trying to be conservative in approaching the situation," he said. "We're trying to make a decision based on the numbers (of students) and finances. Educationally, this is a conservative request."

The request came after the board heard a grim report on the district's financial future.

The district is already expecting to overspend its education fund budget by \$4.3 million. That deficit includes a \$330,000 contingency fund, which was set aside to add six more teachers during the school year. Two have already been added at Longfellow Elementary School in Buffalo Grove.

Some board members were initially reluctant to add the teacher. Board member Arlen Gould and Board President Phil Pritzker were hesitant to add costs when the district does not have the money to cover it.

Others were more supportive of adding the new teacher.

"We have the contingency," board member Pam Becker Dean said. "Is the savings (of not hiring) worth it? The deficit is already in the millions."

Board member Bill Harrison said he had trouble rejecting Whitman's request after granting Longfellow's just a month before.

"How can we treat two schools that differently?" he asked.

Gould said the decision would have been much easier if the district had more money.

"The fact the board spent more than a half hour discussing whether or not to add one staff member shows the financial situation we are in," he said.

Budget Continued from page 7

Property taxes make up 82 percent of the district's education fund revenues, making taxes, by far, the largest revenue source. Teacher salaries and benefits represent nearly 85 percent of the total education fund expenses.

Since taxes are the largest revenue stream, and salaries and benefits are the largest expense, Cash said it would make sense to look at those areas to make up the deficits. Layoffs would be harsh, Cash warned. In order to make up this school year's education fund deficit, Cash said 64 staff members would have to be let go. An additional 183 staff members would have to be laid off over the following two school years to make up the projected deficit. The district employs the equivalent of about 535 teachers this year.

"Ultimately, the district could be taken over by the state," Cash said.

Board members said they plan to fix the situation long before the state can take control.

"By 2004 we are not going to be able to operate as we do," board member Arlen Gould said. "Our time line is shorter than the state's."

School officials paint

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
9-26-02
Wheeling Elementary School District 21 will have to increase taxes or layoff employees to improve its finances, the district's financial director said.

Dan Cash, District 21's assistant superintendent of finances, outlined the district's financial future at the Sept. 19 School Board meeting. It was no surprise to anyone in attendance that the district's deficits are piling up quickly, Cash reported the district will have a \$4.6 million shortfall in the education fund at the end of this school year.

According to a chart Cash submitted to the District 21 Board, the district will qualify for the Illinois State Board of Education's financial watch list at the end of the 2003-04 school year if budget trends continue.

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Buffalo Grove's Burns to retire

Countryside
By BARBARA BELL
Staff Writer
9-26-02

Buffalo Grove High School Principal Carter Burns is putting his family first.

Last week, Burns announced that he would retire at the end of June so that he could spend more time with his family.

At the end of June, Burns will have worked at Buffalo Grove High School for 20 years.

During his tenure, Burns has seen the school grow from a small high school to one of the largest in the state.

Burns said he will miss working at Buffalo Grove, but he is excited about the future of the school.

Burns will be leaving Buffalo Grove to join his family in another part of the state.

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The request came after the board heard a grim report on the district's financial future.

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School officials paint a grim budget scenario

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"This says, very clearly, there are things in the district that need to turn around," Cash said.

Cash's predictions are based on this year's budget. Factors leading to the deficits include diminishing funding from the state and small increases in the consumer price index, which dictates how much the district's levy can increase each year.

Expenses that are leading the district to financial difficulty include a 3 percent annual increase in teacher salaries until the end of the 2005-06 school year, 20 percent increases in health insurance benefits, a \$100,000 annual increase in capital spending and a \$300,000 annual increase in technology spending.

Cash said increasing property taxes for the education fund, or laying off teachers, would be most effective in turning the financial situation around. (Continued on page 9)

from page 7

"We are headed to be the (State Board's) work," Cash said. "It looks 2004-2005, we will be on a list."

If the district winds the list, the State Board contact the district to work a financial plan to eliminate its debts. If that doesn't work, the State Board create a committee to handle financial operations.

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Buffalo Grove High School Principal Carter Burns is putting his family first.

Last week, Burns announced that he would retire at the end of June so that he can return to his native Kansas to care for his ailing mother and her property.

"I've been trying to take care of that 600 miles away," Burns said.

Burns will have finished his 11th year in High School District 214 when he officially retires June 30. A national search will be launched to find his successor.

'I've been trying to take care of that 600 miles away.'

Burns joined District 214 as associate principal of Elk Grove High School in 1992. A year later, he was appointed principal of Buffalo Grove. Burns moved to Arlington Heights a few years ago to be closer to the school after his two children graduated from Elk Grove High School.

Burns estimates that he hired 65 percent of the staff at Buffalo Grove. In his time as principal, Burns has been able to get to know many families, especially in situations in which more than one sibling attended the school.

"Over time you develop certain relationships with people," Burns said. "It takes you awhile to get comfortable some place. I think you're able to accomplish some things that you couldn't otherwise."

Burns has been active in the community. He served as chairman of Relay for Life for Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Arlington Heights. He also is the team chairman for the North Central accreditation visiting team at Schaumburg High School.

When Burns steps down from the principalship, he'll be moving to the Kansas City suburbs. His sister and son live nearby.

State warns schools of funding shortfall

9-26-02 Daily Herald

By JOHN PATTERSON
Daily Herald State Government Editor

SPRINGFIELD — Area school officials have been put on notice that they could be shortchanged millions of dollars in state funds if lawmakers don't find more money for education.

Higher than expected enrollment at the state's public schools, combined with successful property tax appeals — particularly in Cook County — have yielded a \$21.7 million shortfall in education funding statewide.

The Illinois State Board of Education plans to continue sending the twice-a-month checks to school districts, but if lawmakers don't fill the hole either during the fall session or next spring, the final check next July will be reduced, or possibly not sent at all.

The potential financial fallout for suburban schools varies greatly.

Elgin Area School District U-46 stands to lose nearly \$462,000 if the final payment is cut. On the other hand, Rondout Elementary District 72 in Lake County would lose only \$187.

State education officials say reducing that final check by 16.7 percent would close the funding gap. The other 23 checks would not be touched. Overall the state budgeted \$3.12 billion for schools. So the \$21.7 million is less than 1 percent of the state's assistance to schools.

But area school administrators say budgets already are stretched and any funding cut will be painful.

"Oh no, this is not a small amount by any means," said Jim Freeman, assistant superintendent at Elgin's U-46. The district's deficit could reach \$16.58 million at the end of its fiscal year. "This pays for a few salaries."

While U-46's funding loss represents the high end, even smaller cuts will hurt, other school officials said.

"One-hundred thousand in a \$170 million (budget) is not critical except that we're right at the edge of what we can handle in terms of our growing deficit," said Howard Crouse, an associate superintendent at Indian Prairie District 204 in DuPage County. Officials there expect a \$13.4 million deficit by the end of the school year.

Similar reactions were voiced throughout the suburbs.

"It wouldn't be devastating, but it's the price of a new teacher," said Charles Oberly, business manager for Cary Elementary District 26.

The state's problem is not new. While the state budget is usually finalized near the end of May, final school enrollment and property tax figures are not available until later in the summer.

Frequently, lawmakers have had to later add millions of dollars to make ends meet. But Illinois is experiencing its worst economic situation in decades. Education was among the programs cut in the last budget to help make ends meet.

Donna Balocchi, executive director of the suburban education group ED-RED, said the 16.7 percent cut seems overly optimistic if the state's budget picture doesn't improve.

Robert Schiller, the superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education, warned there's a possibility the final payment may not come. "I think the challenge now is where is the money going to come from? The budget was pretty well cut last spring," Schiller said.

But one suburban lawmaker predicts the funding will be found.

"There's no way they'd eliminate the (final) payment for a \$21 million

Last checks shorted

The state's last aid check for the fiscal year to schools will be shorted in July unless the legislature acts. Here's what your districts stand to lose.

School district	Potential funding loss
Aptakisic-Tripp Elementary District 102	4,712.13
Arlington Heights Elementary District 25	9,760.41
Barrington Area Unit District 220	13,309.70
Buffalo Grove-Long Grove Elementary District 96	6,742.70
Carol Stream Elementary District 93	10,596.43
Des Plaines Elementary District 62	8,352.66
East Maine Elementary District 63	7,521.67
Elgin Area School District U-46	461,878.25
Elk Grove Township Elementary District 59	9,792.58
Glenbard High School District 87	18,498.78
Keeneyville Elementary District 20	5,302.51
Lake Park High School District 108	5,448.21
Lake Zurich Unit District 95	13,024.22
Leyden High School District 212	6,320.29
Maine Township High School District 207	12,581.08
Mount Prospect Elementary District 57	3,857.72
Northwest Suburban High School District 214	21,908.66
Palatine Township Elementary District 15	26,945.14
Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211	26,520.24
Prospect Heights Elementary District 23	3,353.17
River Trails Elementary District 26	3,381.33
Roselle Elementary District 12	1,541.06
Rosemont Elementary District 78	452.94
Schaumburg Township Elementary District 54	31,317.44
Stevenson High School District 125	7,950.01
Wheeling Township Elementary District 21	14,133.22

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

shortfall," said state Sen. Steven Rauschenberger, an Elgin Republican and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "It would be my belief that everyone would support a supplemental (budget) to cover it."

Rauschenberger said the money might be found within other parts of the State Board of Education's budget.

And at least one suburban school official believes lawmakers will ultimately come through despite the dire forecasts.

"We've heard almost every year that we may not get one (payment)," said Robert Hansen, an associate superintendent for Carpentersville-based Community Unit District 300 where the cut would mean more than \$131,000 lost. "And we've always gotten one."

* Daily Herald staff writers Kari Hartman, Max Seigle, Patrick Garmoe, Naomi Dillon, Corrie Cutrer, Jennifer Patterson, Cathi Edman, and Madhu Krishnamurthy contributed to this report.

NEWS BRIEFS

9-26-02

Police to host child seat inspection

The Wheeling Police Department will be hosting a child passenger safety seat inspection in the parking lot of Sam's Club Saturday.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, four of five safety seats are incorrectly installed. At the inspection, parents can drive through for a free inspection and fitting by a NHTSA certified child seat technician. Technicians will check for proper fit of the seat to the child and advise parents of any recalls on seats. No appointment is necessary.

Wheeling police officer Dorann Swanson, who is also a certified seat technician instructor, said technicians will also be able to answer questions regarding the appropriate weight and age to move children from one type of seat to another. She said it is the department's hope the inspection will increase awareness for the use of booster seats for children as they outgrow convertible seats but are still too small for seat belts. Swanson said an improperly fitting seat belt is just as dangerous as an improperly fitted child safety seat.

The inspection will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sam's Club, 1055 McHenry Road. The event is being funded by the Wheeling Safe Communities Program with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

Noted authors to take stage

Countryside 9/26/02
The Wheeling-based Library Community Foundation is hosting its seventh annual Literary Circle beginning Oct. 14 at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview.

The series begins Oct. 14 with Frances Mayes, whose number-one New York Times bestseller, "Under the Tuscan Sun," remained on the list for more than two years. It was followed by the memoir, "Bella Tuscany," also an international bestseller. Her first novel, "Swan," which is set in her home state of Georgia, will be published in October.

John Updike will appear Nov. 19. He has written poetry, children's literature and literary essays, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for "Rabbit is Rich." Updike's "Couples" and "Witches of Eastwick" were made into feature films.

Anchee Min will recount life in China and her journey to America Jan. 27. Min's memoir, "Red Azalea," described her life as a party supporter of Mao's China. Her most recent novel, "Wild Ginger," was published in April.

The season wraps up March 31 with U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. His work has appeared in New Yorker, Paris Review and American Scholar, and he is as Guggenheim fellow and New York Public Library "Literary Lion."

All programs start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at Glenbrook South High School. A series ticket for all four lectures costs \$95 for general admission and \$165 for patron tickets. Patron tickets offer preferred seating and include an invitation to post-lecture receptions with the authors. Individual tickets for \$25 and \$48 also are available.

Mayes will be the guest host for a special Tuscan dinner before her lecture Oct. 14. The foundation fund-raising event will take place at 5 p.m. at Phil Steffani's Tuscany at 550 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling. Tickets are \$100 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Anne Johnson at (847) 353-7143. An order form and additional information is available on the foundation Web site at www.librarycommunityfoundation.org.

Park may finally open next month

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Countryside 9-26-02

After years of discussions and revisions, a park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled to open in about two weeks.

Claus Dunkelberg, a representative with Harding ESE, the Chicago firm handling the project, said he believes the park will be completed by Oct. 4 or Oct. 11. He said crews still have some stone work to finish on the site, as well as about two-thirds of the landscaping.

"We're pushing as hard as we can," he said. "It's like building a giant puzzle."

The park will encompass the northeast and northwest corners of the intersection. The northeast corner is the larger of the areas and includes a gazebo perched above two water falls and most of the landscaping. The smaller area across the street, in front of Walgreens, will in-

clude a fountain with a pool and stone benches built into a stone wall surrounding the area.

Construction of the park was put on a fast track last November, when Trustee Trevor Lehmann brought in a design that board members overwhelmingly preferred to the scrapped Millennium Plaza.

The goal at that time was to open the park by the Fourth of July. However, four underground oil tanks were found below the ground on the northeast corner, creating a delay as construction crews had to work with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to make sure the soil was not contaminated and to remove the tanks. A gas station used to sit on that corner.

After the environmental issues were cleared up, crews have been working vigorously to finish the project.

Lehmann said the village is planning a grand opening ceremony for the park when it is finished. He said he hopes it's



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

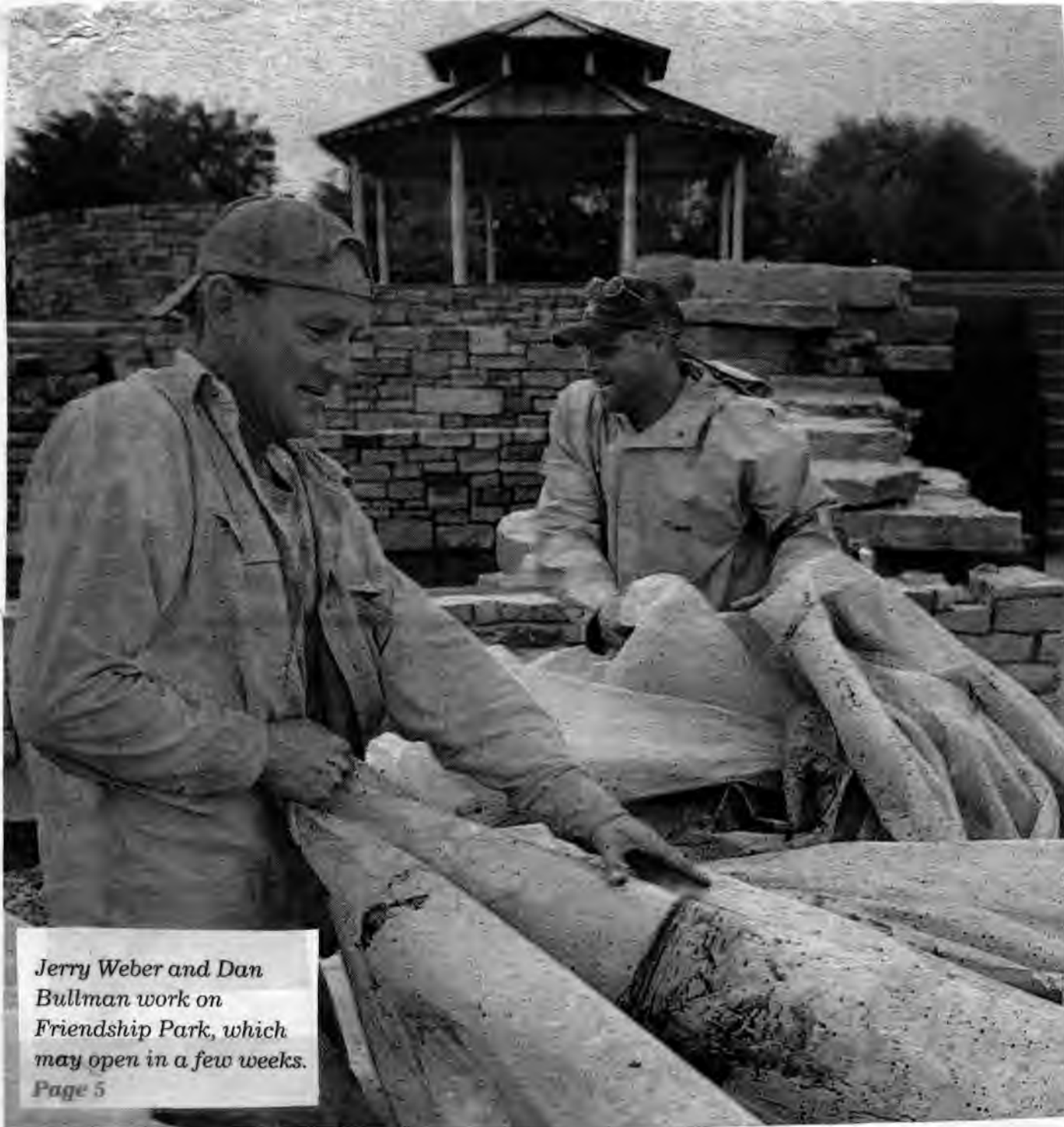
A gazebo sits on the top of what will be a waterfall when crews finish up construction on Friendship Park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The park is expected to be ready in about two weeks.

done by Oct. 4, but he wouldn't mind waiting until the 11th.

"I want it 100 percent done, even if it takes an extra week," he said. "And I want both corners done."

The village is spending \$1.56 million on the new park. The money is coming from a tax increment financing district fund. The village also received a \$50,000 grant for the project.

The cost is about 19 percent higher than what was originally anticipated to be spent, but an expanding size of the park and removal of the oil tanks increased the costs since January.



Jerry Weber and Dan Bullman work on Friendship Park, which may open in a few weeks.

Page 5

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

9-26-02

ARA anniversary
Countryside

ARA Cabinets 4 U, a Wheeling-based business specializing in kitchen and bath remodeling, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

Owner Jeffrey Pike had a dream to open a kitchen and bath shop. Like his father, uncles and cousins before him, whose cabinetry businesses had provided him with many years of valuable experience, Pike wanted to open his own showroom. In July of 1992, Pike converted his dream into reality by renting the storefront that was occupying the first floor of 4 S. Milwaukee Ave. at the southwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee Road.

Doing much of the work by himself, along with some help from relatives and longtime business associates, Pike opened the cabinet showroom the day after Labor Day 1992. During the ensuing years, Jeffrey Pike and his brother, Sheldon, have prided themselves on personalized service and quality merchandise at fair prices.

The company slogan is "Thou Shall Not Pay Retail."

ARA Cabinets 4 U is offering a 10th-anniversary special during the month of September: A free kitchen sink, faucet and garbage disposer (up to \$700 value) with a complete kitchen installation. For details, call (847) 215-1700.

Library alerts parents to video rental policy

Countryside
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
9-26-02

Indian Trails Library District officials want patrons to know that anyone can check out any of the more than 700 R-rated videos and DVDs at the facility, regardless of the person's age.

Signs making patrons aware of the policy were recently posted throughout the library, after the Library Board voted to have them posted. Library trustees said they believed most people — particularly parents — were unaware that anyone, regardless of age, could check out any movie.

"Certain people believe we would not let (children) take out an R-rated movie if they put it on the counter," Library Trustee Larry Cahall said. "I know most patrons were not aware of the policy."

Cahall was the trustee who suggested the signs be posted to inform patrons that the library allows anyone to check out any movie in its collection.

"It lets parents know the information they need so they can tell their children what they expect in terms of what to take out of the library," Cahall said. "If we don't give you the information you need, then we aren't doing our job as elected officials."

Cahall said many patrons he spoke with believed there was a law preventing children from checking out R-rated movies, when in fact complying with the Motion Picture Association of America's rating system is strictly voluntary. Most movie rental stores in the area do comply with the system.

Jose Vargas, a manager at Blockbuster in Wheeling, said anyone under 17 who wants to rent an R-rated movie must be accompanied by an adult or have permission from their parent, which is kept in that person's computerized account with the store.

However, the Indian Trails' policy is consistent with other libraries in the area. According to a September 2000 survey conducted by the North Suburban Library System, only seven of the 26 libraries that responded restrict access to R-rated movies. Some of those libraries include the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, the Elk Grove Village Public Library, the Schaumburg Township District Library and the Wilmette Public Library District.

Echo Morgan, head of public relations for the Vernon Area Library, said the Lincolnshire facility does not restrict who can check out R-rated titles. She said all patrons under 16 must have a parent signature in order to get a library card. At that time, par-

ents sign a form spelling out the library's policy on checking out materials.

"We don't want to put restrictions on anybody," Morgan said. "We want to keep open access to information."

Morgan said the policy is also on the Vernon Area Library's Web site, but it is not posted in the library.

Barbara Czechorski, head of circulation at Indian Trails, said parents are not currently given a copy of the library's policy when they sign for their child's library card.

"But that's a good suggestion," she said. "It may be something we want to bring up."

Parents must sign for library cards given to children under 16 at Indian Trails.

Indian Trails Director Tamiye Meehan said the library spelled out its check-out policy in its latest newsletter. She said the library has received only one comment about the policy since the newsletter went out and after the signs were posted.

"I'm hoping it stays a non-issue," she said. "I hope people understand the necessity for free access of information."

AT THE LIBRARY

9-26-02

Book talk
Countryside
The Indian Trails Public Library District has announced the titles selected for this fall's Book Discussion Group meetings.

The morning Book Discussion Group will meet at 10 a.m. Oct. 14 to discuss "When I was Puerto Rican" by Esmeralda Santiago. On Nov. 11, the group will discuss "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou.

The evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 to discuss "The Aguero Sisters" by Cristina Garcia. On Oct. 28, the group will discuss "The Law of Similars" by Chris Bohjalian. On Nov. 25, the group will discuss "Plainsong" by Kent Haruf.

Registration is required and limited to 40 participants per session. Register only for those sessions you know you will be able to attend. To register, call Michelle Shapiro at (847) 459-4100.

Storytime sessions

The Indian Trails Public Library District is now taking registration for its fall storytime sessions. For children of all ages.

A special Halloween storytime and craft will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 26 and is limited to 30 children, ages 3-7. All storytimes last about 30 minutes. Registration is required for some programs. An adult must remain in the building during the programs. To register, call Lillian Taylor at (847) 459-4100.

Cemetery tours

The Indian Trails Public Library District has planned a bus trip and tour of the "Three Great Chicago Cemeteries" Oct. 14.

The tour will depart from the library at 8:45 a.m. and will return at about 4:15 p.m. Three of Chicago's oldest and most interesting cemeteries, all on the North Side, will be the focus of this tour.

The tour starts with Graceland, burial place of the city's business and architectural elite, including Palmers, Pullmans, Ryersons, Fields and McCormicks, as well as the architects Sullivan, Burnham, Root and Mies van der Rohe.

The next stop is Rosehill, burial place of mayors, Civil War figures and still more of

Continued from page 91

opened in the 1870s to accommodate natives of Bohemia who had trouble finding burial elsewhere. Here, the group will see the graves of Anton Cermak, victims of the Eastland

AT THE LIBRARY

disaster of 1915 and the unique chapel-columbarium where ashes have been placed in thousands of windowed niches filled with memorabilia of the deceased.

Lunch will be a Swedish combo plate served at Ann Sather's Restaurant.

Registration is required and limited to 20 adults. A registration fee of \$46 per person is due at the time of registration. Make checks payable to Bill Hinchcliff, tour director. To register, call Michelle Shapiro at (847) 459-4100.

Victims' aid information at library

Those who have been victims of violent crimes may be eligible for financial aid through the Illinois Victim's Compensation Act. Information on how to collect compensation is now available at the Indian Trails Public Library.

Compensation is available to victims, witnesses and certain relatives of violent crime under the provisions of the law. The law also offers support services as well as financial aid. To qualify, crimes must be reported to authorities within 72 hours.

For information on the law, call the library at (847) 459-4100, or visit the second floor reference desk. All inquiries are confidential.

Correction

Tina Dean's picture incorrectly appeared on Marcy Stillman's Wheeling Around Town column in the Nov. 7 issue of the **Countryside**. We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Abuse suit filed against ex-Wheeling priest

9-27-02

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A former Wheeling priest jailed on child pornography charges was sued Thursday by a one-time altar boy, who claims the Catholic priest sexually abused him some 25 times in the 1980s.

The suit, which also names the Archdiocese of Chicago as a defendant, was filed under the pseudonym John E. Doe by a 31-year-old man who grew up in Wheeling and now works as a bartender in Los Angeles.

It claims former St. Joseph the Worker associate pastor Vincent McCaffrey recruited the alleged victim out of the parish school to become an altar boy, and then molested him repeatedly in 1984 and 1985. Some of the incidents occurred in the church's Dundee Road rectory, the suit alleged.

The California man's attorney, Jef-

frey R. Anderson, acknowledged the statute of limitations on the alleged abuse has expired and the case could be thrown out, but said the lawsuit was an "invitation" for other victims to come forward.

McCaffrey, now 50, left St. Joseph in 1987, was removed from active ministry amid sexual abuse allegations in 1991 and agreed to resign in 1993. On Sept. 13, he pleaded guilty in federal court to possessing more than 4,500 images of child pornography. He is in federal custody awaiting sentencing.

Prosecutors say they hope to extend his sentence to the maximum of 20 years by bringing in evidence of the numerous sexual abuse complaints lodged against McCaffrey over the years while he worked at several different parishes.

Anderson, a Minnesota attorney who has represented some 700 alleged victims of priests, has been in

contact with federal prosecutors and said his client is available to testify at the sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for December and could last up to two weeks.

The alleged victim has struggled with alcoholism and panic attacks, the latter of which he attributes to the sexual abuse and the fear of telling his story, attorneys said.

According to the lawsuit, another priest who no longer works at St. Joseph intimidated the former altar boy into staying silent during a 1991 meeting at the Ann Sather restaurant on Chicago's Belmont Avenue.

"You have a kid, now a young man, that's been suffering in silence, and secretly in shame for years," Anderson said. "He was told by an archdiocese official to keep quiet, so he had. Only this year did he come to the realization that he couldn't do that anymore."

The priest accused of intimidating

the victim and archdiocesan officials declined to comment on the lawsuit, saying they had not yet seen it. Archdiocese spokesman Jim Dwyer did say he was "disappointed" that Anderson, who knows the church's reporting procedures, did not contact church officials about the alleged McCaffrey victim sooner than Thursday.

The allegation against McCaffrey is just one of many fielded by church officials about the Chicago man. Dwyer said earlier this month that one claim came from a teenager at St. Joseph about a year after McCaffrey was reassigned.

Anderson said that allegation wasn't his client's. Instead, his client believes there were other victims at St. Joseph, an assertion he based on McCaffrey once showing him few photographs of boys the victim recognized, Anderson said.

The suit seeks unspecified damages.

Formula for success

Dist. 21 math teachers prove to have right variables to win statewide awards

By **CORRIE CUTRER**

Daily Herald Staff Writer 9-30-02

Whether it's dealing with ratios or equations, the approach that two middle school teachers in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 are taking toward math all adds up.

That's why Carolyn Droll and Nancy Siemienas, both seventh-grade math instructors, soon will be honored for receiving awards of distinction from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics this year.

A teacher at London Middle School in Wheeling, Siemienas was given the annual Middle School Math Teacher Award.

This honor spotlights one teacher in the state who excels as a math teacher to fifth- through eighth-graders.

Siemienas began her seventh year at London this fall.

Before coming to work in District 21, she graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a bachelor's of science in education as well as a bachelor's of arts in mathematics and statistics.

While at London, she also has garnered her master's degree in curriculum and supervision from Northern Illinois University.

Droll, a teacher at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling, also has been honored as the first recipient of the Illinois Promising New Teacher Award.

This award, which the math teachers group created this year, honors Droll for her efforts as a new educator.

Teachers in the state who have been in a classroom for five years or less can be considered for the new distinction.



JOE LEWNARD/DAILY HERALD
Siemienas just started her seventh year at London Middle School.



BOB CHWEDYK/DAILY HERALD
Droll helps her students work through a math problem placed on the overhead projector in her classroom.



JOE LEWNARD/DAILY HERALD
London Middle School math teacher Nancy Siemienas works with her seventh-grade students in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21. Siemienas recently was honored as an outstanding middle school math teacher by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics.



BOB CHWEDYK/DAILY HERALD
Recently given the Promising New Teacher Award by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Carolyn Droll works with her students at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling.

said Droll and Siemienas stand out as all-around stellar educators.

Siemienas is teaching an extra exploratory class this year to seventh-graders who are already ready to take algebra.

And Droll coaches the girls cross country team at Holmes.

An avid runner herself, Droll is

training for the Milwaukee Marathon Sunday. Why not the Chicago Marathon?

"I didn't register in time," she said sheepishly. "I missed the deadline by a few days."

Hey, even award-winning math teachers don't always add things up perfectly.

'Go Figure!' exhibit will make a stop at area library

By **CASS CLAYTON**

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-1-02

Frogs and toads soon will come together with Goldilocks and her three bears in Wheeling as part of a library exhibit making a stop in 75 communities nationwide.

The characters in famous children's books will arrive this month at the Indian Trails Public Library District as part of the traveling "Go Figure!" exhibit.

The exhibit is an interactive program developed by library and science agencies that links math and literature to show children, ages 2 to 7, an exciting world of math and its everyday uses.

To celebrate the exhibit's appearance in Wheeling — among only five sites in the state — Illinois Rep. Sidney Mathias of Buffalo Grove will appear Oct. 13 at its grand opening with popular children's author Stuart Murphy. "This is something really exciting

for the community, and we've been planning for it for a while," said R. Christine Gibson, the library's outreach coordinator.

A state family literacy grant awarded to the library in early April paid for bilingual family programs presented in June and July in Wheeling, Prospect Heights and Buffalo Grove to focus on mathematical themes promoting the Go Figure! exhibit.

Also, the library's summer reading

program offered books to families so they could follow up on math themes at home.

At 2 p.m. Oct. 13, Murphy will share his thoughts on how parents can help their children be better at math. The first 100 families who preregister and attend will receive one of Murphy's educational books from his "Math-Start" series.

"This is a rare opportunity with an exhibit that combines literature with take-home materials for learning."

Gibson said.

The exhibit, which will be on display from Oct. 13 to Nov. 21, presents five stories with large, free-standing books that are accompanied by activities to help children understand the story and math concepts within it.

Among the five books in the exhibit are "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Frog and Toad are Friends" and "The Doo-bell Rang." For information, or to register for the grand opening, call Lillian Taylor at (847) 459-4100.

Old book finds its way home to Philadelphia

10-3-02

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The used book sales held by the Friends of Indian Trails Library four times a year always turn up a few treasures, but some of them are not for sale.

Thousands of books are donated each year to the library for the sale. And before this last sale, library Outreach Coordinator Christine Gibson found an old picture book documenting various meeting places for the Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia, Pa., since 1735.

The "Souvenir Album Showing the Various Places of Meeting of the R.W. Grand

Lodge, F. and A. M. of Pennsylvania" was published in 1920. It includes a brief, six-page history of the lodge — the oldest in the nation — and paintings of various meeting halls and taverns the lodge used. It also shows interior pictures of the Masonic Temple, which still stands on the corner of Broad and Filbert streets in Philadelphia.

"It was sitting on a shelf, already out of the box," Gibson said. "My father-in-law is a Mason, so it caught my eye."

Gibson said she has no idea who donated the book.

"Most people just drop donations in the box (at the library entrance)," she said.

(Continued on page 9)



EARLY PLACES OF MEETING OF THE GRAND LODGE F. & A. M. OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

A souvenir album from the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia has many paintings depicting early meeting halls for the lodge, which was formed in 1730.

Old book *Continued from page 5*

When she found the book, Gibson contacted the lodge in Philadelphia, asking the librarian there if they wanted it back. Glenys A. Waldman, the librarian at the temple, gladly responded in the affirmative.

"We said we'd take it. It's nice to have one come back," Waldman said. "It's nice to see somebody who cares enough to send it back."

Waldman said the book was a souvenir that tourists could purchase after taking a tour of the temple. The temple, which was built between 1868 and 1873, still gives tours and still has a version of the same souvenir book.

Waldman had dug up copies of the book in the temple library dated 1904 and 1914, but she could not find one from 1920.

"Someone must have come to visit and bought it," Waldman said.

Jim McCarthy, who volunteers with the Friends of Indian Trails Library, said old books turn up in donations for the sales all the time.

"We get old books, sometimes as much as 100 years old," he said. "It's very unusual to find an old book that belongs to an organization that's still going."

Gibson said she decided to give the book back for a number of reasons. She

said the local Masonic Lodge is very supportive of the community and was pleased to help another lodge. She also said it's common courtesy to return books that might belong to someone else.

"If we find something unique or useful to somebody, we try to contact the owner or whoever might be interested in it," she said.

There have been times when missing or lost books have been returned to Indian Trails in the past. Gibson said someone might check out a book before taking a vacation and leave it there, only to see it come back later.

"It's a gesture of goodwill," she said.



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

This book made its way from the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia to the Indian Trails Public Library through a donation for the used book sale.



This souvenir album from 1920 has been returned to its place of origin.

10-3-02

Bat

Teen 'Fall Contest'

Stop by the Indian Trails Public Library and enter the Teen Zone "Fall Contest" to be held in October and November. Each month one winner will be drawn from all correct answers submitted. The winner of each monthly contest will win a personal compact-disc player. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information. The Indian Trails Public Library District is located at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling.

Great Pumpkin logic

The Great Pumpkin knows how many seeds it holds. Do you? Kids can come to the Indian Trails Public Library for a chance to win an autographed book by guessing the number of pumpkin seeds inside the pumpkin. The contest runs through Oct. 31 and is for children only. The person with the winning guess will be notified Nov. 1. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night will be held Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Indian Trails Public Library. Join together for crafts, stories, films and fun. The program is especially recommended for children who are 3 years old and up, but all children and their siblings are invited to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Registration is required. Limit of 50 participants. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Into the rain forest

Kids can enjoy a rain forest adventure sponsored by Milwaukee Zoo called "Roundy's Pick'n Save's Care For Critters!" Saturday from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Indian Trails Public Library. Those attending will have the opportunity to see an Amazon parrot, macaw, hawk, snake, African millipede and green iguana up close, and learn interesting facts about the rain forest. Registration is required. Limit of 75 participants in kindergarten and up. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Classical vocal music

Mezzo soprano Elena Repp will sing classical and popular music in both Russian and

English Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Indian Trails Public Library. Limit of 90 adults. For additional information or to register for "A Concert of Classical Vocal Music," call (847) 459-4100.

Lyric Opera talk

Representatives from Chicago's Lyric Opera Corps will be at the Indian Trails Public Library District at 7 p.m. Oct. 10. Patrons wishing to gain an appreciation for the background and music of the Lyric's 2002 performance of Cavallreia/Pagliacci should meet in the library's small meeting room. Registration is required and limited to 80 adults. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Steinbeck's works

Julio Tiritilli will lead a discussion of John Steinbeck's works including "The Red Pony," "The Pearl" and "The Grapes of Wrath" Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the small meeting room. Limit of 35 adults. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Let's Write Workshop

Author and poet Jeanne Tolle will lead the Indian Trails Public Library District's Let's Write Writer's Workshop, which will meet from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Oct. 10. Tolle will share her experiences in getting published, as well as techniques for writing materials that will sell. Join fellow aspiring writers to share ideas and critique each other's works in a supportive atmosphere. Registration is required and limited to 15 adults. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Teen book swap

Join the Indian Trails Public Library Oct. 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the first Teen Paperback Exchange. Teenagers bring books in good condition from home and are then able to trade for other gently used books from the book exchange. You can exchange books for coupons and use the coupons to pick up other books.

A maximum of 10 paperbacks can be exchanged at one time. All books not selected at the end of the exchange will be given to the Friends of the Library. Call (847) 459-4100 for additional information or to register.

Literary Circle hosts authors

Pioneer Press 10-3-02
 The Wheeling-based Library Community Foundation is hosting its seventh annual Literary Circle beginning Oct. 14 at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview.

The series begins Oct. 14 with Frances Mayes, whose number-one New York Times bestseller, "Under the Tuscan Sun," remained on the list for more than two years. It was followed by the memoir, "Bella Tuscany," also an international bestseller. Her first novel, "Swan," which is set in her home state of Georgia, will be published in October.

John Updike will appear Nov. 19. He has written poetry, children's literature and literary essays, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for "Rabbit is Rich." Updike's "Couples" and "Witches of Eastwick" were made into feature films.

Anchee Min will recount life in China and her journey to America Jan. 27. Min's memoir, "Red Azalea," described her life as a party

supporter of Mao's China. Her most recent novel, "Wild Ginger," was published in April.

The season wraps up March 31 with U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. His work has appeared in New Yorker, Paris Review and American Scholar, and he is as Guggenheim fellow and New York Public Library "Literary Lion."

All programs start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at Glenbrook South High School.

Mayes will be the guest host for a special Tuscan dinner before her lecture Oct. 14. The foundation fund-raising event will take place at 5 p.m. at Phil Steffani's Tuscan at 550 S. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling. Tickets are \$100 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Anne Johnson at (847) 353-7143. An order form and additional information is available on the foundation Web site at www.librarycommunityfoundation.org.

Local Focus

Cole Taylor sells trusts to Trust Co. of Illinois

10-4-02
 WHEELING — Cole Taylor Bank has sold its personal and employee benefit trust business to Trust Company of Illinois for an undisclosed sum. Glen Ellyn-based TCI said Susan Blyth will continue to manage the trusts. Cole Taylor has long planned to sell unprofitable trusts and transfer people into wealth management. Cole Taylor's business had \$180 million in assets. TCI, whose annual revenue is \$4 billion, will manage \$600 million after the acquisition.

District 21 rummage sale is Saturday at Riley School

10-3-02
 Believe that one man's junk can be another man's treasure?
 Then head to Riley Elementary School in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 this weekend.



Corrie Cutrer
Our schools

A rummage sale Saturday will feature donated furniture, clothes, toys, books and collectibles at reduced prices.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Whatever is left by 2:15 p.m. will sell for 50 percent off, officials said.

Money from the sale will benefit Riley's Parent-Teacher Organization, which is hosting the event.

The group has been hard at work this fall with several fund-raisers, including the Riley Run Fair a few weeks ago that brought in more than \$5,000 for the school.

Riley is at 1209 E. Burr Oak Drive in Arlington Heights. For details, call (847) 670-3400.

Picking up the pace: Apparently the maintenance staff in District 21 is moving ahead of schedule with its plans to install new playground equipment at District 21's Field Elementary School in Wheeling.

Just a few weeks ago, some parents were complaining that the \$7,500 worth of new playground equipment that the school's PTO purchased a year ago still was sitting in storage, waiting for district officials to install it.

While the District 21 administration said late last month that it was hoping to begin the project by November, Field's PTO President Theresa Cherry said she saw a tractor on school grounds this week, working to uproot the old equipment.

"They're taking the old stuff out and putting the new stuff in," Cherry

School board delays payment on school officer

*By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER
 10-3-02*
 The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board was surprised to find a bill from

Board members said they were not against paying the Wheeling Police Department for the use of the officers. In fact, the board elected to pay a \$15,219 bill for the same services from the first quarter of the year. However, Mondschein, finance director, equally surprised District 21 was not expecting the bill. He said the officered the school the grant was expected to be received months before it

the October meeting, said Dan Cash, District 21 finance director. "The board has the discretion to approve or disapprove."

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Literary Circle hosts authors

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Coke



Pete Miller's gets early nod 10-3-02

The Wheeling Plan Commission gave its recommendation to allow Pete Miller's Steakhouse to open.

The restaurant wants to open in the former Crawdaddy Bayou restaurant on North Milwaukee Avenue. Larry Huber said his company, the Clean Plate Club Restaurant Group, which owns Pete Miller's Steakhouse, plans to close the purchasing deal on the building Oct. 11 and open the new restaurant in April.

Huber said the new restaurant will be similar to the Pete Miller's Steakhouse in Evanston. The Village Board must still give final approval for the project to continue.

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"They're taking the old stuff out and putting the new stuff in," Cherry said. "We're all just thrilled."

School board delays payment on school officer

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
10-3-02

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board was surprised to find a bill from the village government to pay police officers in Holmes and London middle schools.

School Board members wondered why the district owed the village \$68,278 as part of the September bills. Board members said they had never seen such a bill before, because the officers' salaries were paid through federal grant money. The grant expired last year, and School Board members said Wheeling village officials never told them.

The bill is to cover the expenses for those officers for part of the 2001-02 school year.

The District 21 Board elected to hold off payment to the village until it is determined why the bill was coming so late. Board members also are trying to determine if there was any forewarning of the expense from the village.

"We're getting information to bring back to the board for the October meeting," said Dan Cash, District 21 finance director. "The board has the discretion to approve or disapprove any bill."

Board members said they were not against paying the Wheeling Police Department for the use of the officers. In fact, the board elected to pay a \$15,219 bill for the same service for the first quarter of the current school year. However, the bill for last year's officers surprised them.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, said he was equally surprised to hear District 21 was not expecting the bill. He said the village had notified the school district that the grant was expiring a few months before it happened.

"Originally, the officers were paid for through the Cops in Schools grant," he said. "That grant expired, and we continued to provide the officer. We have the same arrangement with District 214 to put an officer in the high school."

Mondschain said he is not sure where the breakdown in communication occurred between the village and the school district. He speculated it may have something to do with the change of personnel in the village finance office and the District 21 offices. Mondschain accepted his job earlier this year. District 21's new superintendent, Gary Mical, began this past summer.

Views vary on volunteer background checks

Pioneer Press
By KAREN BERKOWITZ

STAFF WRITER

10-3-02

Given the avalanche of sexual abuse revelations making headlines these days, parents might be forgiven for demanding greater scrutiny of the adults who volunteer in schools or serve as chaperons on field trips.

OUR SCHOOLS

A push for criminal background checks of volunteers has come primarily from national and state organizations, such as the National Parent-Teacher Association. But the majority of school districts in the northwest suburbs have not adopted the practice, although at least one has taken the precaution for several years.

Gary Mical, superintendent of Wheeling Elementary School District 21, said the district does not run background checks on its volunteers.

"In our case, we don't accept volunteers unless they are a parent or a relative of student, so we're covered under that umbrella," he said. "We're not going to let in some guy coming off the street asking to work with children."

Kildeer-Countryside Elementary School District 96 does not run background checks on volunteers, either.

"We usually know all our volunteers who would be in the schools," said District 96 Superintendent Thomas Many. "Our volunteers are parents or other members of the school community."

Evanston-Skokie School District 65 has the same perception of its volunteer pool.

"Most of our volunteers, we know," said Lynn McCarthy, assistant superintendent of operations for District 65. "It's not like we put up signs in the Jewel and say, 'Come work with our children.' We don't do that."

While Illinois law requires criminal background checks of school employees and bus drivers who have regular contact with children, the law does not require districts to fingerprint or otherwise screen the background of people who volunteer.

Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 saw the potential risk in that incongruity. For the past four or five years, the district has done background checks on volunteers who regularly interact with the students.

"It just came to our realization that some of our volunteers are having as much contact with the children as some of our part-time employees" who are subject to background checks, said James Walker Jr., District 102's assistant superintendent for administrative services. "If we are going to be prudent about our part-time employees, we should do the same for the volunteers who are going to be in the classroom on an ongoing basis."

The District 102 office usually receives a list of potential volunteers from the District 102 PTO. The names are checked with the state police for a criminal record. If the police note anything suspicious or unusual, the person's fingerprints are checked. Walker said he recalls no volunteers being rejected because of what the background check revealed.

Those organizations that support the checks say they are overdue.

"It's ironic that in this country, there is generally more screening requirements for someone who will be brushing down horses at the racetrack than there are for someone who will be charged with protecting and training this nation's most valuable asset — its children," observed Ronald D. Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center.

Both the Illinois PTA and the National PTA support criminal background checks for school volunteers.

A matter of trust

"No one likes the fact that these measures need to be taken," said Sonia Hanson, director of PTA District 21, which includes the northern suburbs from Evanston to Highland Park, and extends westward to take in Des Plaines, Niles, Glenview and Northbrook. "Children attend school trusting that no one will hurt them there. I personally feel that volunteering is a choice. If you don't like the background checks, then don't volunteer."

The Illinois PTA worked in support of the 1986 measure mandating background checks of school employees. At the time, the organization supported background checks for school volunteers, Hanson noted.

Currently, school districts must initiate a criminal background check at the time an employee is hired. If the screening reveals a conviction for any one of 21 separate criminal offenses spelled out in state law, the employment must be terminated.

The requirement extends to outside employees, like school bus drivers, who have daily contact with children.

Length of service

The Illinois Association of School Boards advises school districts to screen the criminal backgrounds of volunteers if the commitment is expected to extend over a long period of time.

"Generally, we tell school districts that if you have a volunteer on a short-term basis, (a background check) is maybe not necessary," said Ben Schwarm, associate executive director of the association. "If you have longer-term volunteers who are going to be there on a regular basis over an extended period of time, we suggest they have criminal background checks."

In 1999, the Illinois General Assembly cleared one hurdle for school districts wishing to give volunteers the same scrutiny as school employees. Lawmakers expanded the Criminal Identification Act to require Illinois State Police to provide criminal background information on school volunteers.

Some say too drastic

Many school advocates, however, view criminal background checks for school volunteers as a drastic and costly way to address concerns that are better handled with common sense.

"I think it would have a terrible effect on encouraging people to volunteer," said Mary Rita Luecke, a District 65 School Board member who chairs the Policy Committee.

"It's an invasion of people's privacy, even for people who don't have any criminal background," Luecke said, noting that the process is expensive and hardly foolproof, since it identifies only people who have been arrested and convicted.

"The safer way to address that problem is to never allow a child to be alone with an adult," said Luecke, a director-at-large of the Illinois Association of School Boards' North Cook executive committee.

Some advocates working in the volunteer arena note that people convicted of sexual offenses already are identified on Web sites maintained by the state police and the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

The cost of a check

As for the expense, District 65 pays an outside firm, Sylvan Identix, to electronically fingerprint newly hired employees at a cost of \$55 per person. The prints are compared with those on file with state and federal authorities.

The elementary district spends about \$4,000 a year on criminal background checks, while Evanston Township High School District 202 spends about \$2,500.

Helen Mardis, director of human resources for District 65, said electronic fingerprinting has drastically reduced the turnaround time for a background check, from a matter of six or seven weeks to several days.

Furthermore, the fingerprinting is far more reliable than the old method of checking criminal background based on name and Social Security number — a method rife with error potential, since the job applicant could change one letter of a name or alter a birth date by one year.

School District 96 pays \$4 per person to conduct employee background checks over the Internet. District 102 screens employee and volunteer candidates for a cost of \$10 per person with the state police. Only if an irregularity is revealed, does either school district do the fingerprint check.

— Staff writers Kimberly Fornek and Casey Moffitt contributed to this report.

Wheeling man pleads guilty in two cases

BY TONY GORDON

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer 10/4/02

A Wheeling man agreed to serve both a prison sentence and a term of probation Thursday in order to settle two criminal cases against him in Lake County court.

Ilya Tanich, 27, pleaded guilty to residential burglary for breaking into

a Buffalo Grove house and to drug possession for growing marijuana plants in Kildeer.

Assistant State's Attorney Amy Meister Falbe said Tanich of 500 Manda Lane, Apt. 502, was stopped by Kildeer police who saw him carrying a shovel near Deerpark Mall just before 10 p.m. on June 21.

Tanich told the officer his car was

parked nearby. Fifteen recently dug up marijuana plants were found inside the vehicle.

While on bond for that charge, Tanich broke into a house on the 2200 block of Avalon Drive in Buffalo Grove and stole several credit cards belonging to a resident.

He was arrested several days later when he tried to use one of the

cards, which had been reported stolen.

Circuit Judge Mary Seminara Schostok approved a negotiation that provided Tanich with a five-year prison sentence for the burglary. It will also allow him to earn his release in as little as six months if he completes the prison boot camp program.

Streamwood resident charged with stabbing Wheeling man

BY SUE TER MAAT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-2-02

A Streamwood man was charged Tuesday with the stabbing death of a man killed at a birthday party over the weekend.

Martin Rodriguez-Aguilar, 20, of the 1700 block of McKool Avenue, is facing one count of first-degree murder in the death of 23-year-old Hector Jimenez, a Wheeling man who died Sunday afternoon at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates,

Hanover Park police said.

Jimenez was stabbed twice in the chest at birthday party on the 2100 block of Oak Avenue in Hanover Park, according to the medical examiner's report. Members of the same gang became angry at one of their own during the party and a knife fight broke out, a medical examiner's spokesman said. Police have not given details of how the fight escalated and got out of hand.

Hanover Park police tracked down Rodriguez-Aguilar on Sunday night

and brought him in for questioning, said Hanover Park Deputy Chief Dean Norman.

Rodriguez-Aguilar will be in bond court Wednesday at the Cook County Courthouse in Rolling Meadows, police said. No one else is expected to be charged in connection with the stabbing death, police said.

An 18-year-old Carpentersville man was also stabbed, but he's recovering from his injuries, police said. No charges have been filed regarding the second stabbing, Norman said.

Tough road for District 21

Wheeling Elementary School District 21 residents will see plenty of numbers thrown at them over the next several months describing a looming budget crisis.

The school district is in a precarious financial position, and officials are exploring ways to reverse trends that call for a \$4.6 million deficit in the education fund at the end of this school year. The education fund pays many of the district's daily expenses and employee salaries. Teacher salaries and benefits make up nearly 85 percent of the total education fund expenses.

One option under consideration is to boost revenues by asking voters for an education fund tax increase next year. The District 21 School Board has yet to decide on whether to seek a tax increase, but officials say the money generated from a tax increase could solve their financial woes.

Another option is to cut expenses, particularly those related to employee salaries and benefits. Last month, School Board members discussed a preliminary report that described a worst-case scenario of massive employee layoffs, if revenues were not increased. That presentation indicated that 247 of the district's roughly 720 full-time employee positions would be eliminated over the next three school years to offset the education fund deficit, which could grow over that time to more than \$15 million. The majority of the positions that would have to be cut — under the first scenario presented to the board — are teaching jobs.

There is no way the school district could continue to provide quality education if one-third of its staff is slashed. And School Board President Phil Pritzker said the School Board and the administration will do everything in their power to minimize any impact on staff if budget problems persist.

We expect the school district to avoid such drastic measures. If officials do indeed decide to seek a tax increase, they should also find ways to trim costs and prioritize spending. And we hope that the doomsday scenario of having to cut so many staff members is not being used to scare residents into voting for a tax increase. Using such tactics would erode the district's credibility.

There is no way the school district could continue to provide quality education if one-third of its staff is slashed from the budget.

NEWS BRIEFS

Wildcats plan 'retro' homecoming

Wheeling High School will gear up for Homecoming 2002, running Monday through Oct. 12, by decorating the halls at 9 a.m. Saturday, to this year's theme, "Retro Romance." Class window painting will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday.

The Wildcats will celebrate "Lazy Day" on Monday, as students and staff dress in their most comfortable attire. On Tuesday, Wheeling will show its spirit by celebrating "Tie-Die Clothing Day." "Human Bowling" in the main hallway will keep the ball rolling during lunch.

On "Retro Day" Wednesday, students and staff will sport clothing from the '60s and '70s. A Rubix Cube contest will be the featured lunchtime game. Mad Cat Volleyball will be held at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium, as students have the opportunity to form teams and compete against their peers in a tournament. The winning student team will face the faculty team on Thursday at the pep assembly.

Everyone is encouraged to pair up with a friend Oct. 10 and dress alike for "Twin Day." Karaoke will take place throughout lunch hours. The pep assembly will begin at 2:20 p.m. in the gym, followed by parade float-building in the stadium from 3 to 5 p.m.

"School Spirit Day" Oct. 11 will see the school decked out in blue and gold. The coronation assembly will start at 9 a.m., presenting the homecoming court and finally, the king and queen. At 2:15 p.m., the traditional homecoming parade will step off in the school's back parking lot. A pregame presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Wildcat stadium prior to the 7:30 p.m. varsity football game against Buffalo Grove High School. The varsity half-time show will feature the WHS band and poms, as well as a fireworks display.

The spirited week will come to a close Oct. 13 with the homecoming dance in the gymnasium from 8 to 11 p.m.

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Your Page

In *Neighbor* every Monday. Send us your photos, your poems, short essays, a report from your vacation; pictures of your grandchildren, your sports teams, anything you want to share.

How to submit material:

Call 427-4403; e-mail to zurawski@dailyherald.com or mail to Your Page, c/o Luke Zurawski, P.O. Box 280, Elmhurst, IL 60120

368-0380, Ext. 229.

• Pediatric AIDS Foundation Bound Together by Hope fund-raiser 6:30 p.m. Oct. 12; Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., Chicago. \$250. (847) 251-3818.

• Suzanne's Friends — For Life, "Party With a Purpose": 7 to 11 p.m. Oct. 12; The Field museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. \$100 in advance; \$110 at the door. Dinner by Wolfgang Puck, proceeds benefit the Leukemia research Foundation. (847) 424-0600.

• National City Bank Gala 2002: 6:30 p.m. Oct. 26; Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Drive. Proceeds benefit Cancer treatment research Foundation in Arlington Heights. (847) 342-7450.

• Barrington Friends of Home of the Sparrow dinner dance gala, "An Evening Tapestry": 6 p.m. Nov. 6; Sears, Roebuck & Co. Corporate Offices, Hoffman Estates. \$135. (847) 487-0931.

• Monarch Awards Foundation of the Xi Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. gala: 6 p.m. Nov. 2; Sheraton Chicago Hotel

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She discovered that five of the districts actually swear in the members

conference.

Buffalo Grove and John Hersey high schools' bands have been selected to perform at the 2003 Illinois Music Educators All-State

\$2 million bond set in Hanover Park killing

BY DAVE ORRICK 10-3-02
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

A Cook County judge Wednesday set bond at \$2 million for a Streamwood man accused of fatally stabbing a Wheeling man during an intra-gang dispute last weekend.

Roberto Aguilar, 20, of 1706 McKool Ave., is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of Hector Jimenez, 23, who died Sunday afternoon of stab wounds after an overnight party in Hanover Park that turned violent, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office.

In asking Circuit Court Judge Karen Thompson Tobin for a high bond, prosecutor Shari Chandra said Aguilar, a Mexican citizen, has been in America illegally for five years and described him as a "great flight risk."

Aguilar would need to post \$200,000 to be released pending trial. His attorney, Assistant Public Defender Barry Lloyd, said his client has no money to post bond.

One other man was stabbed, but no charges have been filed. That man received several stitches at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates and was released.

Authorities said the stabbings fol-

lowed an argument fanned by internal strife among members of the same gang who were attending a party.

After being turned away from the party, Aguilar left, got a large knife and returned to the party, Chandra said. An argument between various gang members broke out, and Aguilar twice stabbed Jimenez, she said.

Five people saw the stabbing, five others heard Aguilar say he did it, and Aguilar confessed to police, Chandra said.

Aguilar, who is scheduled to appear in court Oct. 24, faces 20 to 60 years in prison if convicted.

Neighbors helping Wheeling family

The Hembd family lost their home on Lee St. and all their belongings in a fire just before 5 p.m. Sept. 30, but a neighbor is trying to help them by collecting donations to replace what has been lost.

Valerie Gross, who lives behind the gutted home on Palm Drive, said a fund has been established at Corus Bank in Wheeling. She is collecting donations of clothes and other necessities for the family. Gross said the family needs "all the basics," including clothes, diapers, baby wipes, children's cups and toothbrushes.

Gross said cash donations can be made at Corus Bank, 125 Old McHenry Road. Checks can be made payable to the Hembd Family Fund. Gross is collecting all other donated items at her home. The family includes mother, father and three children ages 1, 3 and 4. For more information on making donations, contact Gross at (847) 537-1274.

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Come next spring, new Dist. 214 board members will take oath of office

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board members typically have accepted the job with a will to do right and well.

Now, they'll swear on it. The seven-member board has agreed that, from now on, new members will take an oath of office before being formally seated.

The practice will kick in for the first time after April's election. The exact wording of the board's oath has not yet been hammered out.

The practice of members taking an oath is not uncommon.

Board Secretary Sue Stronach, in an informal poll of nine District 214 feeder elementary schools and neighboring high school systems, found that most have some sort of swearing-in system for members.

She discovered that five of the districts actually swear in the members



Erin Holmes
Our schools

and two have new members sign a code of ethics.

Board member Alva Kreutzer was the first to propose the idea for the District 214 board, saying that it seemed fitting to have some type of ceremony when a new member joins.

Big bands: Two out of three. Not bad. Especially when you're talking symphonic bands at a top state music conference.

Buffalo Grove and John Hersey high schools' bands have been selected to perform at the 2003 Illinois Music Educators All-State

Conference in Peoria next year.

Only three bands statewide were selected, from about 20 entries.

The conference will host thousands of music students and teachers from across the state.

Get on those dogs: Are your shoes made for walkin'? Because that's what they should do.

Today is Walk to School Day, so do your part. If it's too late notice for today, tomorrow will suffice.

If it's walking distance, of course. Need an incentive?

The Web site for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention points out that even moderate exercise can boost your health.

Read more about Walk to School Day at www.walktoschool-usa.org.

Spotted: Prospect Marching Knights

director Dave Morrison, in the September edition of The Instrumentalist magazine.

Morrison was one of four directors interviewed in an article discussing their views on developing an outstanding marching band.

The five-page, question-and-answer article asks Morrison questions about things like incorporating the fundamentals — like breath support and tone quality — in rehearsals; the quest to win competitions; and the differences between his approaches to teaching concert and marching band.

And the final question: What steps do you take to avoid becoming burned out as a director?

Morrison's answer: "I decided long ago to make rehearsals enjoyable. Music certainly takes discipline, but when I have fun, students have fun."

"Music certainly takes discipline, but when I have fun, students have fun."

Dave Morrison,
 Prospect Marching Knights director

Morrison is in his 25th year as director at Prospect High School; his group has won a state competition at the University of Illinois for 19 years ... and counting.

New Prospect Principal Karen Rogers forwarded me a copy of The Instrumentalist article, calling the school's band program "truly amazing" and saying Morrison definitely deserves a tribute.

"I think he's had just an incredible career and made so many contribu-

tions," she said.

Condolences: Alvin "Al" Weber, former member of the Rolling Meadows High School family, has died after a bout with cancer.

Weber served as building and grounds supervisor at the school from July 1984 until June 2001.

In a tribute published in the September edition of the school parent newsletter, he's remembered as a "wonderfully warm and caring man" who was willing to help anyone who sought his help.

"Al had fun helping others have fun," the write-up says.

Services were held earlier this month. He will be missed.

* Contact Erin Holmes with news tips or ideas at (847) 427-4488 or erholmes@dailymherald.com.

Neighbors help
 The Hembd family belongings in a fire is trying to help the has been lost.
 Valerie Cross, who Drive, said a fund Wheeling. She is collecting for the family basics," including cups and toothbrush.
 Gross said cash Old McHenry Roac Hembd Family Fur items at her home, three children ages ing donations, conte

\$2 million bond set in Hanover Park killing

By Dave Orrick 10-3-02
 Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

In asking Circuit Court Judge Karen Thompson Tobin for a high bond, prosecutor Sheri Chandra said

lowed an argument fanned by internal strife among members of the same gang who were attending a

Home day-care may face new limits

Pioneer Press
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
10.3.02

The Wheeling Plan Commission is proposing a change to the village's home child-care ordinance that reduces the number of children allowed in a home to eight from 12.

Commissioners based their opinion on traffic and noise impacts, and their concern that some home day-care providers hire people to work for them. The Plan Commission did not conduct a formal study of each home day care in the village, however.

Commissioners debated the changes at a meeting Sept. 26. One of their primary concerns — that of providers hiring employees to work at the home — stems from a village ordinance that prohibits such a practice.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services regulations, however, call for additional staff if a home child-care provider cares for more than five children under the age of 6. DCFS regulations also say that a home child-care provider cannot serve more than eight children alone, with no more than two being under the age of 30 months. Agency regulations state that a home day-care provider can have up to 12 children in the home with one part-time assistant.

Adding to the confusion is the village's classification of home day-care centers as different from other

home businesses. That difference currently allows home day-care providers to hire employees, said Village Planner Jeff Harris.

The commissioners also had other concerns. They agreed that 12 children in one home is too many.

"The biggest worry I have is emergencies," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady said.

Brady said he once lived near a home that provided child care for 12 children, and the noise of horns honking, traffic and children playing outside was too much for the neighborhood.

"When you look at some of our subdivisions, sometimes there's only about five feet from someone's window from a backyard," Brady said. "We owe something to the neighbors."

All commissioners agreed that home child care is a valuable service that needs to be offered in the community. The Plan Commission worked with Iris Kaitschuck, president of the Illinois Association for Family and Children, and Linda Waycie of the Children's Home and Aid Society, a partner with the Day Care Action Council of Illinois, in order to find a suitable number of children allowed in a home child-care setting.

Both said they were pleased with the commission's decision.

"It's a good compromise," Waycie said. "Obviously, they were concerned with the (hiring of) employees."

Waycie said she believed a home day-care provider can run a profitable business with eight children, and Kaitschuck feared that allowing less than eight children could prompt more home day-care providers to ignore obtaining a license and go "underground" with their business.

"Then they wouldn't bother to get the training," she said. "More training means better quality of care."

Commissioners held off on sending a formal recommendation to the Village Board, which will have final say on any new local day-care regulations. There are some people in the village that are licensed to care for more than eight children, and commissioners debated whether they wanted to make exceptions for those providers or set a date the ordinance would take effect for all. Commissioners want an opinion from the village attorney before making a recommendation to the Village Board. Commissioners hope to get that opinion for their Oct. 24 meeting.

The Village Board asked the Plan Commission earlier this year to review the home day-care ordinance after Wheeling resident Lynda Claver received a new home child-care license. Claver was licensed to care for 12 children before she moved to a different home in Wheeling. When she reapplied for her license, the Village Board dropped the number of children she could care for to eight, saying 12 was too many for one home.

Mayors' group grades pols

Pioneer Press
By ANDREA L. BROWN

STAFF WRITER
Oct. 3, 2002

If the concerns of municipalities in and around the northwest suburbs also capture the attention and support of state lawmakers, those legislators deserve recognition.

POLITICS

That's the thinking behind the Northwest Municipal Conference report cards, which bestowed a record number of "A's" to state legislators who voted in line with the conference on key issues.

The Northwest Municipal Conference, which encompasses 45 towns and five townships in the north and northwest suburbs, has been grading state representatives and senators since 1992. The last report card came out two years ago.

Forty members of the Illinois General Assembly were graded on how they voted. Members of the House of Representatives voted on 20 bills that interested the Northwest Municipal Conference. State senators voted on 14 such bills.

The high marks are the result of a combination of efforts, said Arlene Mulder, Arlington Heights village president and also this year's Municipal Conference president.

"There were more people who got A's and B's," Mulder said. "I think it's a testament to the fact we probably communicated more effectively with our legislators."

Because suburban officials are doing a better job of promoting their communities' interests, legislators are more aware of issues affecting the suburbs, Mulder said.

"I would have legislators who said, 'Arlene, we know what you're calling about,'"

NWMC grades legislators

The Northwest Municipal Conference, a collection of 50 mayors and township officials, recently released their report grading legislators representing the northwest suburbs. The legislators were judged based on their votes on legislation deemed important to the interests of local government services and taxes.

Legislator	Grade
Sen. Wendell Jones (R-27th)	B
Sen. Doris Karpel (R-25th)	B
Sen. Dick Klemm (R-32nd)	A
Sen. Terry Link (D-30th)	A
Sen. Bill Peterson (R-26th)	A
Sen. James "Pate" Phillip (R-23rd)	A
Sen. Steven Rauschenberger (R-33rd)	A
Sen. David Sullivan (R-28th)	A
Rep. Suzanne Bassi (R-54th)	C
Rep. Mark Beaubien (R-52nd)	C
Rep. Carolyn Krause (R-56th)	A
Rep. Rosemary Kurtz (R-64th)	C
Rep. Patricia Reid Lindner (R-65th)	D
Rep. Sidney Mathias (R-51st)	B
Rep. Karen May (R-60th)	A
Rep. Carole Pankau (R-49th)	B
Rep. Terry Parke (R-53rd)	C
Rep. Kathleen Wojcik (R-45th)	C

Source: Northwest Municipal Conference

Pioneer Press / cit

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"Wheeling has two good friends in Springfield — Terry Link and Karen May," he said. "We've been really fortunate to have them there."

The report cards gave extra credit for support of legislation affecting local revenues, such as simplifying local telecommunications taxes, making it easier for Internet retailers to comply with state sales tax laws and exempting some corporate taxpayers from a federal tax break.

The conference placed more weight on votes that had an impact on infrastructure and maintenance issues, such as providing new state grants for urban planning and local preservation and requiring the

associated with the issues that affect municipalities was one tactic conference members used to help legislators understand the municipalities' viewpoints, Mulder said.

"The key message to our legislators has always been: These are important issues when you're talking specifically about dollars," Mulder said.

A variety of other issues were considered, including legislation to uphold local truck weight ordinances, require high-rise building owners to write evacuation plans for the disabled and allow local governments to continue to receive photo processing revenues the state was considering usurping to balance its budget.

Networking between conference members and state lawmakers included meetings in which local mayors would meet with legislators representing a specific region and review the issues.

"They will listen to their mayors that they represent because they represent such a large part of their constituency," Mulder said. "There's more of a give and take back and forth in working with our legislators."

She also noted that the legislative grants of a few years

Village board to vote on hazardous storage locker

By GASS CLAVY
Daily Herald Staff Writer
10.7.02

A Wheeling printing company's plans to build a hazardous materials locker outside its facility is on the way to the village board.

Wheeling plan commissioners gave their OK to Segendahl Graphics to build the storage and containment locker at 385 Gilman Ave. after ensuring the locker will meet environmental safety standards.

The village board will decide if the plan should be approved.

Bill Harper of Segendahl told plan commissioners the company plans to build a 136-square-foot building outside its newest Wheeling location to store solvents and other printing products.

Segendahl is a commercial printing firm that produces products such as newspaper inserts and brochures.

"The purpose of the building is to provide a safe storage place," Harper said of the storage locker.

"We'll have a capacity of a maximum of 21 drums, but we don't anticipate having more than five or 10 at one time."

The primary concern of plan commissioners was what would happen in case of a spill.

Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady questioned whether Segendahl's plans meet Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

"In observing what the EPA and the government require these days for spill protection ... and in reading the specifications of this building, this building is designed to contain 25 percent of the product in case of a spill," Brady said.

"Twenty-five percent doesn't sound like a lot," Brady said.

Building designer Larry Gullom told commissioners the hazardous materials locker will be safer than the government requires.

"The federal and state requirement is for 10 percent of the materials being stored being contained in a spill," Gullom said, "so this exceeds the local, state and federal requirements."

Harper said the 55-gallon drums won't contain material that can seep into the groundwater supply.

"We are strictly storing flammable material because it is safer than storing it inside the building," he said.

Wheeling's fire marshal told commissioners that the fire department has reviewed the plans and will ensure that Segendahl complies with safety codes.

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Because suburban officials are doing a better job of promoting their communities' interests, legislators are more aware of issues affecting the suburbs, Mulder said.

"I would have legislators who said, 'Arlene, we know what you're calling about,'" Mulder said. "That was comforting to know we were getting our message out as mayors."

State Sen. Terry Link, D-30th, and State Rep. Karen May, R-60th, represent the majority of Wheeling in Springfield and both received "A's" for their efforts. Wheeling President Greg Klatecki

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Pioneer Press / dte

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The conference placed more weight on votes that had an impact on infrastructure and maintenance issues, such as providing new state grants for urban planning and local preservation and requiring the state to test a quieter train whistle if the federal government mandates locomotives to sound horns at all crossings.

Another key issue was requiring state licenses for gun dealers.

"We really lobbied hard on those," Mulder said.

Providing legislators with specific information and costs

associated with the issues that affect municipalities was one tactic conference members used to help legislators understand the municipalities' viewpoints, Mulder said.

"The key message to our legislators has always been: 'These are important issues when you're talking specifically about dollars,'" Mulder said.

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"They will listen to their mayors that they represent because they represent such a large part of their constituency," Mulder said. "There's more of a give and take back and forth in working with our legislators."

She also noted that the legislative grants of a few years ago, when the state had surplus revenues, helped bring local communities and their needs to the forefront.

"We're sitting down and talking through it," Mulder said. "They want to know what's going on in our communities."

— Staff writer Casey Moffitt contributed to this report.

Village board to vote on hazardous storage locker

By CASS CLAYTON

Daily Herald Staff Writer / Oct. 7, 02

A Wheeling printing company's plans to build a hazardous materials locker outside its facility is on the way to the village board.

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plan should be approved.

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for spill protection... and in reading the specifications of this building, this building is designed to contain 25 percent of the product in case of a spill," Brady said.

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"We're strictly storing flammable material because it is safer than storing it inside the building," he said. Wheeling's fire marshal told commissioners that the fire department has reviewed the plans and will ensure that Segendahl complies with safety codes.

Pilot system suggested to curb Palwaukee din

BY GASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10.6.02

Putting public pressure on pilots who don't "fly quiet" and rewarding pilots who do are two ways Palwaukee Municipal Airport could reduce airplane noise.

A community group formed to improve the relationship between Palwaukee and its neighbors recommends giving awards and discounts for the quietest planes that fly at Palwaukee and posting lists in public places of repeat noise offenders.

The group called the Palwaukee Community Engagement Council, or PACE, also suggests using software at the airport to track problem flyers as they take off and land and to change flight patterns to shift flights over the Prospect Heights Forest Preserve and away from homes.

The council made the recommendations during this week's twice yearly meeting of Palwaukee managers, airport commissioners and Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials meant to inform the towns that own the airport of developments at Palwaukee.

Council members were gratified that airport and town officials praised their ideas, they said. However, the council wants to make sure it gets more than a pat on the back for its efforts.

"We need to establish a formal procedure so we get feedback on how the commission is going to act on our ideas," said Bob Dourlain, the Wheeling council member who put together the noise presentation. "If they don't go anywhere, we need to know why."

Prospect Heights 5th Ward Alderman and council member Darlene

Ahlstedt agreed. Council volunteers "aren't in it for the glory," she said. "We want results."

Palwaukee formed the council in May as a community outreach effort to involve residents and airport tenants in shaping the airport's future.

It's an advisory council that makes recommendations to the airport commission, which sets Palwaukee policy.

One of the first orders of business for the fledgling council was to set up a noise subcommittee to address residents' noise concerns. That subcommittee made the noise recommendations to the airport commission.

It bodes well that Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau has already spoken to the Federal Aviation Administration about changing flight patterns at the airport, said Dourlain, co-chairman of the noise subcommittee.

Now, the council is looking to do more.

At the group's follow-up meeting Thursday, the group decided to form other committees dedicated to investigating whether the airport provides economic benefits to surrounding communities and also to improving council communications with the public.

"I think a lot of the community doesn't know we exist," said Warren Sunde, a resident who joined the council as a community advocate after years of publicly criticizing Palwaukee.

The council continues to welcome new members. Call council coordinator Robert Mark for more information, (847) 537-2580, Ext. 160. Reach the Palwaukee Airport Noise Complaint Hotline by calling (847) 537-2580, Ext. 159.

Chris Gibson at Indian Trails shows one of the pages of the rare book, filled with photos of early Masonic lodges.



Officials with the Indian Trails Public Library in Wheeling uncovered a little-known gem as they prepared for their recent book sale hosted by the Friends of the Library. Among the thousands of donated books was a small hardcover with only six pages of copy, and loads of historic illustrations and photographs.

Librarian Christine Gibson, outreach department head, noticed the book right away. A history buff, she was drawn to its size, age and pictures.

"I figured this was a very, very limited edition," Gibson says. "It contained specific information about this lodge, which was pretty unique."

The book is called "Sovereign Alumni of the R.W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania," published in 1920. It described the country's oldest Masonic lodges, spanning 190 years from their beginnings in 1730 to the

Eileen D. Dadey
Good news



Gibson's hunch, Friends volunteers and library officials deemed it to be an "at-risk work" — one that was published in a limited edition, is scarce or hard to find. At-risk works also are aging and need the care of a professionally trained archivist.

They contacted the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to see if officials there would like to include it in

their collection.

Within 15 minutes of their e-mail, museum officials responded: "Sure! ... It's time for it to come home."

Turns out, the Philadelphia museum is the headquarters for all Masonic temples in Pennsylvania, and the historian for all Masons in this country since the American movement began in Philadelphia.

Its library contains 70,000 volumes, all written and published by Masons. However, according to Masons librarian Clendys Waldham, the library has very few copies of the historic 1920 sovereign album.

She declined to go on eBay or to any other auction house to try to have the book appraised. In fact, she has no interest in doing so, she said. Its value lies with the Masons and the museum that holds their earliest artifacts.

"It will be very helpful for our collection," Waldham said. "We'll be

happy to have it home again. After all the excitement of the discovery, subsidized, library officials and volunteers in Wheeling went on to collect \$3,300 from the recent used book sale for library enhancements.

Still, making money from their book sale is one thing. Being able to return an at-risk work dating back to before our nation's founding — now that's priceless.



This rare book recovered at the Indian Trails Library was donated to the Masons organization.

Indian Trails Public Library uncovers piece of Masonic lodges history

District 21 wants a face-to-face

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

10.10.02

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 administration is inviting the public to two state-of-the-schools meetings to be held Oct. 15 and Oct. 29.

The meetings will showcase the educational programs offered to students and lay out the financial health of the district, said Superintendent Gary Mical. The meetings also will allow those in attendance to break into small groups to look at some of the issues the district is facing and work on possible solutions, Mical said.

"We're trying to engage the public," Mical said. "We want the public to have more understanding of the issues and more support for the solutions."

Two big issues the School Board will have to work on this year include finances and school boundaries. The board is considering asking voters for a tax increase to help the district solve its financial problems. The board also will

be looking at school boundaries to alleviate overcrowding in east-side schools. Both issues will be addressed at the meetings.

Phil Pritzker, District 21 board president, said both the district and the community stand much to gain through the meetings.

"We want to bring the public in to let them know what's going on in the district," he said. "It's also an opportunity for the public to give feedback to us."

Pritzker said similar meetings have been held in the past, specifically when the district wanted to reopen London Middle School.

He also said there is a greater emphasis to get public input on school-related issues. While interviewing for a superintendent last year, Pritzker said the board was looking for a candidate who can engage the public in face-to-face dialogue.

"Gary's experience and background, and a personal conviction that community engagement is a strong component of running a school district, will help us achieve that goal," Pritzker said. "We felt it was appropriate in the fall, when he's had a few months under his belt, to do something like this."

(Continued on page 10)

■ District 21 Continued from page 8

ter," he said. "The larger the group, it will be more representative of the total population."

Both meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and will run for about two hours. Both will be held at London Middle School, 1001 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling. For more information about the state-of-the-school meetings, call the superintendent's office at (847) 520-2727.

Mical said there may be similar meetings in the future held on a regular basis. He also said the meetings should generate a lot of interest from the public.

"The more people, the bet-

District 214 sets course to ban tutoring for pay

By ERIN HOLMES
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-11-02

The Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board Thursday directed its staff to write a policy that would ban district teachers from tutoring district students privately for pay.

The policy now allows intradistrict tutoring as long as it is approved by the principal in accordance with district guidelines.

Exactly what those guidelines should be — there are none now — was the intended subject of the board's discussion.

Thursday's verdict was delivered with the idea that such private tutoring, which does go on now, can create conflicts of interest, be unfair to those who can't afford the option and stir problems between the schools and parents who may be dissatisfied with the tutoring.

Some board members said they'd instead favor adding broader tutoring programs, like the Saturday morning academy now used at Prospect High, to help kids.

"I'd rather see something for all than something for few," member Alva Kreutzer said. "I really believe that if students need tutoring, then we should consider tutoring that would be available for all students. If our students need assistance, they shouldn't need to pay for a private

tutor." Board Vice President Bill Dussling pointed out numerous merits of that kind of controlled program — among them the fact that the effectiveness of the tutoring would be more easily measured.

The discussion stemmed from a proposed revision of the district's existing tutoring policy, which suggested criteria by which district teachers would be allowed to tutor district students.

The suggestions called for banning teachers from privately tutoring any student in their own class, limiting where teachers could advertise their tutoring availability and requiring that all tutoring be approved by the principal.

"We didn't have any established procedures," said Elk Grove High Principal Raymond Broderick, who presented the proposal to the board. "That was our problem."

But board members Thursday voiced numerous concerns with the proposed guidelines — some saying they were too complex and still didn't eliminate the potential for myriad conflicts — before the majority agreed to direct staff to rewrite the policy to ban academic, intradistrict paid private tutoring.

No new policy has been drafted, nor been finally approved. Details, such as how banning tutoring may affect specialized programs like music, have not been ironed out.

Two hurt when SUV leaves road, lands near home

OCT 4, 2002

By RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Buffalo Grove man lost control of his vehicle just before midnight Wednesday, clipped the corner of a Wheeling home and landed upside down wedged between two other houses.

No one inside the homes, including an 8-month old, his sister and mother who slept in a room struck by the sport utility vehicle, were hurt.

The driver of the vehicle, Jordan L. Jones, 20, lost consciousness after the crash and was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge early Thursday, said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes.

A passenger, Kenneth K. Hobbs, 18, of Prospect Heights, ran from the accident but was later found by police and taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Hermes said.

Jones remained in critical condition at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Hobbs was treated and released from Holy Family Thursday, hospital officials said.

The accident happened at 11:58 p.m. at Wheeling Avenue and Crescent Drive, authorities said.

Jones told police he was driving his 2001 Ford Explorer Carryall east on Dundee Road and turned right onto Wheeling Avenue, thinking it would connect to Hintz Road, Hermes said.

Jones said he was traveling about 40 mph on Wheeling Avenue, went to change a compact disc, looked up and saw two other vehicles parked along the street, Hermes said.

He tried to downshift the SUV,

"I thought it was a bomb. I was worried about my children — they are my life."

Jasvir Kaur, who was asleep in a downstairs bedroom with her 8-month-old son and daughter, 9

Jones told police, and that is when the vehicle left the roadway, Hermes said.

"And he woke up upside down," Hermes said.

Residents of the houses the vehicle struck woke up to the crash as well, including Jasvir Kaur, who was in a downstairs bedroom with her 8-month-old son and daughter, 9.

The SUV clipped the corner of the house at 367 Crescent Drive, knocking out bricks and causing a crack in the bedroom walls, Kaur said.

"I thought it was a bomb," she said.

"I was worried about my children — they are my life."

Across the street, Eric Fischer, was asleep on a couch in his living room when the SUV landed on foliage between his house and another.

The impact pushed a tree into a downstairs window, breaking it, he said.

"It threw stuff off the walls," Fischer said.

Neighbors where the crash happened say cars speeding and driving recklessly have been a problem for several years.

"People fly through here like it's a raceway," Fischer said. "It's amazing."

No charges have been filed. The crash remains under investigation.

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Dist. 214 superintendent

Oct. 11, 2002
By CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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That's because board members found themselves in a sticky situation last spring as they tried to address crowding problems. On two difficult occasions, members voted to change boundaries to move some students out of Whitman Elementary School

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District 214 enrollment

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Elk Grove High School	1,904	1,876	+28	1,902
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Prospect High School	1,948	1,905	+43	2,000
Rolling Meadows High School	1,815	1,842	-27	1,886
Wheeling High School	1,857	1,811	+46	1,835
Nipper Career Center	107	80	+27	110
Forest View Alt. School	83	71	+12	75
Vanguard School	91	103	-12	100
Total	11,973*	11,709	+264	12,004

* District 214's 2002 total enrollment is 12,408. That number includes students also enrolled in evening programs at Nipper and Rolling Meadows High, Project Reclaim (an alternative program for expelled students or students facing expulsion) and the Newcomers Center and students served by out-of-district special education programs.

Dist. 214 student body continues to expand

By ERIN HOLMES
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-10-02

At the bottom of the ninth, the classrooms were loaded. Again.

This game is getting predictable.

The official 2002 Northwest High School District 214 enrollment count, taken at the end of September, shows more than 12,170 students sitting in classes in high schools and alternative programs this year, up about 330 kids from the school year before.

Adding in students served by out-of-district special education programs brings the grand total to 12,408 — a figure that falls short of projections by only seven students and reflects a 2.5 percent growth.

A decade ago, the district was sitting comfortably with about 2,000 fewer students than this; it's grown steadily since then, with this year posting the highest total since the

predicted student boom. "So far, so good," Associate Superintendent Jim Popernik said, saying enrollment numbers now show that project, which got started this spring, was a necessity.

The biggest change this year came at Buffalo Grove High School, already the district's most populated school, where enrollment climbed by more than 120 students.

The main culprit is the freshman class, which, at about 660 students, is unusually large and considerably bigger than the 460-member Class of 2002 that graduated last year.

"This is exactly what we expected," Principal Carter Burns said. "And we will continue to grow next year."

At Rolling Meadows High School, meanwhile, enrollment dropped by nearly 30 students, a scenario Popernik said was "just a blip." The Sept. 30 enrollment figures will

City moves to mend airport rift:

Prospect Heights hopes that taking the "high road" in an annexation dispute with Wheeling will lead to a more cooperative future, aldermen said Monday. Prospect Heights aldermen agreed to renew discussions over whether to allow Wheeling to annex 5.6-acre and 23.7-acre parcels of land at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, which both towns share. Prospect Heights aldermen last month decided to keep the issue on the back burner, saying the city would give up the only leverage it has in a Palwaukee water dispute with Wheeling if it allowed Wheeling to annex the land. Prospect Heights wants Wheeling to allow Palwaukee to run a water main along the south side of the airport to provide fire sprinklers

for proposed T-shaped hangars, but Wheeling thinks Prospect Heights should pay for the water main. Aldermen took a preliminary vote in favor of the Wheeling annexation, hoping the two towns can compromise.

10-8-02

tutoring district students privately for pay.

The policy now allows intradistrict tutoring as long as it is approved by the principal in accordance with district guidelines.

Exactly what those guidelines should be — there are none now — was the intended subject of the board's discussion.

Thursday's verdict was delivered with the idea that such private tutoring, which does go on now, can create conflicts of interest, be unfair to those who can't afford the option and stir problems between the schools and parents who may be dissatisfied with the tutoring.

Some board members said they'd instead favor adding broader tutoring programs, like the Saturday morning academy now used at Prospect High, to help kids.

"I'd rather see something for all than something for few," member Alva Kreutzer said. "I really believe that if students need tutoring, then we should consider tutoring that would be available for all students. If our students need assistance, they shouldn't need to pay for a private

The discussion stemmed from a proposed revision of the district's existing tutoring policy, which suggested criteria by which district teachers would be allowed to tutor district students.

The suggestions called for banning teachers from privately tutoring any student in their own class, limiting where teachers could advertise their tutoring availability and requiring that all tutoring be approved by the principal.

"We didn't have any established procedures," said Elk Grove High Principal Raymond Broderick, who presented the proposal to the board. "That was our problem."

But board members Thursday voiced numerous concerns with the proposed guidelines — some saying they were too complex and still didn't eliminate the potential for myriad conflicts — before the majority agreed to direct staff to rewrite the policy to ban academic, intradistrict paid private tutoring.

No new policy has been drafted, nor been finally approved. Details, such as how banning tutoring may affect specialized programs like music, have not been ironed out.

BY RHONDA SCIARRA
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Buffalo Grove man lost control of his vehicle just before midnight Wednesday, clipped the corner of a Wheeling home and landed upside down wedged between two other houses.

No one inside the homes, including an 8-month old, his sister and mother who slept in a room struck by the sport utility vehicle, were hurt.

The driver of the vehicle, Jordan L. Jones, 20, lost consciousness after the crash and was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge early Thursday, said Wheeling Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes.

A passenger, Kenneth K. Hobbs, 18, of Prospect Heights, ran from the accident but was later found by police and taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Hermes said.

Jones remained in critical condition at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Hobbs was treated and released from Holy Family Thursday, hospital officials said.

The accident happened at 11:58 p.m. at Wheeling Avenue and Crescent Drive, authorities said.

Jones told police he was driving his 2001 Ford Explorer Carryall east on Dundee Road and turned right onto Wheeling Avenue, thinking it would connect to Hintz Road, Hermes said.

Jones said he was traveling about 40 mph on Wheeling Avenue, went to change a compact disc, looked up and saw two other vehicles parked along the street, Hermes said.

He tried to downshift the SUV,

"I thought it was a bomb. I was worried about my children — they are my life."

Jasvir Kaur, who was asleep in a downstairs bedroom with her 8-month-old son and daughter, 9

Jones told police, and that is when the vehicle left the roadway, Hermes said.

"And he woke up upside down," Hermes said.

Residents of the houses the vehicle struck woke up to the crash as well, including Jasvir Kaur, who was in a downstairs bedroom with her 8-month-old son and daughter, 9.

The SUV clipped the corner of the house at 367 Crescent Drive, knocking out bricks and causing a crack in the bedroom walls, Kaur said.

"I thought it was a bomb," she said.

"I was worried about my children — they are my life."

Across the street, Eric Fischer, was asleep on a couch in his living room when the SUV landed on foliage between his house and another.

The impact pushed a tree into a downstairs window, breaking it, he said.

"It threw stuff off the walls," Fischer said.

Neighbors where the crash happened say cars speeding and driving recklessly have been a problem for several years.

"People fly through here like it's a raceway," Fischer said. "It's amazing."

No charges have been filed. The crash remains under investigation.

at bi Re Ki re ol m w D U D th El L t t W S

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Dist. 21 superintendent

Oct. 11, 2002
BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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"It's really a public engagement opportunity," Mical said. "The challenge I had was to come up with a kind of direction for this."
That's because board members found themselves in a sticky situation last spring as they tried to address crowding problems. On two different occasions, members voted to change boundaries to move some students out of Whitman Elementary School

Community members who want their voices heard on space and enrollment concerns in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 now have a place to speak up.
District 21's new superintendent, Gary Mical, is forming an advisory council, where 20 to 40 residents will be invited to share their thoughts and come up with possible solutions to

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Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-10-02

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Adding in students served by out-of-district special education programs brings the grand total to 12,408 — a figure that falls short of projections by only seven students and reflects a 2.5 percent growth.

A decade ago, the district was sitting comfortably with about 2,000 fewer students than this; it's grown steadily since then, with this year posting the highest total since the mid-1980s, when district officials closed Forest View High School.

Officials had banked on a continued trend of growth when they approved a multimillion-dollar expansion and renovation plan last year aimed at preparing schools for a

predicted student boom.

"So far, so good," Associate Superintendent Jim Popernik said, saying enrollment numbers now show that project, which got started this spring, was a necessity.

The biggest change this year came at Buffalo Grove High School, already the district's most populated school, where enrollment climbed by more than 120 students.

The main culprit is the freshman class, which, at about 660 students, is unusually large and considerably bigger than the 460-member Class of 2002 that graduated last year.

"This is exactly what we expected," Principal Carter Burns said. "And we will continue to grow next year."

At Rolling Meadows High School, meanwhile, enrollment dropped by nearly 30 students, a scenario Popernik said was "just a blip."

The Sept. 30 enrollment figures will be reported to the state.

District 214 officials now are working on updating enrollment projections, based on new district tallies and those from feeder elementary school systems. The updates will be presented to the school board Oct. 24.

City moves to mend airport rift:

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for proposed T-shaped hangars, but Wheeling thinks Prospect Heights should pay for the water main. Aldermen took a preliminary vote in favor of the Wheeling annexation, hoping the two towns can compromise.

Dundee Road project's time has to wait

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

OCT 10, 2002?

Alex Loyfman has been working to develop an office and retail development at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway for a year, but his timing is a "little bit off" for the Wheeling Plan Commission.

The commission voted 6-0 to recommend a denial of Loyfman's proposal. It is the second time the commission has rejected the development in the last year.

Plan commissioners said the proposed development is an improvement over others submitted for the 8-acre site. However, the commission noted that the new comprehensive plan may hold a different vision for the area.

"I think what you've done is great," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady said to Loyfman. "I've been hoping and praying for office development. Unfortunately, your timing is just a little bit off."

The other commissioners agreed, saying they like the proposal but cannot commit to it until the comprehensive plan is completed, which is expected in February.

“I think what you’ve done is great. I’ve been hoping and praying for office development. Unfortunately, your timing is just a little bit off.”

Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady

"I'm sorry we're not further along with the comprehensive plan to know if this will be appropriate," Commissioner Pam Dorband said.

The comprehensive plan may suggest the lot remain vacant and be used as a park or a pond for public recreation. It lies in the flood plain and is difficult to develop. The Loyfman plan called for the development of only four acres, leaving the other four acres empty for storm water storage.

Project architect Robert Kirk said the three-story building would fit in well with a pond if the two are built together.

"It looks like a vacant piece of land waiting to be developed," Kirk said. "If the comprehensive plan says let it be, I think that'd be a big mistake."

Plan Commissioner David Cantwell asked if the proposal could be moved to a different site in the village. Kirk responded that the proposed site was ideal to include retail shops on the first floor that would complement offices in the top two stories.

Loyfman said he was "shocked and surprised" at the commission's decision, because the first time he had heard the village was working on its comprehensive plan was at the Oct. 10 meeting, even though he has been working with village staff on the proposal for about a year.

"I'm confused myself," he said. "I've never been in that situation before. Usually you know far in advance about those things."

Loyfman said he hopes he can hold onto the property long enough to work with Camiros, the comprehensive plan consultants, to see if the development can work in the new plan.

"We've dedicated a lot of time into it, and we're going to press forward to get it done," he said.

The proposal will go to the Village Board next, which can elect to accept the proposal, deny it or send it back to the Plan Commission for further review.

Two meetings will address Dist. 2

BY CORRIE CUTLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-9-02

Officials in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will hold two meetings this month to discuss the district's deteriorating financial state with members of the community.

"The goal is to get people to take a clear and definite look at the financial resources and what we need to do," District 21 Board President Phil Pritzker said Tuesday.

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Board President Phil Pritzker

The district is facing a projected deficit of \$4.5 million in the education

fund this year. Officials have said in recent months that unless voters approve a tax increase in April, serious cuts will have to be made in the budget to keep the district from being placed on the Illinois State Board of Education's financial watch list.

This could mean letting teachers go, officials have explained, which would result in larger class sizes and fewer educational programs. Slashing the education fund means slashing jobs, since teacher salaries and bene-

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We pay - just follow the 5 W's:

Police officer wants justice upheld

By WILLIAM STUTZMAN

Pioneer Press Oct 10, 2002

William Stutzman is a sergeant in the investigations unit of the Wheeling Police Department.

I have been following with great disgust and disbelief the recent newspaper articles covering the clemency petition filed on behalf of all Illinois death row inmates in which they are asking Gov. George Ryan to reduce their death sentences.

GUEST ESSAY

Of particular interest is the case involving Tyrone Strickland, who was convicted and sentenced to death for killing uniformed Wheeling Police Officer Kenneth Dawson on Nov. 5, 1985. At the time of his death, Officer Dawson was a 15-year veteran of the Wheeling Police Department, 41 years of age, married and with three daughters. I write this letter in behalf of the current, retired and deceased men and women of the Wheeling Police Department.

I was there that night and have seen up close how his senseless killing not only affected Officer Dawson's family and friends but also the members of the Wheeling Police Department.

I hope Gov. Ryan and the Prisoner Review Board take a prudent look into the undisputed facts of this case and the terror Tyrone and Larry Strickland caused on Nov. 5, 1985.

Officer Dawson responded to a call of two males, Tyrone and Larry Strickland, who had entered a

woman's home uninvited and left when confronted by her. As Officer Dawson arrived in his marked squad, Larry Strickland threw down the gun he was carrying. Officer Dawson stopped Larry, and a struggle ensued. Tyrone was walking away from Officer Dawson, but he then stopped, turned around and picked up the gun his brother had just discarded.

Tyrone then walked right up to Officer Dawson, placed the gun to his chest and fired, killing Officer Dawson, as the bullet pierced his heart. After Officer Dawson had fallen to the ground, Tyrone kicked him several times as he laid their defenseless, bleeding to death. Tyrone then removed Officer Dawson's duty weapon from his holster.

Officer Dawson's backup unit arrived and blocked Strickland's vehicle's exit. They rammed the squad car and immediately began shooting at the officer from inside their car. After an exchange of gunfire, the Strickland brothers were able to free their car and escaped. However, because of the damage to their car, they had to abandon it.

They then began looking for their next victim and came across a Buffalo Grove citizen and his two grandchildren. Tyrone and Larry took them hostage at gunpoint and forced them to drive to Chicago. During the drive, Tyrone bragged about killing a police officer. When the victim driver got the attention of a marked Chicago police unit that was stopped at a red light, the Strickland brothers exited the car after firing several shots at the Chicago Police Department officer. The Strickland brothers were shortly thereafter apprehended.

Recovered from Tyrone's person was the gun used to kill Officer Dawson. Tyrone made a statement in which he admitted to the above-stated facts. At

Tyrone's trial, he took the witness stand and testified in open court and again admitted to shooting Officer Dawson. Tyrone now was telling the judge that he had accidentally fired the gun. The judge then picked up that same gun, pulled the trigger in court and revealed that there was no hair trigger as Tyrone suggested, but that it took a deliberate, forceful pull on the trigger to fire the gun.

This is not a case of mistaken identity, or a case built on circumstantial evidence, or an illegally obtained confession. We heard directly from Tyrone's own mouth, in his statement and when he testified, how he killed Wheeling Police Officer Kenneth Dawson. These facts are indisputable.

That fatal day of Nov. 5, 1985, Officer Dawson's life was taken away in a brief, senseless moment. Officer Dawson served and protected the citizens of Wheeling for 15 years, and he made the ultimate sacrifice — his life. Officer Dawson left behind a wife, three young daughters, his mother and brother, all of whom would never see him again.

What Gov. George Ryan has suggested he will do victimizes the family all over again. In our squad room, hangs a tribute to Officer Dawson's memory. There is a letter written by a fellow Wheeling officer who ends his thoughts by saying that when Officer Dawson was killed, we lost a husband, a father, a friend, a cop.

Officer Dawson will never be forgotten, as he stood for all that is right and good. Officer Dawson's killer, Tyrone Strickland, should receive what the court of law decided to be his fate, and that is death. I ask Gov. George Ryan and the Prisoner Review Board to do what is right and uphold what the court lawfully and righteously decided.



Forgotten Clemency of cop killer

Seeking clemency

Strickland's clemency petition, filed by Santiago Durango, an assistant public defender with the Office of the State Appellate Defender, states that Strickland should be granted clemency because he was sentenced without the benefits of the reforms submitted by Gov. Ryan's Commission on the Death Penalty and without the benefit of the reforms applicable to capital cases that were implemented by the Illinois Supreme Court effective March 1, 2001.

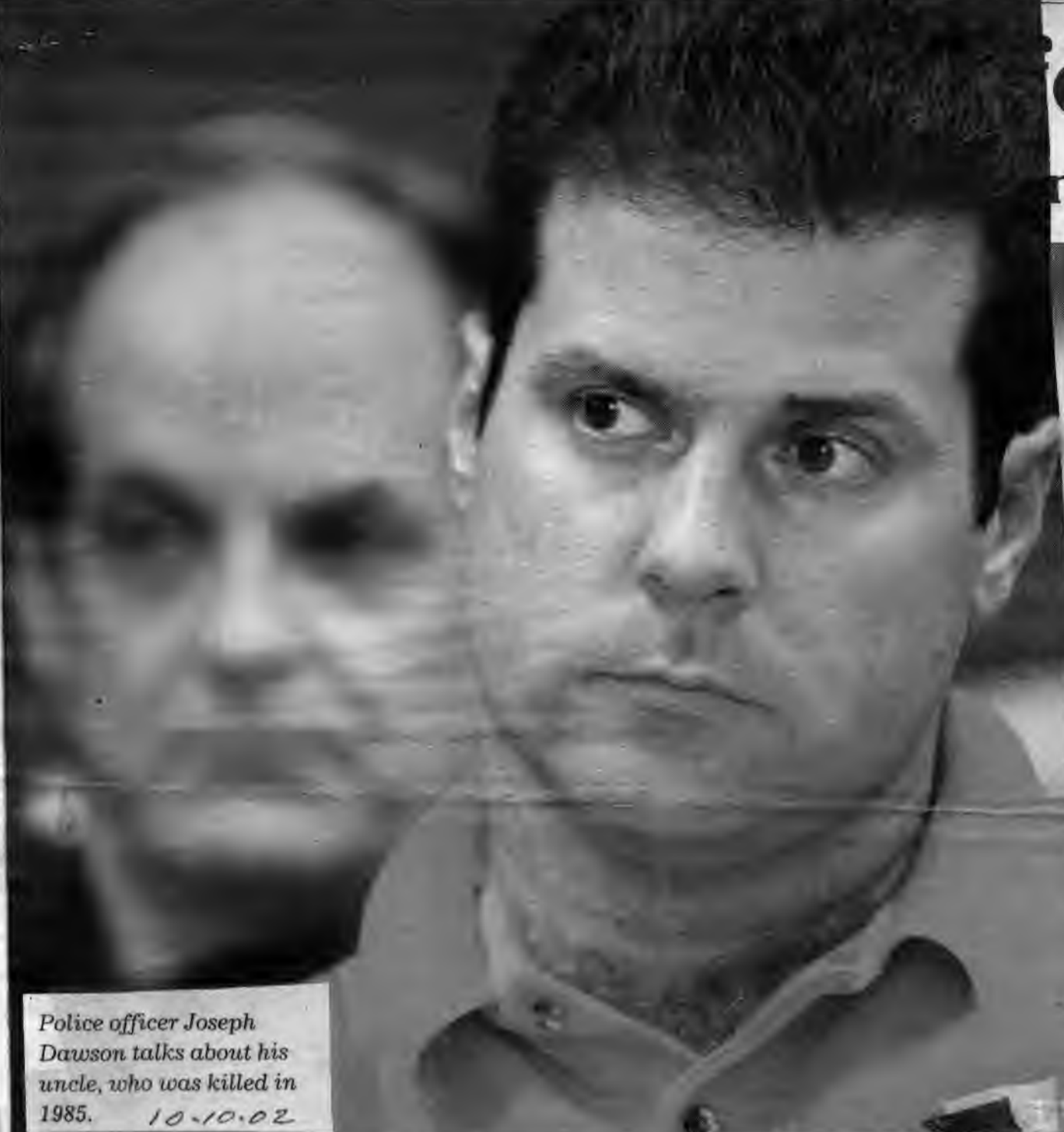
"As a consequence, Mr. Strickland was sentenced to death under a system of capital punishment that Governor Ryan and many others familiar with its operation have aptly described as deeply flawed and in need of repair," the petition states.

Durango will argue before the Prisoner Review Board that Strickland's confession was not recorded or videotaped, that he was not given the attorney he requested after his arrest, that he is borderline mentally retarded, that he was not given the chance to address the court after his conviction and that the prosecutor's decision to seek the death penalty was not based on uniform protocols. All of those factors are included in the Ryan commission report.

Playing politics?

Wheeling police officers say they are having difficulty understanding why the governor has demanded a blanket policy, granting clemency hearings for all death row inmates. Any inmate can request a hearing with the Prisoner Review Board at any time, and to grant everyone a hearing makes no sense, Wheeling officers say.

(Continued on page 7)



Police officer Joseph Dawson talks about his uncle, who was killed in 1985. 10-10-02

Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Tyrone Strickland with row inmates

Photo by Cathryn Scott • Pioneer Press

Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

A memorial to slain Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson hangs in the squad room of the Wheeling Police Department.

opened fire on him.

The Strickland brothers drove off but soon abandoned their car, which was damaged during the shoot-out. The pair then carjacked a Buffalo Grove man with his two grandchildren. The brothers ordered the man to drive into Chicago.

At the intersection of State

and Congress in Chicago, the kidnapped man saw a Chicago police officer at a red light. He got himself and his grandchildren out of the car and alerted the officer.

The Strickland brothers then opened fire at that officer and ran. Police later found the brothers hiding in an alley.

The governor, too, will review materials on each case, as well as the recommendation, before making a final decision on each one, Fincutter said.

"He will have the opportunity to review the files, testimony and materials," she said. "He will take his time."

Ryan's decision will be final and cannot be reversed by the incoming governor. Ryan has until the end of his term to make his decisions.

'Kick in the face'

Officers with the Wheeling Police Department, especially those who served with Dawson, already feel victimized by Strickland's actions. If he is allowed to live, they say they will be victimized all over again, this time by the governor.

"To have to go through this again is bad enough," Joseph Dawson said. "To commute (the sentence) would be the ultimate kick in the face."

Officer Kenneth Sheffler, who also served with Dawson, said he hopes the governor takes into consideration all

guess "rock solid," officers say. He confessed to the shooting, and admitted to pulling the trigger on the witness stand during his trial. Strickland claimed the gun went off by accident. But the judge picked up the .38 caliber revolver, pulled the trigger himself and determined there was no hair trigger on the gun like Strickland had claimed.

A date remembered

Dawson, a 15-year veteran of the force, was killed on Nov. 5, 1985. He responded to

son moved in to arrest him, while Tyrone Strickland began to walk away. Dawson and Larry Strickland became involved in a struggle. Tyrone Strickland walked back toward the two. He picked up his brother's gun, walked right up to Dawson, and shot him in the side, piercing Dawson's heart.

Tyrone Strickland took Dawson's handgun and began to kick Dawson while he was on the ground. Officer William Stutzman, now a sergeant, arrived as backup at the scene, and the Strickland brothers

"You're used to seeing funny things happen in court, and you develop an attitude, 'That's part of the system,'" said Cmdr. Jim Kuzynowski, who served with Dawson. "There is some other agenda (with the order). It's obvious there's some political agenda."

"It is so wrong and so out of whack," Cmdr. Stone said. "There's no rhyme or reason to it."

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said if Strickland were to send a clemency petition on his own, it would most likely not be heard.

"If it were done case by case, I don't think you'd find anybody who would present a case for him," he said. "There are no holes in this case. He deserves it, so do it."

Karen Fincutter, a spokeswoman for Gov. Ryan, said the hearings are justified because those on death row were sentenced under a "broken system" that has since been reformed by the recommendations of the governor's commission.

"Those recommendations don't ad-

dress the problem that we have 157 people on death row whose trials didn't benefit from the reforms," Fincutter said. "Retrial is impossible. This is one way to address that."

Further aggravating the Police Department's frustrations is the process that will be used for the hearings. A nonbinding guideline states each side will have 15 minutes to present its case. Jerry Lawrence, spokesman for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, said the normal process typically takes about five hours.

Joseph Dawson, a Wheeling police officer and nephew of Kenneth Dawson, said the case deserves a full hearing, if one is to be granted at all.

"It's criminal to go through a sham of a hearing instead of a five- to six-hour look," he said.

Fincutter said the actual hearing will only be part of the board's process. She said the board will look at other written testimony from both sides and other exhibits before making its non-binding, confidential recommendation to the governor.

As your family grows and changes, your health care needs will vary along the way. At Holy Family Medical Center...

Forgotten

Wheeling police fight possible clemency of cop killer

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 17 years ago, Tyrone Strickland shot and killed Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson. Strickland was tried, convicted and sentenced



to death, but he still has a chance to save his own life.

Strickland is scheduled to appear before the Prisoner Review

Board Oct. 17 for a hearing to try to get his sentence changed from death to life in prison. He is one of 157 death row inmates who will have such a hearing under an order from Gov. George Ryan.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

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An officer's plea

Page 15

Wheeling police Sgt. William Stutzman hopes officer Kenneth Dawson's killer, Tyrone Strickland, has his sentence upheld by Gov. George Ryan. Strickland is one of 157 death row inmates scheduled for a clemency hearing.

Wheeling police officers, especially those who served with Dawson, say Strickland's sentence should be carried out, and they hope the governor does not grant him clemency.

"We have faith in the system," Cmdr. John Stone said. "But it's letting us down because of some other cause."

The case against Strickland is "rock solid," officers say. He confessed to the shooting, and admitted to pulling the trigger on the witness stand during his trial. Strickland claimed the gun went off by accident. But the judge picked up the .38 caliber revolver, pulled the trigger himself and determined there was no hair trigger on the gun like Strickland had claimed.

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Dawson, a 15-year veteran of the force, was killed on Nov. 5, 1985. He responded to

a call from a woman on Cleo Court who said two men she did not know were inside her home. The two were Strickland and his older brother, Larry. Dawson stopped them at the scene as they went to their car.

Larry Strickland put his gun on the ground, and Dawson moved in to arrest him, while Tyrone Strickland began to walk away. Dawson and Larry Strickland became involved in a struggle. Tyrone Strickland walked back toward the two. He picked up his brother's gun, walked right up to Dawson, and shot him in the side, piercing Dawson's heart.

Tyrone Strickland took Dawson's handgun and began to kick Dawson while he was on the ground. Officer William Stutzman, now a sergeant, arrived as backup at the scene, and the Strickland brothers



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

A memorial to slain Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson hangs in the squad room of the Wheeling Police Department.

opened fire on him.

The Strickland brothers drove off but soon abandoned their car, which was damaged during the shoot-out. The pair then carjacked a Buffalo Grove man with his two grandchildren. The brothers ordered the man to drive into Chicago.

At the intersection of State

and Congress in Chicago, the kidnapped man saw a Chicago police officer at a red light. He got himself and his grandchildren out of the car and alerted the officer.

The Strickland brothers then opened fire at that officer and ran. Police later found the brothers hiding in an alley.

Playing politics?

Wheeling police officers say they are having difficulty understanding why the governor has demanded a blanket policy, granting clemency hearings for all death row inmates. Any inmate can request a hearing with the Prisoner Review Board at any time, and to grant everyone a hearing makes no sense, Wheeling officers say.

(Continued on page 7)

"You're used to seeing funny things happen in court, and you develop an attitude, 'That's part of the system,'" said Cmdr. Jim Kuzynowski, who served with Dawson. "There is some other agenda (with the order). It's obvious there's some political agenda."

"It is so wrong and so out of whack," Cmdr. Stone said. "There's no rhyme or reason to it."

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said if Strickland were to send a clemency petition on his own, it would most likely not be heard.

"If it were done case by case, I don't think you'd find anybody who would present a case for him," he said. "There are no holes in this case. He deserves it, so do it."

Karen Fincutter, a spokeswoman for Gov. Ryan, said the hearings are justified because those on death row were sentenced under a "broken system" that has since been reformed by the recommendations of the governor's commission.

"Those recommendations don't ad-

dress the problem that we have 157 people on death row whose trials didn't benefit from the reforms," Fincutter said. "Retrial is impossible. This is one way to address that."

Further aggravating the Police Department's frustrations is the process that will be used for the hearings. A nonbinding guideline states each side will have 15 minutes to present its case. Jerry Lawrence, spokesman for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, said the normal process typically takes about five hours.

Joseph Dawson, a Wheeling police officer and nephew of Kenneth Dawson, said the case deserves a full hearing, if one is to be granted at all.

"It's criminal to go through a sham of a hearing instead of a five- to six-hour look," he said.

Fincutter said the actual hearing will only be part of the board's process. She said the board will look at other written testimony from both sides and other exhibits before making its non-binding, confidential recommendation to the governor.

The governor, too, will review materials on each case, as well as the recommendation, before making a final decision on each one, Fincutter said.

"He will have the opportunity to review the files, testimony and materials," she said. "He will take his time."

Ryan's decision will be final and cannot be reversed by the incoming governor. Ryan has until the end of his term to make his decisions.

'Kick in the face'

Officers with the Wheeling Police Department, especially those who served with Dawson, already feel victimized by Strickland's actions. If he is allowed to live, they say they will be victimized all over again, this time by the governor.

"To have to go through this again is bad enough," Joseph Dawson said. "To commute (the sentence) would be the ultimate kick in the face."

Officer Kenneth Sheffler, who also served with Dawson, said he hopes the governor takes into consideration all

the victims of the Strickland case. That would include Dawson's family, the Wheeling Police Department and the community, which lost a dedicated police officer.

"The governor needs to look past the people in the cells and look at the others," Sheffler said.

Lawrence of the State's Attorney's Office said prosecutors will spend much of their 15 minutes presenting the concerns of the victims' families.

"It's important that the victims' families be heard one way or another," he said.

Cmdr. Stone said Dawson's family has "never been right since" his murder. Dawson left a wife, three daughters, a brother and his mother.

Joseph Dawson, who was 17 when his uncle was killed and who will be attending Strickland's hearing as a family member and as a Police Department representative, said he knows the community still misses his uncle.

"I still get compliments for being a Dawson," he said. "He is still missed here. He was a great guy."

Palwaukee Airport committee setting goals, finding its way

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press Oct 10, 2002

A diverse group of curious volunteers has been meeting together for the past four months to work on solutions to some of the problems associated with Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council, or PACE, has only met four times, and the group is still figuring out what its goals are, but the core volunteers feel they are on the right track and hope to improve the operations of the airport.

Robert Mark, coordinator of the PACE Council, described the council's goal as "community outreach from a community outreach group." The council operates separately from the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and focuses its work on concerns from the airport's neighbors.

"It's a conduit to ask questions and find answers to (the community's) concerns," Mark said. "There are probably a lot of people who wonder what they get out of Palwaukee."

Some of those people, such as Warren Sunde and Lonny Friedman, have been actively involved in the PACE Council since its beginning.

"I'm here to give a voice to the community," Friedman said at the Oct. 3 PACE meeting. "If (Palwaukee) was gone, it wouldn't phase me at all."

Other members of the group include pilots who use the airport, employees of airport-based businesses, local officials and others who are just curious about what goes on at the facility, which is jointly owned by the village of Wheeling and city of Prospect Heights.

Mark said the diversity of the group could be a key to its success in making the community aware of the issues, problems and benefits of the airport.

"When the council is interacting with people who don't fly but live near the airport, it gives

the group more credibility," Mark said. "Those who fly (on the council) bring a lot of technical expertise, but they can't bring credibility to someone who lives right off (the main runway)."

Dennis Rouleau, acting Palwaukee manager, said the council is designed to start a dialogue between the community and the airport.

"The best way to begin a dialogue is to bring all interested people together," he said. "We'd like to begin by inviting community leaders to help manage this new exchange of ideas. We believe citizens are especially well-positioned to offer insight on the airport's impact and encourage them to participate themselves, or nominate others who may offer significant value to the group."

The PACE Council has already begun working on the noise issue. A subcommittee was formed to look at the noise generated from airport operations, and members developed a list of 10 suggestions the airport could immediately implement at little or no cost. Those suggestions include rewarding pilots who fly quietly or, conversely, to post photos of repeat offenders who don't. Other suggestions include changing takeoff and landing patterns to fly over the forest preserve or industrial areas rather than over residential neighborhoods.

Those suggestions were presented to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission. The presentation was well-received, but the commission has yet to act on the suggestions.

Bob Dourlain, who helped formulate the suggestions, said getting feedback and action from the Airport Commission will be another step forward for the council. However, it will take some time, he admitted.

"Things are not going to happen overnight," he said at the last council meeting, "but hopefully we'll fix some things."

The council has also established two new subcommittees — an economic subcommittee to see how the airport affects the local economy, and a community outreach subcommittee

(Continued on page 10)

Prospect Hts. looks to OK Wheeling's annexation

By CASS CLYATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-11-02

Giving in doesn't mean giving up, Prospect Heights aldermen say.

Aldermen decided Monday that giving in a little on the city's annexation dispute with Wheeling could show the village that Prospect Heights is not giving up on having a better relationship with it.

The Prospect Heights council held a preliminary vote in favor of letting Wheeling annex a 5.6-acre and 23.7-acre parcel of land at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport. They continue to butt heads over Prospect Heights' unwillingness to let Wheeling annex land there without assurances the village will allow the airport to install a water main meant to serve hangars on the airport's south side.

What's at stake is a relationship that would ensure that both towns benefit equally from Palwaukee Airport. Airport managers say the communities served by Palwaukee see an overall economic return totaling some \$37.5 million a year.

"For us to approve this would be a show of good faith and willingness to work with them," 3rd Ward Alderman Deeda Sam said of approving Wheeling's annexation.

Wheeling trustees reproached aldermen at a joint meeting last week, questioning why they pledged to let the annexation go through in an earlier meeting, only to table the issue later.

"We thought we had pretty much agreed, and then to read in the newspaper that there was some rethinking on Prospect Heights' part was frustrating," said Wheeling Trustee and Airport Commissioner Trevor Lehmann.

Prospect Heights has its own financial concerns in protecting its claim on the airport, Lehmann said, but one side of the debate that has been neglected is that Wheeling lost tax revenue when Wolf and Hintz roads were relocated around the airport about 10 years ago.

"Wheeling lost quite a bit of industrial property," Lehmann said.

Some aldermen said Prospect Heights would be giving up its leverage if they agreed to the annexation. However, they ultimately agreed they could delay final approval until getting proof Wheeling doesn't expect the city to pay for a new airport water main.

Palwaukee Continued from page 7

to get word to the public about the existence and goals of the council.

Mark said he is pleased with the PACE Council's work so far, considering the group has only met together for a total of eight hours. He said some long-term goals need to be established, and the group needs to better define its direction.

"Sometimes we get so focused on things that are right

in front of our faces," he said. "We need to be more cognizant of where we want to be a year from now."

All are invited to join or attend PACE meetings, which are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the airport office at 1020 Plant Road. Mark can be contacted at (847) 537-2580 Ext. 160 for more information about the PACE Council.

Buffalo Grove man found guilty of killing ex-friend

Defendant owed Wheeling victim \$10,000, state says

Oct 12, 2002
By Brian Cox
Special to the Tribune

Jurors took less than three hours Friday to find a Buffalo Grove man guilty of first-degree murder in the 1998 shooting of a former friend over a \$10,000 debt.

Igor Lybubyezny, 45, lowered his head but showed little emotion as the verdict was read after a seven-day trial in the Cook County Circuit Courthouse in Skokie. Several of his relatives wept.

Lybubyezny, who faces 20 to 60 years in prison, is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 7.

Lybubyezny shot Tomasz Pohl, 45, of Wheeling, who had been his friend and diving buddy before the relationship soured in May 1998, when Lybubyezny failed to repay the debt,

prosecutors said. On the day of the murder, Lybubyezny telephoned Pohl and asked him to come to his auto body shop in Skokie, prosecutors said. There, Lybubyezny shot Pohl in the back of the head, dumped the body in the back of his sport-utility vehicle, then drove to Menominee County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he buried Pohl's body in a shallow grave, prosecutors said.

"We're glad the jury understood all the evidence," Cook

County Assistant State's Atty. Martin Moore said after the trial. "It was a complicated case."

Defense attorney Ed Genson said he will appeal the verdict. He called the state's case "scientific reaching" with no murder weapon, witness or confession.

Pohl's blood was found in the cargo area of Lybubyezny's late-model Lincoln Navigator, but the defendant testified that Pohl cut his lip on a diving trip. Police also found .22-caliber shell casings in his body shop.

"This case is not a whodunit," Assistant State's Atty. Jeanne Bischoff said during closing arguments. "Evidence absolutely shows that Igor Lybubyezny is guilty of this crime."

Bischoff said tiny pieces of plastic on Pohl's clothing matched plastic from the body shop. She also said Lybubyezny's cell phone records show calls from the area in Michigan where Pohl's decomposing body was found five months after he disappeared.

All-star alumni

Wheeling High honors exemplary former students

By ERIN HOLMES

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Oct. 12, 2002

Even if it would have taken a rocket scientist to impress the kids, Wheeling High had it covered.

The school this year named its first batch of distinguished alumni — a group of three graduates that included Maj. Erik Bowman, an assistant professor of astronautics at the U.S. Air Force Academy, who visited Wheeling High to speak with students.

A member of the Class of 1987, Bowman spent a day in the classrooms of his alma mater, telling stories about his job, his training and his experiences, which include working with the United Nations inspections team in Iraq after the Persian Gulf War.

The kids were hooked, but, "He didn't give us gory details," laughed Brian Lichtenberger, who invited Bowman into his 45-minute sports medicine class.

Lichtenberger, like other teachers, signed up to guarantee a spot on Bowman's busy schedule.

"It was fun to see a student I had been fairly close to come back," Lichtenberger said. "He's now a very successful major in the Air Force



A cheery welcome sign, albeit in a foreign language, greeted Wheeling High School graduate Maj. Erik Bowman when he visited a French III class at the school recently. Bowman is one of the school's first distinguished alumni award winners. He visited several classrooms, talking about his experiences and answering questions.

... he's all the good things you want to think about. It was really nice to see him come back and relate to the kids."

As a student years earlier at Wheeling High, Bowman was a star athlete, an honored physics student and class valedictorian.

"He's gone on to prove that all of these selections were correct," Principal Dorothy C. "Dottie" Sievert said. "He was a big hit in all the classes, and a wonderful role model for our students to see how successful they can be."

This is exactly what school officials had hoped for, and exactly why they say they started the program.

Wheeling High has logged numerous successful alumni since its opening in the

mid-1960s, but not until this year has there been a distinguished alumni award, something also given out at most other Northwest Suburban High School District 214 high schools.

Wheeling High annually will name new recipients of the title, who will be honored publicly and with plaques hung in the school's main corridor. The honorees also will be invited in to speak with students.

In addition to Bowman, graduates Michael Lee Hoops, a plastic surgeon in Tennessee, and Michael R. Blanchfield, a recipient of a posthumous Medal of Honor, also were honored this year.

Bowman was the only one to visit the school this fall.



During his visit, Bowman showed off his old yearbook photo. He is one of three successful alumni honored by the school.

Wheeling ready to unveil park

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-15-02

On a dusky evening later this month, water will flow into a frothing pool, beckoning to motorists at a busy intersection in Wheeling.

Lights will finally shine above new park benches and cast a glow over walkway stones at a park Wheeling officials hope will cause a buzz for residents and visitors from neighboring towns.

The park plaza on the northern corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road will be finished after more than four years in the making.

The village is planning a dedication ceremony from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 25 for the space that has shared the names Millennium Plaza and Friendship Park.

"I think it's going to be something that will hopefully reflect our community as something that's very classy," said Trustee Trevor Lehmann, who personally commissioned the artist for the project. "I've had questions already from people asking if we will do weddings there. I see it as a meeting place for graduation, prom pictures, homecoming pictures."

People have been eager to see the removal of the construction fence, Lehmann said. It will come down more than three months after an initial July 3 deadline.

The unforeseen cleanup of underground storage tanks to meet Environmental Protection Agency standards delayed the project.

Project manager Harding ESE also had to alter the design after the village board wanted an enlarged fountain, which increased the cost from \$1.27 million to \$1.56 million.

"We're still going to be less than a year from the time we presented to the time we are done," Lehmann said. "To take a project from nothing more than artist ren-



PHOTOS BY DANIEL WHITE/DAILY HERALD

On Oct. 25, the lights will finally go on and water will flow through this feature at the Wheeling site that has shared the names Millennium Plaza and Friendship Park at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. Below, Rob Pearson of S & J Electric puts finishing touches on the property.

support the Millennium Plaza plan, and he later criticized the fast-track approach to Friendship Park.

"I had some concerns about the increase in cost ... and the time schedule," Klatecki said. "After the delays I made a comment saying, 'I guess I was right,' but now I have to say the corner is looking beautiful."

Klatecki thinks the park will fit well with Wheeling's goals of improving its image, he said.

"The better you make your community look, the more positive people think about you," Klatecki said.

The biggest triumph is the park was something the village board worked on together during a time when Wheeling was short-staffed, Lehmann said.

"From the time Mr. Anderson and Mr. Grabowski left, I think



every board member rolled up their sleeves and helped out in any way they could," Lehmann said of the dismissal of former Village Manager Craig Anderson and the departure of Assistant Manager James Grabowski.

"I might have been the messenger, but this was a team effort," Lehmann said.

The public is invited to attend the dedication of the park, which is in front of Cole Taylor Bank, 350 E. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

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PHOTOS BY BOB CHWEDYK/DAILY HERALD

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BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-15-02

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"We're still going to be less than a year from the time we presented to the time we are done," Lehmann said. "To take a project from nothing more than artist renderings and take it to a final project in less than a year is amazing."

Wheeling spent three years holding a design contest and public hearings to develop a Millennium Plaza proposal trustees ultimately voted to kill in June of last year.

Trustees voted unanimously against the project, saying it wasn't worth the estimated \$1 million because few residents liked its steely design.

Village President Greg Klatecki was the only board member to



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Rich and Dina Oberman of Wheeling get a sneak peek of the Wheeling site that has been in the works for the past four years.

Dist. 214 construction students again

10.16.02

The question is not what is up. It is: What is going up? Students enrolled in Northwest Suburban High School District 214's Practical Architectural Construction program, the kids behind several beautiful homes already standing in the suburbs are busy on this year's project: a complete rebuilding of the home at 615 W. Vine St., Arlington Heights.



Erin Holmes
Our schools

The hammer-wielding group of 42 students, representing all six high schools and the district's alternative schools, is starting with the foundation and building up from there. By June, they are expected to complete what program coordinators call a 3,300-square-foot, two-story French country chateau.

The original home on the lot was a 1,260-square-foot ranch. That was demolished.

The PAC program allows kids, under the guidance of adults, to build or remodel homes in the suburbs served by District 214. The homes are sold annually, with the money going to buy the land and materials for the next project.

The program is entirely hands-on, with kids meeting at the site daily during the school year, rain or shine.

Stop by and take a look at the Vine Street construction project.

And, if you know anyone who is selling land or a home that could be remodeled, contact Mike Sons at District 214; the PAC program may be

interested in the purchase. Call (847) 718-7669.

Nondebtable success: The Buffalo Grove High School speech teams have picked up a national recognition from the office of the National Forensic League.

The two teams are now members of the 200 Club, earning more than 200 degrees of merit among their participants during the 2001-02 school year.

The designation means they're among the top 5 percent of speech and debate clubs in the nation.

Congratulations.

Holiday or not? District 214 schools this year honored the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11 in myriad ways, from enjoying patriotic choir and band performances to wearing red, white and blue.

Fax news releases to 427-1301.

Send us your photos

We publish photos submitted by readers, by clubs, schools and all community groups. Make sure people in the picture are identified and supply some context for what the photo is about and when and where it was taken. Mail them to your Neighbor editor, listed below, at P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

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Dist. 21 works to tell residents why it might need tax increase

BY CORRIE CUTRER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10.16.02

Community members in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 came to a state of the schools meeting Tuesday night with questions and concerns about the district's financial situation.

More than 150 people filled the commons area at Jack London Middle School in Wheeling as school officials tried to explain how state-enforced tax caps and reduced state funding have affected the district's budget in recent years.

By engaging in community discussions, officials are hoping to garner support for a tax increase they will likely ask voters for next April.

Dan Cash, assistant superintendent of finance and operations, said the district lost a total of \$22.4 million in tax revenue from 1993 to 2001 because of state restrictions placed on how much local taxing bodies can collect from homeowners.

In the education fund alone, Cash estimates a deficit of \$5 million for

the 2003-04 school year. That number is expected to increase by \$1 million for the following two years.

"We can increase revenue or reduce staff and programs," Cash said. "Those are the options available."

Some of the parents who attended Tuesday's meeting said they need more information before deciding whether they'll support a tax increase.

"I would support it if that's what it came down to, but I'd want more specific fiscal information," said Bonnie Zaretsky, a reading tutor at Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling.

Zaretsky and some other parents said they want more detailed facts on how the district is spending its money.

Several people raised concerns, for example, about the amount of money the district is putting into three schools that now offer a year-round learning calendar.

Under the continuous learning calendar schedule, students attend school year-round with several

three-week intercessions, or breaks, in between.

While students can choose to use this intercession period as a holiday away from school, many opt to still attend school because intercession classes that are more laid back in structure are available.

Parents only have to pay \$10 per week for the three-week program. The cost for the district, however, is higher.

The most recent intercession period that began Sept. 30 and will conclude Friday will cost the district \$100,124 in teacher payments.

Board members are expected to approve this cost at a regular meeting Thursday night.

Some parents said they want more information about how programs like this are affecting the district's finances before pledging more financial support.

Another state of the schools meeting for those who couldn't attend Tuesday is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 29 at Jack London Middle School, 1001 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling. Call (847) 537-8270 for more information.

Buffalo Grove man found guilty of murder

BY JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10.15.02

A \$10,000 loan between friends bought a business and up to 60 years in prison for a Buffalo Grove resident convicted of murder.

A jury convicted Igor Lyubyezny, 45, of 437 Fernside Court in Buffalo Grove on Friday of the first-degree murder of his friend Tomasz Pohl at Wheeling. Lyubyezny will be sentenced Nov. 7. His attorney, Ed Genson, plans an appeal.

The verdict closes a case dating back to 1998, when Pohl, 45, turned up missing. Evanston police then discovered his abandoned 1996 Ford F-350 in a Builder's Square parking lot in Evanston where the independent contractor was working. The

discovery set in motion a manhunt among several police departments. Five months later, the investigation led police to Menominee County, Mich., where they discovered Pohl's decomposing body in a shallow grave. He was shot in the back of the head with a small-caliber weapon.

Police never found that weapon, and no witnesses came forward. Lyubyezny maintained his innocence, but his cell phone records placed him in Michigan near the area where Pohl's body was found near the time of the disappearance.

Some months earlier, Lyubyezny borrowed \$10,000 from Pohl to open an auto detail shop, H & I Auto Body Repair, in Skokie. When Pohl demanded repayment, Lyubyezny invited him to the shop. There, pros-

ecutors said, he shot Pohl, put his body in the back of his Lincoln Navigator and drove it to Michigan.

Investigators found Pohl's blood on towels in the auto shop and in Lyubyezny's truck. The defense said the blood stemmed from a cut lip Pohl sustained during a diving trip he took with Lyubyezny.

Tiny pieces of plastic, identical to material found in Lyubyezny's truck, were also discovered on Pohl's body. Police also found several spent shell casing from a .22-caliber gun in Lyubyezny's auto shop.

That's all the evidence a jury needed to convict Lyubyezny, returning a verdict in just under three hours of deliberation. The families of Lyubyezny and Pohl could not be reached for comment.

Wheeling OKs hazardous materials storage

BY CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10.16.02

A hazardous materials storage locker will soon become a new addition on Gilman Avenue in Wheeling.

The village board Tuesday agreed to let printing company Segerdahl Graphics install the containment locker outside of its existing building at 385 Gilman Ave.

The approval came only after trustees asked Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac to vouch for the safety of the locker.

"I would just like to make sure of the safety for the village," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "I ask because I received several calls from residents wanting to make sure it's safe."

MacIsaac assured the village board that the 136-square-foot storage building was designed

specifically to contain the hazardous materials Segerdahl wants to store.

The printing company makes commercial flyers, brochures newspaper inserts and a host of other products and wants a place to safely store solvents and other flammable liquids the company uses in the process.

"It's safer than a container for flammable liquids kept inside," MacIsaac said.

"By putting the flammable liquids outside and separate from the main building itself — and it is set back from the main building — it also makes it easier for us to operate," he said of a potential fire or safety emergency.

Trustees were also able to review minutes from a plan commission meeting earlier this month, when

representatives from Segerdahl explained that the building is designed to contain 25 percent of the product stored in case of a spill.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires only 10 percent of the contents be contained in an accidental spill.

"It actually exceeds the EPA requirements," MacIsaac confirmed. The storage locker will have the capacity to hold 21, 55-gallon drums of hazardous materials, but Segerdahl President Bill Harper has assured village officials the company will probably store only five to 10 drums at a time.

As a precaution, the building will have hazardous materials warning signs attached to its doors and sides.

Also, Segerdahl is in an industrial area, and its new storage building won't be visible from Wheeling Road.

Officials look at new logos

The Wheeling Village Board is looking for a new logo to better reflect the state of the village today.

Dale Kenney, Wheeling's public relations consultant, has been drawing and collecting new logos for the board to examine. The board looked at about a dozen proposals at its Oct. 7 meeting, but trustees did not decide on a new logo. Trustees said the village is moving in a new direction, and they want the new logo to better represent that movement.

Most of the trustees said they would like to keep the wooden wheel in the logo, but it may not be as prominent. Trustees said the new logo should be representative of the forward direction of the village and something that reflects the village as a place of choice for people to live and work.

The logo will be used on all village stationery, business cards and signs. It will also adorn public works vehicles. Holding a contest to choose the new logo has been ruled out.

Retail center proposed for Milwaukee Avenue

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

10-17-02

The Wheeling Plan Commission indicated its enthusiasm for a new, upscale shopping center on North Milwaukee Avenue, but commissioners noted more work needs to be done on the plan.

Plans for the center show two buildings on the long, narrow property located just north of the Dundee Road intersection. A small courtyard area in between the two buildings is shown on the plans. William Hein, a consultant for the project, said the plan is to include some plantings or a small fountain in the courtyard.

"It would be a place for shoppers to browse or sit," said Hernando Moreno, the architect. "The hope is for pedestrians to use it with (Friendship Park) down the street."

The buildings would be built toward the front of the property, with parking in the back. Hein said such a design would make the project more visually pleasing from the road, and commissioners agreed.

"I've been pushing for buildings up front for years," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady said.

Building materials would be similar to what was used at One Milwaukee Place, and the style of the two buildings is similar to the Walgreens store across the street. The same brick

pavers that are being installed along Milwaukee Avenue also would be used in the center.

Hein said the architect and the developer are trying to make the center fit into the neighborhood.

"We're trying to blend it with (Friendship) park," he said. "The goal is to get people to walk between the two."

Village officials have been trying to find ways to create more foot traffic near the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road intersection, and plan commissioners applauded that goal.

Hein said he has been speaking with potential clients for the 11 shops that will be in the center. He envisions businesses such as a jeweler, a clothing store, a shoe store and an ice cream or coffee shop at the center.

Wheeling Fire Department officials are concerned about the proposal because the plan shows only one entrance and exit to the center, making it difficult for emergency equipment to move in, out and around the property, said Wheeling Fire Marshal Milton Lemke.

Hein said he has been speaking with the Shadow Bend Homeowners' Association to see if an entrance could be built from Shadow Bend Drive into the center for emergency vehicle use only.

Denise Kennedy, president of the associa-

(Continued on page 14)

Retail

Continued from page 5

tion, said Shadow Bend Drive is a private road, and she is not sure if the association has the right to grant such a request. She said she is awaiting on a legal opinion on the question.

The proposed center would affect the Shadow Bend development. Hein said the plans show an extensive landscaped buffer between the center and the backyards of some of the residents. He also said the developer would agree to build a new fence between the properties.

But Shadow Bend residents have other concerns about the center as well. They mainly

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New bins to up road salt supply

PioneerPress

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

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The Wheeling Public Works Department is on its way to improving salt storage conditions that should allow the village to have plenty of road salt on hand throughout the winter.

The Village Board gave its permission to build a new, 800-ton storage bin at 175 Hintz Road this fall because the current bin is structurally unstable. David Kowal, public works assistant director, said cracks in two walls of the bin are indicative of "severe structural problems" and suggested a new one be built.

"I'm not comfortable using it for storage," he told the board.

Salt storage has been a problem for many years in the village. Currently, public works has the 200-ton storage bin on Hintz Road, two small bins at the south pumping station on Wheeling Road that hold 250 tons and another 200 tons are stored under a plastic

tarp on Hintz Road.

Kowal said the village's current salt storage capacity can be used up in three to four days if the weather is bad enough. Kowal said the department has enough money to build one bin this year, and he hopes the board will fund construction of another 800-ton bin next year, giving the department the ability to store 1,600 tons of salt. Kowal said the department uses an average of 1,800 tons a year.

"This would give us almost an entire year's worth of salt," Kowal said. "Then we won't have to take deliveries the day of a storm because we simply don't have storage for salt."

Not only is there a lack of storage, but it takes seven days to get a delivery, Kowal said. The department purchases its salt through the state. The village will not bid the construction of the bin since winter is approaching. Kowal will collect three written proposals and accept the best one. One proposal puts the cost at \$45,000.

Antioch contractor picked to build bike path between Wheeling, Buffalo Grove

By STEVE ZALUSKY

Daily Herald Staff Writer OCT 17, 2002

A new bicycle path linking the Metra stations in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling is slowly rolling toward completion.

Jim Kukla, an engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the lead agency on the project, said Antioch-based contractor Thelen Sand & Gravel Inc. has submitted the low bid of \$765,813.

Thelen and IDOT will have a pre-construction meeting next week.

Kukla said construction could begin before the end of the year on the project.

The path has had a slow evolution since it was proposed during the past decade.

Wheeling village President Greg Klatecki said the project was still evolving when he was on the park board, which he served from 1989 until 1997.

William Balling, village manager for Buffalo Grove, one of the communities sharing the cost of the project, said defining standards that IDOT could accept caused some of the delay.

Another delay included the need to draw up the plans in metric and U.S. measurements.

When it is complete, the path will

stretch for nearly two miles, running along a Commonwealth Edison right of way adjacent to the Canadian National Railway tracks, from the Buffalo Grove station to the Wheeling municipal campus on Dundee Road.

In addition to linking the two communities, the path will offer a way for bicyclists to reach the Wheeling Park District's aquatic center and Denoyer Park.

"I think it is in an ideal location," said Klatecki, who noted that its remoteness will offer users a chance for a bit of an escape.

The pathway is an example of intergovernmental cooperation. Among the agencies participating are the villages of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling and the park districts of both villages.

Also involved are the Rotary clubs of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. As for the cost, that is being handled through state funds and local contributions.

Balling said the seed for the idea was planted at Rotary and then filtered down to the park districts and municipalities.

However, he said, the costs were beyond what those organizations and agencies could handle. That was when the state's assistance was solicited.

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But Shadow Bend residents have other concerns about the center as well. They mainly center around increased noise from cars and the impact on their neighborhood of lighting, trash and exhaust.

Chad Gifford, a Shadow Bend Drive resident, said his backyard would be right next to the center. He said he is concerned about privacy and security.

"Lights coming into my bedroom window at 10 in the evening is not acceptable, and it won't be acceptable to whoever I sell to," he said.

"We would like to see it remain vacant and be a park," Kennedy said.

Plan commissioners said they like the idea of the center, but they continued the hearing until Nov. 14 so some of the Fire Department's concerns and the Shadow Bend residents' concerns can be addressed.

"I want you to make the impact to Shadow Bend as little as possible," commissioner Steven Boime said.

The center would take up the vacant lot on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Dundee Road, and the multifamily home to the south. That home recently burned in a fire. The home is already under contract for purchase.

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When it is complete, the path will

People seeking more District 214 pools to make case to public

BY ERIN HOLMES

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10.18.02

The people pushing for pools in more Northwest Suburban High School District 214 high schools are preparing to whet the community's knowledge of the issues.

A group of parents, teachers and students calling itself AQUA, or Advocating Quality Understanding of Aquatics, has scheduled a public informational meeting to outline the district's current aquatics situation — two schools have pools, four do not — as well as discuss why more pools would be beneficial to the community and explain exactly what they'd like to see happen.

The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday at Prospect High School, 801 W. Kensington Road in Mount Prospect. All residents are invited, including those with children in elementary districts 15, 21, 23, 25, 26, 57 and 59, all of which feed into District 214.

"It's just so that they are more informed, or informed period," AQUA member Chris Arce said. "Some of them are not informed at all. Some of them have lost touch with things, because this has gone on for a while."

The AQUA meeting will come in advance of a school board discussion of the pools issue, set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road in

Arlington Heights.

At that meeting, officials will report the results of a study on the feasibility of adding more pools to schools — a study requested by board members earlier this year — and present an updated 2003-2006 facilities improvement plan that likely will include ideas for the future of district aquatic facilities.

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling high schools now are the only schools with pools. Swimmers at Elk Grove, Hersey, Prospect and Rolling Meadows high schools either use park district facilities or share an existing district pool.

Suggestions for adding pools in the past have sunk, in large part because of a concern over lack of space and cost of building them.

This time, the idea has garnered at least preliminary support from some school board members.

AQUA members, who have attended and spoken out at board meetings for several months, say school pools can be beneficial to entire communities and all students, and are urging the district to add pools to give all district students adequate and equal facilities.

In a position paper submitted to the district in June, members called for a pool to be built immediately at one school, with others to follow down the road, and requested aquatics be incorporated into the established curriculum.

District 21 moves ahead with \$10.7 million project

BY CORRIE CUTRER

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10.18.02

A second round of construction work will begin next summer in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 as officials move ahead with plans to continue renovating all 12 of the district's elementary and middle schools.

At a meeting Thursday night, board members discussed a new phase of projects that will address needs at all three of the district's middle schools as well as two elementary buildings — Riley School in Arlington Heights and Longfellow School in Buffalo Grove.

The district's administrative center in Wheeling will receive updates and expansion work as well.

Interior work of replacing ceilings, lighting and windows will be completed at all of the targeted sites.

Holmes Middle School and Longfellow will receive new tile floors. All buildings will also receive a new roof and masonry repairs.

At the administrative center, an extension to the storage warehouse that sits behind the main building

will be built to give extra space to the district's maintenance staff.

The \$700,000 addition will serve as a garage for maintenance vehicles and also give staff more room to operate in their daily responsibilities of doing things like computer repairs, said Dan Cash, assistant superintendent of finance and operations. The total costs for all phase two projects is estimated to be \$10.7 million and will be funded through \$21.5 million in bonds that the district borrowed following approval of a tax increase referendum in 2001.

The district already spent a portion of the \$21.5 million earlier this year through similar work it completed at four elementary schools — Field, Tarkington, Twain and Whitman — this past summer. Other work that began in summer is still under way at Poe Elementary School in Arlington Heights, where a new office center is scheduled to be completed in January. The cost of those projects was \$6.5 million. Thursday's discussion of the new construction scheduled to begin next May came only a few days after the board held a State of the Schools meeting.

Palwaukee's air pollution issue

OCT. 18,

BY CASS CLIAFF 2002
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some members of the community team formed to improve the relationship between Palwaukee Municipal Airport and its neighbors think the group should dedicate itself to reducing air pollution from the airport.

However, other members say too many unanswered questions remain about the level of pollutants generated by Palwaukee to commit to a

new initiative.

The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council, known as PACE, has been focusing on reducing noise from Palwaukee.

The group made a presentation last month to the Palwaukee Airport Commission with recommendations on changing flight patterns.

Those recommendations have been well received and PACE member Warren Sunde is pushing the council to turn its attention to air

quality issues.

"I was reluctant to believe there was a problem with Palwaukee until a visit to a friend's house," Sunde said. "The odor was so bad I had to get out."

Sunde presented figures comparing vehicle emissions of benzene, formaldehyde and other pollutants to the emissions at Midway Airport, which he said is comparable to Palwaukee.

He said airport pollution levels are drastically higher. He recommended

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Dist. 214 group ho

BY ERIN HOLMES

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10.21.02

Parents and teachers pushing for more pools in Northwest Suburban High School District 214 schools made their case to a smattering of residents Monday, laying out their plan for improving the aquatics situation and urging residents to attend an upcoming school board discussion of the issue.

The meeting was hosted by

AQUA, Advocating a Quality Understanding of Aquatics — group that has been appealing officials to upgrade an aquatics program they say is considerably lacking in comparison to other districts. District 214 has pools at of its six high schools.

"We wanted to pursue this just for the swim team or divers, but for everybody," group member Mary Ann Anderson said. "(Swimming) is a life skill



LONDON MIDDLE SCHOOL sixth-grader Katherine Chwalisz, 11, of Buffalo Grove, reads a poem called "Remember Me" that was recited at the funeral of Kelly Baker two years ago. Baker died of an Ecstasy overdose. Her mother, Kate Patton, left, also spoke to students Monday.

Drug czar challenges kids to not choose drugs

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Dist. 214 group hopes others will also push for more pools

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"We wanted to pursue this not just for the swim team or the divers, but for everybody," group member Mary Ann Anderson said. "(Swimming) is a life skill that

everybody can use."

The parents group has made many requests; among them: Add pools, in a timely manner, to the four high schools that don't have them; update Wheeling High's pool; buy the pool at Buffalo Grove High, which is now shared with the park district; and incorporate aquatics into the curriculum.

Officials on Thursday will present the results of a study that examined the feasibility of adding

pools and also review a facilities plan that should include some suggestions on what to do with aquatics.

No vote will be taken.

Turnout at Monday night's community informational meeting was small, but it did generate support for the aquatics effort.

"I've just become shockingly aware of the lack here," future Prospect High parent Rick Warner said. "This district is sorely lacking

in this area. ... Without pools, kids are coming out of school not knowing how to swim."

Supporters of more pools have repeatedly said pools benefit schools and entire communities.

People in the past have pushed for more pools, but the suggestion has fizzled, largely because of concerns over costs and space.

"We're not just going to give up like people in the past. We're just not willing to do that," group

member Chris Arce said at Monday night's meeting.

"It's imperative that everyone here get as many people as you can" to go to Thursday's board meeting. She urged people to wear their school colors.

The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. at Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road in Arlington Heights.

The room it will be held in will depend on expected turnout.

Wheeling resident who ran license mill pleads guilty

BY BOB SUSNJARA

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-21-02

A Wheeling man pleaded guilty Monday to operating a driver's license mill that prosecutors said targeted illegal immigrants.

Mikhail Tsipis, 45, of 294 Weeping Willow Road, will be on probation for two years and must forfeit about \$400,000 in illegal proceeds under a plea bargain he entered in Lake County circuit court.

Tsipis, who pleaded guilty to computer fraud, will be eligible for six months in Lake County jail if he violates any terms of his probation. The charges were dropped as part of the deal.

Two of Tsipis' employees also entered plea deals Monday in Lake County court. A third pleaded guilty last week and all three had agreed to testify against Tsipis at trial.

Tsipis sold fake international driver's licenses, mostly to illegal Mexican and Polish immigrants, for up to \$250 apiece, Assistant State's Attorney Patricia Fix told the court.

Employees at the Gurnee offices of Tsipis' International Driving Documents Inc. generated the phony licenses on computers.

If the case had gone to trial, the prosecution would have shown it usually took about a week to produce a picture license with the customer's signature.

Fix said legal international driver's licenses typically are available for \$10 to \$20. She said they are issued only to drivers possessing valid, government-issued licenses.

Some of the illegal aliens used the bogus international licenses to supplement other identification in the United States, prosecutors said. Testimony would have showed that 150 customers often visited Tsipis' business for licenses on Saturdays.

Also pleading guilty Monday were Olga Iliina, 22, of 4521 Malden, Apt. 408, Chicago, and Olesya Kelina, 23, of 1820 Delany Road, Gurnee.

Midwest Best youth basketball r. 23 and 24 in

A blast from the past

10-21-02

'Retro Romance' takes the students and staff of Wheeling High back to tie-dye days

BY ERIN HOLMES

Daily Herald Staff Writer

The verdict is in on Wheeling High School's 2002 homecoming. It was groovy, man.

The school recently held its week-long festivities geared to a "Retro Romance" theme, inviting students and staff to return to an era when Wheeling High was first constructed.

Activities included dress-up days. Those saw kids trading their Wheeling Wildcat blue-and-yellow for tie-dye and '60s and '70s attire, among other things.

"It might have been a bit of a history lesson, too."

Sandra Perez, student council adviser

The latter included a Rubik's Cube contest (as if homework does not provide enough headaches).

"The theme worked out pretty well," said student council adviser Sandra Perez, who helped coordinate the activities. "It might have been a bit of a history lesson, too."

The theme, which saw school hallways decorated with peace signs and popular 1960s and 1970s slogans, also "was a hit with the teachers," Perez said. "There was a lot of reminiscing going on."

The annual coronation ceremony and parade, traditions recently revived, also were hits.

David Diaz and Zugue Ortiz were named king and queen.



PAUL BEATY/DAILY HERALD

Wheeling High School seniors put colorful, tie-dye finishing touches on a float that later wound its way through village streets during the annual homecoming parade.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL WHITE/DAILY HERALD

Above, Zugue Ortiz, Wheeling High School's newly crowned 2002 homecoming queen, waves as she rides through the streets during the school's annual homecoming parade. At right, Lori Lalowski holds her nephew, Corey Batz, as they watch the Wheeling High School marching band wind through the streets during the homecoming parade.



The brick

Wheeling takes top fe

The Wheeling Wildcat competition set Marengo March. The day began with a reg... named Grand C... The Wildcat b... in both parade c... show, and earne... Winds" and "Bes... competition sh... Maynard Fergu... directed by Bri...

School for all sixth- eighth-grade boys... High School... players should meet... following times:
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e — 12:45 to 2:30
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nt: Midwest Best youth basketball r. 23 and 24 in



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homecoming

ton Heights. Tickets are \$8; senior citizens will have free admission. Call (847) 718-4884.

• Rolling Meadows High School students will stage their fall play, the comedy "The Curious Savage," at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 and 2 at the school, 2901 Central Road, Rolling Meadows. Tickets are \$8. Call (847) 718-5609.

• Prospect High School will perform the rousing patriotic music "1776" at 7:30 p.m. today, Thursday and Saturday at the school, 801 W. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect. Tickets are \$7; call (847) 718-5304 or (847) 718-5305 for information.

• Erin Holmes covers District 214. She welcomes news, tips or story ideas. Contact her at (847) 427-4488 or at eholmes@dailyherald.com.

Wheeling resident who ran license mill pleads guilty

BY BOB SUSNJARA

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-21-02

A Wheeling man pleaded guilty Monday to operating a driver's license mill that prosecutors said targeted illegal immigrants.

Mikhail Tsipis, 45, of 294 Weeping Willow Road, will be on probation for two years and must forfeit about \$400,000 in illegal proceeds under a plea bargain he entered in Lake County circuit court.

Tsipis, who pleaded guilty to computer fraud, will be eligible for six months in Lake County jail if he violates any terms of his probation. Thefi

charges were dropped as part of the deal.

Two of Tsipis' employees also entered plea deals Monday in Lake County court. A third pleaded guilty last week and all three had agreed to testify against Tsipis at trial.

Tsipis sold fake international driver's licenses, mostly to illegal Mexican and Polish immigrants, for up to \$250 apiece, Assistant State's Attorney Patricia Fix told the court.

Employees at the Gurnee offices of Tsipis' International Driving Documents Inc. generated the phony licenses on computers.

If the case had gone to trial, the

prosecution would have shown it usually took about a week to produce a picture license with the customer's signature.

Fix said legal international driver's licenses typically are available for \$10 to \$20. She said they are issued only to drivers possessing valid, government-issued licenses.

Some of the illegal aliens used the

bogus international licenses to supplement other identification in the United States, prosecutors said. Testimony would have showed that 150 customers often visited Tsipis' business for licenses on Saturdays.

Also pleading guilty Monday were Olga Ilina, 22, of 4521 Malden, Apt. 408, Chicago, and Olesya Kelina, 23, of 1820 Delany Road, Gurnee.



Caring Kids a hit with seniors

undefeated and in first place in the Arlington Heights City Championship 2002. Seated, coach Arno, coach Arno, coach Arno. Standing: Ryan Leahman, Nick Mertins, Lucas Strelch, Lucas Strelch, Lucas Strelch. Back row: Joanne Snyder, trainer.

Arlington Heights City Championship 2002. Seated, coach Arno, coach Arno, coach Arno. Standing: Ryan Leahman, Nick Mertins, Lucas Strelch, Lucas Strelch, Lucas Strelch. Back row: Joanne Snyder, trainer.

Rubik's Cube puzzles Wheeling High students during homecoming

10-23-02
First, a brief warning: If you are no longer in high school, this probably will make you feel old.

During the 2002 homecoming festivities at Wheeling High School earlier this month, the kids and staff planned a special Rubik's Cube contest, using cubes with smiley faces on them, to go along with the "Retro Romance" theme.

The colorful puzzles, though, drew little more than blank stares.

The kids, born well after the trend had passed, did not know what to do with them, according to reports from staff.

"We actually had to sit there ... and actually had to show them what to do," said student council sponsor Sandra Perez. "We had to turn it for them, get them started."

They eventually caught on. But the retro theme overall took a little prodding, Perez said, with kids



Erin Holmes
Our schools

She adds the theme was an instant hit with the school's teachers.

They rule: So the Prospect High School marching band has taken the top title in Class A/AA at the Illini Marching Band Festival at the University of Illinois — again.

The band earned grand champion

at first not really understanding what it was all about. After they saw the decorations — peace signs, tie-dye and signs saying "Groovy" — they got into it.

"They got the idea," Perez said. "And it went very well."

status at the festival last weekend.

This is the 20th consecutive such victory for the Marching Knights, meaning the group has been taking home the top honor for more years than the kids on the field doing the work have been alive.

The event has been around for only 32 years. Prospect's gone, under the leadership of current director Dave Morrison for 26 years, according to a cool Prospect band Web site.

For info on the group, including lists of upcoming activities and fundraisers and a photo gallery from competitions and performances, check out www.prospectband.com.

Another noteworthy one: As long as we are on the subject of on-a-roll marching bands, let's hear it for Wheeling High's group, which is on its way to establishing its own victorious reign.

The group recently took the grand champion title at a competition in Marengo, Ill. — its fifth time earning the distinction.

The Wildcat Marching Band took first place in both the parade and field show portions of the competition and was named best overall.

The group, under the direction of teacher Brian Logan, has been invited to perform next spring at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Don't miss it: The fall drama season is in full swing in Northwest Suburban High School District 214, with a variety of performances set to take to high school stages.

Among the upcoming events:
• John Hersey High School will stage the award-winning musical "Blood Brothers" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the school, 1900 E. Thomas St., Arlington

Heights. Tickets are \$8; seniors will have free admission. Call (847) 718-4884.

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The briefs

Wheeling High band takes top festival honor

The Wheeling High School Marching Wildcat Band finished its competition season recently at the Marengo Marching Band Festival in Marengo.

The day began with a parade and ended with a regular field show competition. Wheeling's group was named Grand Champion.

The Wildcat band took first place in both parade competition and field show, and earned the titles of "Best Winds" and "Best Drum Majors." The competition show used music from Maynard Ferguson. The band is directed by Brian Logan.

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7, 23 and 24 in



What



Tarkington's social work intern, Renee Meyer, shows second-graders an example of a blanket other students recently made for ill or traumatized children through Project Linus. At right, Tarkington second-grader Alex Raskind, 7, of Wheeling draws a dinosaur on a fabric square for the blanket.



PHOTOS BY GILBERT R. BOUCHER / DAILY HERALD
Tarkington Elementary School second-grader Alyssa Pink, 7, of Wheeling draws a puppy on a square of fabric that will be sewn into a blanket for a seriously ill child.

Blankets colored with care

BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-23-02

A homemade blanket does more than warm the body. It can also warm the heart.
That has been Renee Meyer's mes-

sage to students this month at Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 as kids here have worked on coloring patches of fabric that will be made into blankets for seriously ill or traumatized children.

Meyer, a social work intern this year at Tarkington, is working with Project Linus to get about 40 blankets made and delivered to sick children.

A nationwide organization, Project Linus has given out more than 500,000 security blankets to kids around the world since 1995. The group gets its name from the character Linus in Charles M. Schulz's comic strip, "Peanuts." Linus was always shown carrying a security blanket. Schoolchildren work to decorate 8-by-8-inch muslin squares that volunteers later sew together and give to Project Linus, which in turn delivers the blankets to area hospitals.

Kids are encouraged to draw cheerful pictures that would bring joy to a child who is staying in the hospital for an extended period. The project is a great way for kids to realize how they can do something meaningful for other children their age, Meyer said.

Other schools interested in taking part in this project can call the Project Linus chapter in Northbrook at (847) 480-1684 or e-mail linuschicago@aol.com.



Skokie shop owner 'guilty' murder

County State's Atty. Gen. Dick J. Durbin said the victim's blood was found in the utility vehicle that was used to transport the victim to the repair shop. The victim's blood was found in the utility vehicle that was used to transport the victim to the repair shop. The victim's blood was found in the utility vehicle that was used to transport the victim to the repair shop.

Focusing on achievement



BY ERIN HOLMES
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-26-02
Officials said Elk Grove High was chosen because the cost estimate for building a pool there comes in lower

For new district pool



10-24-02
Diana Tablas plays at the Go Figure! exhibit at Indian Trails Library

Skokie shop owner guilty of Wheeling man's murder

By KAREN BERKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press Oct 24 2002

A Skokie business owner was found guilty in the murder of a Wheeling man whose disappearance in 1998 sparked an investigation that stretched to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where his body was found.

A jury found Igor Lyubyezny, now 45, guilty of first-degree murder on Oct. 11 in the death of Tomasz Pohl, who was shot once in the back of the head in May 1998.

Prosecutors said the two men were diving buddies who became financially involved when the victim started lending the defendant money.

Lyubyezny, who was living in Buffalo Grove at the time of his arrest, is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 7.

Morse. Pohl's disappearance sparked an investigation by the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force after his truck was found in the Builders Square parking lot in Evanston. The victim's body was found in October 1998 in a shallow grave in northern Michigan.

According to Asst. Cook County State's Atty. Jeannie Bischoff, the victim's blood was found on a rag in Lyubyezny's auto repair shop and on the Navigator sport utility vehicle that he drove.

Bank records showed that the victim had written checks to the defendant, she said, but that a check from the defendant to Pohl had been returned because of insufficient funds.

"Our theory was that the victim had started

for new district pool

By ERIN HOLMES
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-25-02

Officials said Elk Grove High was chosen because the cost estimate for building a pool there comes in lower



Focusing on achievement

10-24-02
Diana Tablas plays at the Go Figure! exhibit at Indian Trails Library



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Published the third Sunday of each month

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Forms available online at www.dailyherald.com. Click "contact us."

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A section for and about people in this community

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Anna Marie Kukec, 427-4477; akukec@dailyherald.com

Community news coordinator:
Luke Zurawski, 427-4484; lzurawski@dailyherald.com

Your Guide to Craft Shows:
427-4495; arts&crafts@dailyherald.com

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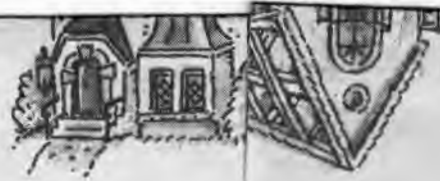
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Annexation battle grows at Palwaukee

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-25-02

The future of emergency services in Prospect Heights emerged this week as the latest pawn in the dispute between Prospect Heights and Wheeling over annexations at Palwaukee Airport.

Representatives from the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District told the city that agreeing to let Wheeling annex the land would open the door to future annexations. That would jeopardize the property tax base that allows the fire district to operate two fire stations, said Deputy Fire Chief Drew Smith.

Smith suggested that the fire district might have to move all of its firefighters back to its main fire station if Prospect Heights allowed the annexation.

Aldermen said they don't take kindly to threats.

The council approved the annexation of separate 5-acre and 23-acre parcels to Wheeling, saying the city was legally obligated by an intergovernmental agreement Wheeling and Prospect Heights signed as co-owners of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"I think it's a political game Prospect Heights rural is playing too," 3rd Ward Alderman Gregory Koepen said of the fire district. "It's like saying, 'Let's hold everything up because we're not getting our way.'"

The fire district has been on the losing end of negotiations with the airport over letting the fire district have free direct access to Palwaukee indefinitely from its new fire station on Wolf Road.

The fire district wants to build a ramp to give fire personnel direct access, but the airport wants to issue a three-year lease for the airport land needed for the ramp.

"The fire district is not making threats," Deputy Chief Smith said.

He explained that the fire district fears that Wheeling would annex the vacant Palwaukee land and then be in a position to forcibly annex a

neighboring industrial parcel that provides the fire district with \$100,000 to \$200,000 in annual revenue.

"For the record, I was saying only, if we didn't have the money, we wouldn't have the fire station over there," Smith said. "Because we have the money, we can have the services."

The fire district built its Wolf Road station to cut down on delays in fire service caused when fire engines had to cross the railroad tracks.

Ultimately, aldermen were sympathetic to the fire district's concerns, but said they had to agree to the annexation if the city ever hoped to get Wheeling to agree to a revenue-sharing provision that's part of the airport intergovernmental agreement.

"It seems to me, like it or not, we have agreed contractually to annex this land," 5th Ward Alderman Darlene Ahlstedt.

The city had held off on approving the annexation for months to use it as a bargaining chip to get Wheeling to agree Prospect Heights shouldn't have to pay to install water for hangars to be built at the airport, which Wheeling did.

The final approval of the annexation should show Wheeling the city is "honorable" in negotiations about the revenue sharing, aldermen said. Plus, they were told that Wheeling trustees planned to boycott their next negotiating session if the approval didn't go forward.

Fourth Ward Alderman Gerald T. Anderson and 1st Ward Alderman Timothy Hattendorf were the only aldermen to vote against the annexation.

Hattendorf didn't understand why the city is dedicated to upholding the annexation part of the intergovernmental agreement when the revenue-sharing hasn't been upheld, he said.

"I don't think it's in our best interest to breach the contract and then say, 'We want you to comply with the contract,'" City Attorney Donald Kreger said.

Towns in flap over Palwaukee

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-25-02

Some Wheeling trustees think people have the wrong idea about the village's relationship with Prospect Heights.

Trustees recently approved a measure they say shows Wheeling is proactive in trying to build the T-hangars at Palwaukee Municipal Airport that have been at the center of a dispute between the village and its suburban neighbor.

Trustees approved a letter of intent Palwaukee wants to send to the Illinois Department of Transportation to show the airport's commitment to build the hangars. Prospect Heights approved the IDOT letter in June, and for months, some aldermen have accused Wheeling of trying to stall development on the city's side of Palwaukee by demanding that Prospect Heights pay for a water main needed to install sprinklers in the hangars.

After acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau told the Wheeling board last week that Palwaukee has a five-year waiting list for the T-shaped hangars, trustees unanimously approved the letter of intent to IDOT.

"We are trying to be proactive here, whereas our counterparts like to hang on to things and use them as bargaining chips," Wheeling Trustee Robert Heer said.

Heer referred to a decision by Prospect Heights aldermen to hold off on approving Wheeling's unrelated request to annex some land at Palwaukee until Wheeling relented on the water main issue.

Although Prospect Heights held a preliminary vote in favor of the annexation as a "goodwill gesture" a week before Wheeling approved the letter of intent, Wheeling trustees said they still must work toward resolving the water issue.

"I don't like when everyone thinks these two communities are pitted against each other, when it's just a couple of individuals," Heer said. "It's not the entire Prospect Heights board, it's just a few individuals but these individuals have big mouths."

Trustee Dean Argiris agreed, saying Wheeling has made every effort to get the T-hangars built at Palwaukee.

Neither trustee referred to any Prospect Heights aldermen by name.

Man charged in 3 ATM heists

BY DAVE ORRICK

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

10-27-02

A 22-year-old Wheeling man was ordered held on \$250,000 bond Saturday after being charged in connection with three ATM hold-ups in Vernon Hills, Libertyville and Mundelein, authorities said.

Thomas J. Cooper, 107 E. Dundee Road, was charged with several crimes, including armed robbery and aggravated battery with a deadly

weapon Thursday, after the victim had punched in his personal code, the masked robber punched in an amount that the ATM deemed too high and denied the transaction, Mundelein police Sgt. Nick Poulos said. The attempt took place around 10 p.m. at Harris Bank, 685 S. Route 83.

After being denied, the robber left with the man's wallet and ATM card, but then returned unmasked a few moments later to try again, Poulos

High school has Madrigal tickets on sale

10-25-02

Tickets are on sale for Wheeling High School's 32nd Annual Madrigal Dinner, which will have two performances: 7 p.m. Nov. 30 and 5 p.m. Dec. 1, in the Great Hall of Chevy Chase Country Club.

The event will feature costumed madrigal singers, court jesters and a brass ensemble.

Tickets are \$24.50 each, and available in the Wheeling High School Choir Room. Those unable to purchase tickets in person can call Grace Sanchez, director, at (847) 718-7000 or (847) 718-7112.

Wheeling High School is located at 900 S. Elmhurst Road, Wheeling. Chevy Chase Country Club is at 1000 N. Milwaukee, Wheeling.

Home Mortgage Rates

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Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Isela Montelongo (left) watches Kyle Luebke design a quilt on a touch screen at the Indian Trails Library Go Figure! exhibit.

Library invites young readers to learn math through stories

By CASEY MOFFITT *OCT 24 2002*
STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press

The Indian Trails Public Library is one of only 75 libraries across the nation to host a unique children's exhibit that combines math and reading.

The exhibit, Go Figure!, opened Oct. 13. Kathy Simonetta, head of Indian Trails' youth services department, said the program uses five different children's books and examines some of the math problems the characters face in the stories.

The exhibit includes large displays for each book and an accompanying math activity.

"It's a simple concept," Simonetta said of the exhibit. "(Math) is so subtly used in the stories you don't notice it, but this exhibit brings it to light."

One of the books in the exhibit, "The Quilt," can help students with math concepts and shape recognition. After children read the story, they go to a computer and create their own quilt pattern.

Other books featured in the exhibit include "Frog and Toad are Friends," "The Doorbell Rang," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "Arthur's Pet Business." Math skills in the exhibit range from division to maintaining a calendar.

"When you can learn things and don't realize it, it's a beautiful thing in children's literature," Simonetta said.

Go Figure! was developed by the Minnesota Children's Museum in Minneapolis with assistance from the American Library Association. It is funded by the National Science Foundation, Cargill and 3M. It has been touring the country for about two years now. The Indian Trails Public Library is one of 75 libraries across the country to host the exhibit.

Simonetta said she heard about the exhibit through the American Library Association, of which Indian Trails is a member. She said she learned the exhibit was coming about two years ago. Indian Trails is one of the last libraries to get the exhibit.

"It's been a longtime coming," Simonetta said. "I was excited to hear we were getting it. Then I heard when and thought the time would never get here."

Although it has been a long wait, Simonetta said it gave the library time to put together a good promotional package. Even this year's summer reading program, "Reading Adds Up," was used to help promote math for the upcoming Go Figure!

"We developed a theme centered around mathematic concepts to not only promote reading, but to tie in with the exhibit and activities we had planned for this fall," Simonetta said.

Sue McCleaf-Nespeca of Kid Lit Consulting helped screen applications for the exhibit. She said between 150 and 200 libraries submitted applications.

"We were looking for partnerships with Head Start programs or early childhood agencies to bring groups to the exhibit," she said. "A lot of established partnerships was a plus."

Indian Trails has scheduled 33 groups of children from child-care centers and elementary schools to tour the exhibit while it is here.

McCleaf-Nespeca said the exhibit seamlessly combines math and reading.

"It's a wonderful way for kids to get involved in literature and math," she said. "Kids can see that math is fun and part of everyday life."

Go Figure! will be on display at the library during regular hours, 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit will be at Indian Trails until Nov. 21.

Annexation battle grows at Palwaukee

By CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-25-02

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Home Mortgage Rates

IN REFINANCING

High school has Minimal

Wheeling lets Rya

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

OCT 27
2002

The loss of one of its police officers still wounds the Wheeling community.

So the idea that the officer's killer could have his death sentence commuted is like salt in that wound, Wheeling officials said. And they want Gov. George Ryan to know it.

The village board Monday will vote on a resolution expressing Wheeling's objection to the state's death-penalty clemency hearings that could grant life in prison to the man convicted of murdering officer



Kenneth Dawson



Tyrone Strickland

Kenneth Dawson almost 17 years ago.

Tyrone Strickland, now 38, of Ford Heights was sentenced to death three years after gunning down the 15-year veteran officer while he

Local Focus

Today's quote

"We, the village board, just want that this police officer protecting this community, a someone convicted of magnitude should be able to
Wheeling Trustee Robert Heer, on man who killed officer Ken

Ponderous pumpkin



Trustee's proposal may spark project

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

10-31-02

Two developers who were asked to work together on a project at the intersection of North Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road were having a hard time meeting eye-to-eye, but they got a little help from the Village Board.

The board requested Tantillo Homes and Smith Family Construction to come up with one development on two separate parcels. Smith has a contract to purchase the Wedgewood Riding Center, and Tantillo owns the two adjacent lots to the south.

Tantillo officials, who have been working on their development for nearly a year, want to get going, while Smith cannot begin work on the Wedgewood property for another year or two.

Trustee Patrick Horcher came up with a plan that might help both developers and the village. He suggested the village condemn the AAA Auto Sales and Buyers lot adjacent to Tantillo's property to the south. The village would then swap land with Tantillo, square foot for square foot, to build a boulevard, extending Wolf Road between the two developments.

"When the northern property gets developed, there will be no problem with access or utilities," Horcher said. "We still need a continuity of styles (between the two developments), but they can complement each other. They don't have to mirror each other."

The plan would allow the village to build the boulevard to meet village standards for a public road, provide utilities for both developments and help traffic flow into them. The plan would also allow Tantillo Homes to move ahead with its project and let Smith Family Construction take the time it needs to create a site plan.

Horcher suggested the village wait until the new tax in-

crement financing district is established before condemning the car lot. The village could buy the property, but Horcher said that might put an "undue strain" on the budget. When the TIF district is established, the village can use TIF dollars to pay for the land, which is separate from the annual budget.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the TIF district should be established in February or March.

Both developers said they liked Horcher's proposal to build the boulevard. The owner of AAA Auto Sales could not be reached for comment.

Bill Hein, a consultant working for Tantillo Homes, said the boulevard will provide a good buffer between the Tantillo residential project and the commercial element the Village Board is looking for.

"I think it's a good plan, myself," Hein said. "It will give the village more control. I think it's a win-win for everybody. It will help us get our project off the ground."

Mark Smith, of Smith Family Construction, said the proposal came as a complete surprise to him, but he likes the idea.

"It's a tribute to the board that they are looking into these things," he said. "They took a proactive approach and they're putting a lot of thought into it."

The Village Board previously asked Tantillo Homes to build both residential and commercial aspects into the development. However, with the boulevard, board members said it would be more appropriate if Tantillo built a residential development only, leaving Smith the burden of creating a commercial development to the north.

The latest Tantillo proposal shows a 288-unit condominium development with five buildings between nine and 11 stories high.

Police expecting charges soon in crash

By MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

OCT 28,
2002

Wheeling police said Sunday they believe alcohol was a factor in an accident that left a 7-year-old boy hospitalized with serious injuries.

Police said they expect charges will be filed in the two-car crash, which occurred at 7:15 p.m. Saturday near the intersection of Camp McDonald and Wolf roads. The Cook County state's attorney's office was reviewing the case Sunday evening.

Police say a car driven by David Esquina-Buenavista, 26, of 771 Piper Lane, Prospect Heights, crashed with a car waiting to make a left turn from eastbound Camp McDonald Road into a shopping center just west of Wolf Road. Esquina-Buenavista was treated for minor injuries, police said.

The driver of the second car, 29-year-old Maria Luna of 1117

Greenwood Lane, Mount Prospect, also was treated for minor injuries. Her 7-year-old son, Kevin, was seriously injured and remained in critical condition Sunday at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police said Sunday that Esquina-Buenavista was speeding at the time of the crash. Police also said alcohol was involved, but they did not provide any more details.

The car Esquina-Buenavista drove in the Wheeling crash had been involved earlier on Saturday night in a separate hit-and-run accident in Prospect Heights, police said. No one was injured in that accident, which occurred shortly after 7 p.m. near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road, police said. A Prospect Heights police spokesperson said the department would not seek separate charges for the hit-and-run.

Child, two others injured in car crash

By RHONDA SCIARRA

Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-27-02

Three people were injured, including a child who was critically hurt, in a crash Saturday night in Wheeling, authorities said.

The crash happened about 7:10 p.m. at Camp McDonald and Wolf roads. Wheeling police investigated the crash but released no information late Saturday. Paramedics at the crash rushed to resuscitate a 7-year-old boy and transported him to Holy Family Medical Center in Des

Plaines, said Mount Prospect fire Capt. Buz Livingston. There, doctors decided to have the boy moved to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, where he was taken into surgery, Livingston said.

A hospital spokeswoman said the hospital admitted a child but could not provide additional information.

The boy's mother suffered minor injuries and was taken to Holy Family, Livingston said.

The driver of the second car was taken to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, he said.

10-30-02

Jet skids off Palwaukee runway:
A corporate jet landing at Palwaukee Municipal Airport skidded off the runway Tuesday in Prospect Heights, closing the airport for almost an hour. The pilot and co-pilot were the only people on the Lear 25 jet around 9:20 a.m., when it blew a tire and slid about 1,000 feet, said Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau. The plane veered off the runway into the dirt, where emergency workers responded and found the pilots uninjured. Airport officials learned the jet is owned by Aviance International of Georgia and was landing at the general aviation airport to pick up passengers. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the cause of the accident, which happened on dry pavement. Palwaukee reopened one of its three runways shortly after the accident, but didn't open the runways near the scene of the accident until 11:26 a.m., airport officials said.

Supreme Court Dec. 4, 1992. Wheeling police officer Joseph Dawson, Kenneth Dawson's nephew, praised the village board for its efforts in a phone interview before trustees voted. The Illinois Prisoner Review Board will meet Thursday and Friday to make recommendations to Ryan for almost 140 inmates on death row.

Wheeling gets new postmaster:

Wheeling soon will have a new postal manager responsible for more than 16,200 deliveries in the Wheeling area. Antonette "Tonia" Jones will be sworn in as the new postmaster 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Wheeling post office, 250 W. Dundee Road. Jones began her career in 1987 as a mail carrier in Wheeling and decided to dedicate her career to serving Wheeling Township. Her success earned her opportunities with increasing responsibility. On Friday, Donna Krug, manager of post office operations for the northern Illinois district, will administer Jones' oath of office. The public is invited to attend and to meet Jones, who will oversee the financial management of postal funds, as well as the human resources for a staff of 45 employees.

Wheeling opposes clemency:

A resolution opposing the clemency hearings that could commute the death sentence of a Wheeling cop killer is on its way to the governor's office. Wheeling trustees Monday unanimously approved the resolution they hope Gov. George Ryan considers before deciding whether Tyrone Strickland should have his sentence commuted to life in prison for killing Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson. The resolution states that Dawson proudly served as an officer from Dec. 23, 1969, until he was fatally shot while on patrol Nov. 5, 1985. It points out that Strickland confessed to Dawson's murder and had his death sentence upheld by the Illinois

10-29-02

'A place where friends can gather,' Friendship Park makes a splash with dedication crowd

Hopefully this will be something very much of a focal point of the village for 12 months of the year.

By Casey Moffitt

undreds of resi-
dents' government
David Escujina-Bueno
night. The driver of the second
internal injuries Monday
critical condition with multiple
Her son was listed in critical
was released with minor inju-
in Park Ridge. Maria Luna

A 7-year-old Mount Prospect boy was critically injured in an auto accident near the intersection of Camp MacDonal and Wolf roads Saturday night.

Boy injured in accident

ment each other. They don't have to mirror each other."

The plan would allow the village to build the boulevard to meet village standards for a public road, provide utilities for both developments and help traffic flow into them. The plan would also allow Tantillo Homes to move ahead with its project and let Smith Family Construction take the time it needs to create a site plan.

Horcher suggested the village wait until the new tax in-

ously asked Tantillo Homes to build both residential and commercial aspects into the development. However, with the boulevard, board members said it would be more appropriate if Tantillo built a residential development only, leaving Smith the burden of creating a commercial development to the north.

The latest Tantillo proposal shows a 288-unit condominium development with five buildings between nine and 11 stories high.



The water is flowing at Wheeling's new Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park.

By Cass Clatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11.4.02

Patwaukee Municipal Airport has a wish list for federal money that could help make residents' wishes for a quieter airport come true. Airport officials want to begin runway construction that would direct planes away from homes and toward the forest preserve. It also wants to create a high-speed taxiway that would quiet the roar of the reverse thrusters on jets struggling to slow down as they land.

The proposals are part of a list of almost \$15 million in projects for 2003 that Patwaukee officials presented in Springfield recently. The Illinois Department of Transportation's aeronautics division must decide which airport projects across the state will share in Illinois' allocation of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Patwaukee Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau stressed that the airport's project list — presented through the Transportation Improvement Program known as TIPS — is truly a wish list. "The TIPS program is our game plan for the future," Rouleau said, "but we won't know about the federal money until there's an appropriations bill, and right now there's no funding with the FAA."

A \$2 million project, including a forest preserve and the industrial area," Rouleau said. "That would help to use it and get more traffic over the jet aircraft might be more inclined to use it and get more traffic over the ways. "If we have an improved runway, rebuild one of the airport's three run-

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after landing. "The aircraft would be able to make a gradual stop, which makes less ground noise," Rouleau said.

All of the projects are part of a \$61.2 million capital improvement plan through 2008 approved by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport. Patwaukee officials will find out in February or March whether it will receive funding for next year's part of the plan from IDOT.

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'A place where friends can gather'

Friendship Park makes a splash with dedication crowd

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

10-31-02

Hundreds of residents, government and business officials gathered at the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue on a brisk autumn evening to witness the dedication of Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park Friday.

It took the Village Board more than four years to put the park together, but the fountains finally flowed and the lights shone brightly last week.

What started out as Millennium Plaza missed the century mark because of cost concerns and planning and design difficulties. What came next was Friendship Park, a more natural setting on the northern corners of the Milwaukee-Dundee intersection that replaced a futuristic Millennium Plaza that was envisioned for all four corners of the crossroads.

Plans to build Friendship Park were put in motion last November when Trustee Trevor Lehmann presented a sketch of the new park to the rest of the board. The board then agreed to hire design firm Harding ESE of Chicago to take charge of the project.

"When we needed to pull a miracle together, Harding ESE was there," Lehmann said at the dedication ceremony.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who backed the original Millennium Plaza, said he was pleased with the finished product.

"If this is what the people want, this is what they'll get," he said. "This is a democracy, remember."

'Hopefully this will be something very much of a focal point of the village for 12 months of the year.'

Trustee Trevor Lehmann

Those in attendance marveled at the sight of the waterfalls and the lights in the 90,000 gallon basin when they were turned on at the ceremony. Plan Commissioner David Cantwell attended the ceremony and noted the fountain adds a soothing element to the busy intersection.

"You don't notice it right away, but the sound of the water really drowns out the noise from the traffic," he said.

Nearly 300 people attended the dedication. Many brought their children, some of whom asked their parents for pennies to throw into the basin. People also began taking photos by the falls almost immediately after crews threw the switch to make the water flow. More people went to see the fountain later that night after the Wheeling High School football game.

During the brief ceremony, Lehmann thanked officials with Cole Taylor Bank and Walgreens for the cooperation. Both companies donated the land for the two fountains. Lehmann also thanked Wheeling residents, to whom the park was dedicated.

"Without your belief and support, this project would not have become a reality," he said.

A plaque sits in the basin to remind residents that the fountain is for their enjoyment.

"To the residents of Wheel-

ing," it reads, "let this park always be a place where friends can gather."

People have already been asking when the fountain will be available for things like wedding photos. Lehmann said he received an inquiry about using the fountain Nov. 1 for wedding pictures.

"Hopefully this will be something very much of a focal point of the village for 12 months of the year," Lehmann said. "There are so many different ideas (for its use). We'll have to listen to citizens and their input and listen to them all."

Lehmann said the park will most likely be decorated during the holiday season and there is a possibility of holding outdoor concerts there during the summer.

Many local officials attended the ceremony, including all seven members of the Village Board, public works employees, firefighters and police officers. Many politicians also were seen campaigning for last-minute votes at the ceremony, including State Rep. Sid Mathias, R-51st; State Sen. Terry Link, D-30th; Congressman Mark Kirk, R-10th, and Kathy Ryg, Democratic candidate for the 59th District in the State House of Representatives.

Klatecki said he was surprised to see so many people at the ceremony, given the cool temperatures and the threat of rain.



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park, on the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, has been completed and is now open to the public. A gazebo and fountain anchor the northeast corner of the park.

"I thought we would just see the regulars," he said. "All the dignitaries that were there was a surprise, too."

Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park cost the village \$1.56 million and was funded by the tax increment financing district fund and \$175,000 in state grants.

Klatecki said all that's left to do is to clean up the rest of the intersection.

"We need to finish the rest of the intersection," he said. "There's no official plan right now. We're hoping to do something similar on the other two corners, but it's speculative right now."



The water is flowing at Wheeling's new Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park.

Officials seek to make Palwaukee neighbor-friendly

By GASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-4-02

Palwaukee Municipal Airport has a wish list for federal money that could help make residents' wishes for a quieter airport come true.

Airport officials want to begin runway construction that would direct planes away from homes and toward the forest preserve. It also wants to create a high-speed taxiway that would quiet the roar of the reverse thrusters on jets struggling to slow down as they land.

The proposals are part of a list of almost \$15 million in projects for 2003 that Palwaukee officials presented in Springfield recently.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's aeronautics division must decide which airport projects across the state will share in Illinois' allotment of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Palwaukee is the third busiest airport in the state, relieving traffic from O'Hare International Airport, but competition for federal funding is stiff.

Palwaukee Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau stressed that the airport's project list — presented through the Transportation Improvement Program known as TIPS — is truly a wish list.

"The TIPS program is our game plan for the future," Rouleau said, "but we won't know about the federal money until there's an appropriations bill, and right now there's no funding with the FAA."

The state gets about \$15 million in federal block-grant funds to divide among airports, and it would take all

of that to pay for everything Palwaukee wants to do next year.

Projects include demolition of aging hangars, digital aerial mapping as part of an airport layout plan and a \$6.2 million project to widen and rebuild one of the airport's three runways.

"If we have an improved runway, the jet aircraft might be more inclined to use it and get more traffic over the forest preserve and the industrial area," Rouleau said. "That would help communities."

A \$2 million project, including a

high-speed taxiway would limit planes from reversing their engines while trying to make a 90-degree turn after landing.

"The aircraft would be able to make a gradual stop, which makes less ground noise," Rouleau said.

All of the projects are part of a \$61.2 million capital improvement plan through 2008 approved by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport. Palwaukee officials will find out in February or March whether it will receive funding for next year's part of the plan from IDOT.

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New Palwaukee leader eager to keep airport moving ahead

BY GASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-6-02

Palwaukee's new airport manager hopes most of the turbulence is over as he officially starts to guide the airport into a better future.

After 10 months serving in a temporary capacity, Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau can remove the word "acting" from his title and continue his mission to show people what Palwaukee Municipal Airport is



Dennis Rouleau

reach program to raise awareness about Palwaukee.

really about.

Rouleau already has begun the search for funding for airport improvement plans that could reduce airport noise, and also put in place a community out-

reach program to raise awareness about Palwaukee. Yet Rouleau has had to contend with a contentious relationship between officials of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which share ownership of the airport.

"I think one of the things Dennis wants to do is provide a smoother operation, and the only way that can happen is if the two towns come together and come to a compromise and start to communicate," Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki said.

Recent joint meetings between the

communities have opened the door to compromise on issues related to revenue sharing and building new airport hangars.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights appointed Rouleau as manager on the same day of one of those joint meetings Oct. 24, after the 13-year assistant Palwaukee manager signed a two-year contract.

"It is gratifying to have the leadership of both (towns) show their confidence in me by confirming me

as the permanent manager," Rouleau said.

"This airport is a vital link in our national air transportation system and as such, should be viewed as a hub for future economic development in the community," he said. "It is my goal as airport manager to help make that happen."

Palwaukee is the third busiest airport in the state, handling about 180,000 flights a year.

"Dennis will be a great asset to the

airport," said chamber President Jim Lederer in a prepared statement, "and reflects well on our goal to enlist the help of some of our largest economic partners to help take our communities to the next level."

Rouleau has the experience and enthusiasm "to keep Palwaukee moving ahead," Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said.

Wheeling's Klatecki said Rouleau was the "natural choice for permanent manager."

Rouleau named Palwaukee manager

Dennis Rouleau was officially named the new manager at Palwaukee Municipal Airport Nov. 1, after acting as manager for the past 10 months.

Rouleau was the assistant airport manager at Palwaukee for 13 years and has 16 years of airport management experience. He replaces Fred Stewart, who was put on administrative leave in December 2001 and officially retired last February.

As acting manager, Rouleau has been responsible for overseeing the reconstruction of the airport's main runway and implementing a new community outreach program, the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement program, which includes the newly formed PACE Council.

Rouleau said some immediate goals include continued cooperation and increased communication with the Wheeling Village Board and Prospect Heights City Council, furthering Palwaukee's role as a hub of economic development and working with the Federal Aviation Administration to approve the Part 150 Noise Study.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki called Rouleau a "natural choice" for the position, noting his experience at Palwaukee.

Rouleau earned his degree in aviation management from Daniel Webster College in 1984, and lives in Mount Prospect.

Ex-gang member implicates associate in Wheeling murder

BY ERIC KROL

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-19-02

An ex-gang member testified Monday that a former associate admitted he and two others carried out a 1999 Wheeling jewelry store robbery in which the owner was bludgeoned to death.

The testimony was followed by a police detective's description to a jury of how Shaun Fogle came to confess his role in the robbery-gone-bad that left owner Emil Risenzon of Buffalo Grove dead.

Cook County prosecutors are trying to persuade a jury to convict the 20-year-old Fogle, then 17 and living with his mother on the 100 block of Arlene Court in Wheeling, of first-degree murder and armed robbery. Raymond Benavides, 22, and Rayon Sampson, 21, both also of Wheeling, face the same charges.

Former gang member Danny Chatman told jurors the street gang met several times at an apartment in the Arbor Court apartments in Wheeling to figure out how to get money to bail a gang leader out of jail.

"We hit a lick at the jewelry store," Chatman quoted Fogle as saying at

one of the meetings, explaining that he meant a robbery occurred.

Chatman, who was later accused in a separate armed robbery in Prospect Heights, said he saw Fogle while both were in jail. Chatman said Fogle told him "what we put down on paper, we did," a reference to the confession Fogle had signed.

Fogle's attorney, Michael Johnson, grilled Chatman about his deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to a lesser charge in return for a sentence of 30 months' probation. Johnson told jurors in opening arguments last week that Chatman could not be trusted.

Skokie police Sgt. Kevin Baltazar testified that Fogle signed a confession in the early morning hours after admitting the night before that he stood guard at the jewelry store while Sampson bludgeoned Risenzon with a metal pipe.

Family members cried as Baltazar told the details. Risenzon, 47, was a Russian immigrant one week away from being sworn in as an American citizen when he was killed.

The case is expected to continue today in Room 109 of the Rolling Meadows courthouse.

Attorney's closing argument powerful — and damaging

11-22-02

Courtroom 109 of the Rolling Meadows courthouse doesn't look the same after this week's murder trial — literally.

Prosecutors John Dillon and Bernie Murray persuaded a jury to convict Shaun Fogle, formerly of Wheeling, of murder and armed robbery in the brutal beating death of jewelry store owner Emil Risenzon of Buffalo Grove in 1999.

The complex trial — Fogle is just one of three charged in Risenzon's death — featured impressive closing arguments from Murray and Dillon, as well as defense attorney Michael Johnson.

But it was Dillon's final remarks that left their mark in the courtroom.

Grabbing a metal pipe that might, or might not, have been the murder weapon, Dillon broke the cadence of what had been more than two hours



Dave Orrick
Crime & Justice

Fecarotta Jr. and many others in the courtroom to wince, was intended to recall the fatal blows Risenzon received to his head.

The whacks left a number of dents in the shelf.

Johnson didn't object and Fecarotta didn't stop the staccato, but after jurors had left, he appeared to

of arguments.

With six sharp blows to a wooden shelf inches in front of jurors, he whacked everyone in the courtroom upside their eardrums. The action, which caused Judge Thomas P.

scold Dillon, asking him if he would pay to fix his courtroom.

It remains unclear if the question was rhetorical.

'Reality court' check: Judges may not have time to watch much TV, especially bad TV, but enough of them have seen so-called "reality-based" court TV shows to get angry about them.

The Illinois Judges Association this week lambasted such shows for portraying judges in a bad light.

Without naming any shows, the organization said they "create a serious misconception about the judiciary."

Using examples of TV judges saying things like "shut up" and asking questions like "Are you a pervert?" the association blames such shows for being part of the reason

that the public is losing its basic trust in the justice system, a phenomenon backed by recent polls.

Cook County Judge Stuart Nudelman, president of the judges group, said that shouldn't be what happens.

"Everyone who leaves a courtroom — whether or not they agree with the judge's decision — should feel that they were heard and that justice was done," he said in a written statement.

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Judge wants prosecutors to pay for damage to courtroom shelf

When Cook County prosecutor John Dillon whacked a metal pipe six times on a wooden shelf during closing remarks in a recent jury trial, he was trying to hammer home the brutal nature of a crime.

But now he's being hammered for the damage the pipe did to a courtroom in the Rolling Meadows courthouse.

Judge Joseph J. Urso, who presides over the courthouse, said this week he'll bill Dillon or the Cook County state's attorney's office for the numerous dents in the walnut-stained shelf, which sits inches in front of jurors in Courtroom 109 and is often used by lawyers to display evidence to a jury.

"We're going to get an estimate and we're going to send them the bill," Urso said. "It shouldn't happen, this type of thing. It just shouldn't



Dave Orrick
Crime & Justice

happen."

Dillon could not be reached for comment.

The incident occurred last week as Dillon was trying to persuade jurors to convict Shaun Fogle, a former Wheeling resident, of taking part in the robbery and murder of Emil Risenzon inside Risenzon's Wheeling jewelry store in 1999. They convicted.

Risenzon was beaten to death with what authorities believe was a metal pipe. In closing remarks, Dillon grabbed a metal pipe that might have been the murder weapon and smacked it — hard — on the bench

six times, roughly the number of times Risenzon's head was struck.

Judge Thomas P. Fecarotta Jr. appeared displeased by the antic. He didn't interrupt Dillon, but briefly scolded him after the jury had left.

Dillon will be in Fecarotta's court Dec. 18, the earliest Fogle could be sentenced.

Panel recommends limiting home day care to 8 kids

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-5-02

A plan to soften Wheeling plan commissioners toward home day care by inviting them to some home day-care centers almost backfired for day-care advocates.

Commissioner Pamela Dorband returned and praised the nurturing environments in the home centers, but also said she liked seeing fewer kids being cared for in them.

Commission Chairman Kenneth

Brady also advocated for smaller numbers, saying one house had so many toys and craft items the doors seemed difficult to open.

"And that's what I think about with safety issues," Brady said. "When you have three babes in arms, how do you round them all up when you have a pot of grease that goes up on the stove?"

Brady and Dorband recommended reducing the number of children home day-care providers can care for to six from Wheeling's

current limit of 12.

At a commissioners' previous meeting, they settled on a limit of eight after considering how many children would make it feasible to run a day care. Testimony from care providers reminded commissioners of the costs.

"I have to spend money on crafts, I have to spend my money for food," Lolita Kadukov said. "Thanks to God, my husband is working, but maybe tomorrow, he's not."

Another provider said a limit of six

kids would limit her to caring for three children beside her own.

In the end, some Wheeling plan commissioners were convinced, not only that the limit should be eight kids, but also that allowing home day-care centers to have employees might not be so bad.

Care providers said help from assistants would give them time to teach and prepare healthy meals.

"I think in fairness to the children, they will be better served," Commis-

sioner Dave Cantwell said.

He and Dorband, however, were outvoted by commissioners who said the point of amending the village's rules in the first place was to prevent home day cares from operating too much like businesses in residential areas.

The commission came full circle and decided to recommend that trustees limit the kids in home day cares to eight, with the condition that no employees assist homeowners in providing care.

Wheeling scrutinizes 2 business proposals

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-6-02

Wheeling's determination to overhaul its image has stymied two businesses hoping to open in town.

Before being allowed to build on Hintz Road, Handi-Foil will have to find a way to install sidewalks for a network of walkways Wheeling expects to someday link the village's businesses and residential areas, trustees said.

A developer hoping to build a retail shopping center along Northgate Parkway will have to wait until the Wheeling Plan Commission has a better idea how its efforts to develop a town center there will take shape.

The plan commission has been working with a consultant to develop a comprehensive land-use plan for Wheeling that will guide the village's development for the next 10 to 20 years. A draft map of Wheeling's future envisions open green space for the area of Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway where Alex Loyfman of Highland Park wants to build an office and retail center.

"We found out when we were presenting the final plans that there is a process for a comprehensive plan, which we did not know," Loyfman said in a plea to trustees to be allowed to build. "We have planned over a year, pursuing our dream that may not become a dream at this point."

Referring to vacant retail space on Route 83, some trustees had concerns about the developer's ability to find tenants.

Trustees Michael and Patrick Horcher, however, said the village would come out on top by allowing a developer to make use of "such a difficult property" in a flood plain.

"Open space doesn't generate tax dollars," Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

The developer was awaiting engineering approval to build on the flood plain from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and trustees decided to return the proposal to the plan commission.

Representatives from the planning firm Camiros told commissioners Tuesday that a retail and office center might fit plans to include mixed commercial and residential space near the train station to create a "community campus" as a town center.

Community weighs in on money problems

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER 11-7-02

Nearly 200 parents and residents offered their suggestions as to how Wheeling Elementary School District 21 can turn its financial situation around at a special State of the Schools meeting Oct. 29.

DISTRICT 21

The meeting was the second of two where parents and residents were able to see how some of the district's education programs work and why the district is in such financial trouble. District officials also encouraged those in attendance to share some of their thoughts.

Solutions to the district's money woes ranged from lobbying state and federal politicians to increase education spending all the way to merging with another school district. District officials are anticipating a \$4.6 million deficit in the education fund at the end of this school year, up from a \$665,000 deficit at the end of the last school year.

Superintendent Gary Mical said he was pleased to see so many people attend the two meetings and offer such a wide variety of suggestions.

"It's not easy to get people to come out on a Tuesday night," Mical said. "We had about 450 people total between the two nights. We got some good ideas and some good questions, and we hope to answer most of them."

Mical said the suggestions made by those in attendance at each meeting are being compiled for the School Board to review at its Nov. 7 financial workshop meeting. The board will review the information to make a decision on how to get the district out of the red.

There has been talk of putting a referendum on the April 2003 ballot asking voters for a property tax increase for the education fund. Other options include cutting spending, most likely in staff and programs. If the district continues to go into debt, the State Board of Education could take action to put the district on solid financial footing.

"A decision has not been made yet," Mical said. "But, there are only so many things we

(Continued on page 12)

Community Continued from page 5

can do."

Mical said he heard some good ideas at the meetings, but some simply will not generate enough money for the district.

A suggestion to establish a charitable foundation certainly has merit, officials said. But such foundations, which are operated separately from the school district, are mainly used for teacher grants or to support special programs, Mical said. It also takes time for a foundation to generate enough money to work. Another challenge is finding dedicated volunteers to run the foundation.

Another suggestion to renegotiate staff contracts or freeze salaries is a not a long-term solution to the district's problems, Mical said. The district just negotiated a contract extension with the teachers union last year.

"It's not going to happen," said Mical.

Parents also suggested cutting administrative costs. According to the 2001 Illinois School Report Card, 1.5 percent of the district's

budget is spent on administrative costs, compared to the state average of 2.5 percent. Mical speculated that the idea to trim administrative costs may have arisen out of the current situation at Cooper Middle School, which this year has two principals — Kathryn Schoenwetter and Jason Klein. Schoenwetter will retire at the end of the 2002-03 school year, and there will be one principal there next year.

"This is just a phase-in year," Mical said.

The district's financial woes are not unique. Mical said over 80 percent of all school districts in Illinois are beginning to run deficits. Andy Mace, an auditor from William F. Gurrie and Co., which audits District 21 each year, said his firm audits about 100 school districts and District 21's situation is "very typical."

"When expenses are rising 4 to 5 percent a year and revenue is increasing only 1.6 percent, it doesn't take complex analysis to see that over time expenses are going to overtake revenues," Gurrie said.

District 21 construction projects will continue

By KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF WRITER
11-7-02

More schools will get new roofs, windows and floors as renovations in Wheeling Elementary School District 21 continue next year.

The district is budgeting \$10.7 million for work at Longfellow, Riley and Whitman elementary schools; at the district's three middle schools, Cooper, Holmes and London; and at the Administration Center. The projects, which will begin next May, will be paid for with revenue from the district's \$21.5 million bond sale voters approved via referendum in April 2001.

That bond issuance also financed last summer's repairs at Poe, Field, Tarkington and Twain elementary schools, renovations which came in \$1.2 million under budget. Work is ongoing only at Poe, where, with the addition of a new front office, the most extensive remodeling took place. The work at Poe is expected to be finished in January.

"When we are finished with all the projects, we are hoping there still will be a surplus," said District 21 Finance Director Dan Cash. Additional renovations at Frost Elementary and other schools will stretch into at least 2004.

District officials will evaluate contractors' bids in December and plan to award the projects in January. Cash hopes soliciting bids early in the winter will lead to the most competitive prices. The slowing economy also might mean more contractors will be eager for the work.

"The environment has changed dramatically since last year," said Eric Olson of Arcon Associates Inc., the architectural firm that oversaw

the elementary school renovations in the summer. "There's a lot of hungry contractors out there. Your money should go a little farther. And hopefully your savings will be greater this year than last."

Any money left over after the renovations are completed must be used for maintenance and building projects and cannot be redirected to the education fund.

The costliest repairs planned for next summer will be at Holmes, where replacing the roof, windows, ceilings, tile floors, lockers, bleachers and boiler, masonry repairs and other miscellaneous work are estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Asbestos beneath the tiles will be removed as part of the project.

The extent of the work means Holmes will have to be entirely emptied. Tile replacement and abatement also will take place at Longfellow School, but because only two classrooms are involved, the school will not have to be completely closed. Whitman is the only school not scheduled to get a new roof and windows. Built in 1991, the Whitman building is the newest District 21 school and needs the fewest repairs. About \$70,000 has been budgeted for a generator and new asphalt on the playground at Whitman.

The district administration center will undergo an estimated \$1.4 million renovation with a new roof, windows and doors. Also included is a \$700,000 warehouse addition.

Repairs at Frost Elementary School have been postponed until 2004 because year-round classes make scheduling construction more difficult.

When we are finished with all the projects, we are hoping there still will be a surplus.

District 21 Finance Director Dan Cash.

Trustees like plan, order second look

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
11-7-02

Members of the Wheeling Plan Commission will be seeing a familiar face as the Village Board sent back to them an office building proposal that the commission rejected only a few weeks ago.

The Plan Commission recommended the Village Board deny the permits to build the three-story building at the Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway intersection. Plan commissioners said they weren't sure if the building would fit in with the new comprehensive plan, which will not be completed until early next year.

Trustees, however, said they liked the plan and wanted to see it go forward.

"I see nothing wrong with this," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "It meets code and zoning. I don't think we should stand in (the) way."

Trustees said the office building plan, which was rejected by the Plan Commission before most specifics could be ironed out, does need

some adjustments before they can formally vote on it. They would like to see sidewalks built around the building, and they did not care for its mirrored-glass facade.

Developer Alex Loyfman also needs to address some flooding concerns because the eight-acre site sits in a flood plain. The building will sit on only four acres, with much of the rest being used for flood mitigation.

Loyfman has already secured a number of permits from the Illinois Department of Transportation for access to the site.

The plan shows retail shops on the first floor of the building, with offices on the top two. Architect Robert Kirk said the retail aspect would be used for "professional" services, such as Realtors or attorneys. Not all trustees were excited to see retail in the building.

"If you want to build an office building, then build an office building," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "Take the retail out of there."

Horcher was less con-
(Continued on page 10)

Trustees *Continued from page 8*

certed, saying the market will dictate what ends up in the building.

Loyfman has been working with village officials on the project for about a year. Village President Greg Klutecki said the plans have been improving as the project has moved along.

"This is better than the first proposal," he said.

That proposal showed the building on stilts to alleviate the flood problems.

Loyfman said he was surprised when the Plan Commission recommended a denial of the project at its Oct. 10 meeting. That was the first time he heard the village was looking at a new comprehensive plan, even though he had been working with the village for a year. Kirk said he wanted to work with the comprehensive plan consultants to make sure the building fits into the plan.

Slain officer's family waits for another verdict

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
11-7-02

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board has completed its task of hearing the cases of more than 140 death row inmates hoping to have their death sentences overturned.

Now, friends and families of the victims have to wait. Just like they waited many years ago to hear the verdict that many hoped would in some way help ease their pain.

Kenneth Dawson's extended family, which includes many members of the Wheeling Police Department, waits. They wait to hear what will come of the death sentence handed down to Tyrone Strickland, the man convicted of shooting Officer Kenneth Dawson on Nov. 5, 1985. Strickland sat before the board Oct. 17. According to those who attended the hearing, the board did not seem to have much sympathy for the convicted cop killer.

Officer Joseph Dawson, Kenneth Dawson's nephew, said the board appeared very receptive to the pleas of the families of victims in all the cases he sat through, including his own.

"They were almost scathing toward the defense,"

he said. "It was a positive experience. I was happy to see they were so receptive."

Joseph Dawson also said the board itself seemed victimized by the whole process.

"They were put in a tight spot to make a decision with little to no time to do it," he said.

Wheeling Police Cmdr. William Stutzman, who first found Kenneth Dawson after he was shot, also went to the hearing. He said the Prisoner Review Board did its job well.

"They seemed to be prepared," Stutzman said. "It shows they took their job seriously. They had knowledge of the case, and it didn't seem like they were a rubber stamp."

Stutzman said he did not think the board was looking to grant blanket clemencies to the prisoners, and he was pleased the family was given time to speak at the hearing, even though it was particularly painful for them.

"It's a shame Governor Ryan had to put the family through the hearing," he said.

Strickland's plea

Robert Markfield, the defense attorney who repre-

sented Strickland at the hearing, said the board allowed him to probe issues that were not included in the original petition seeking the clemency hearing, including offering doubt as to whether Strickland was the shooter, or if the shooting was accidental. Both issues had been taken into account during Strickland's original trial.

"They allowed me to make my presentation," Markfield said. "Their sympathies have not been with the defense in this case."

The hearings wrapped up Nov. 1. Anne Taylor, chairwoman of the Prisoner Review Board, said the board is currently looking over each case and plans to send recommendations on each one to Gov. George Ryan's office by month's end.

"This is an unusual activity, and we hope to get them up as swiftly as possible," Taylor said. "There's a lot of work to do. I've been doing this for 20 years, and I've never seen anything like this before."

By law, the Prisoner Review Board's recommendations are confidential, and Gov. Ryan can either accept the recommendations or reject them. The governor can uphold the sentences, reduce them or even set inmates free, if he chooses. Ryan's decision
(Continued on page 10)

■ Slain officer's *Continued from page 5*

will be final, and the new governor cannot overturn them.

Ryan has until the end of his term to make a decision on all 142 cases presented to him. Taylor said no one knows when those decisions will be made.

"It's completely up to the governor," she said. "I wish I could be more specific."

Village opposition

The Wheeling Police Department has been vocal in its opposition to the clemency hearings, and the Wheeling Village Board joined in that opposition Oct. 28 by passing a resolution expressing its objection to the hearings. Trustee Robert Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer, brought the resolution to the table.

"I thought it was important to stand up for our police officers," he said. "Officer Dawson gave his life for the community, and I feel the community should stand behind the department."

Heer said the department did not know the resolution was forthcoming, and the department did not request the board pass such a resolution.

"As the elected leaders of the community, I thought it was important to show a united front," he said. "It would be a slap in the face to the department if the village didn't say anything."

Police officials said they were pleased to see the board take that action.

■ Bridge *Continued from page 5*

Many residents also have asked the board to keep the bridge during the public comments portions of meetings since April when the board was leaning toward tearing it down. Those residents also argued for the children's safety.

However, some trustees say the bridge is an eyesore and a traffic hazard.

Stavros said there is no possibility IDOT will allow the village to keep the bridge and

"It was a strong statement about how the Village Board feels about the Police Department and the men and women who serve," Stutzman said.

Joseph Dawson said the resolution was "a great show of support" by the board to the department and against the governor.

"That, coupled with everything else, shows people are serious about opposing the governor," he said. "Hopefully, it will make a difference."

Although the Prisoner Review Board reacted as if Strickland's sentence should be carried out at the hearing, Stutzman said he is still doubtful the governor will uphold it.

"I still think (Ryan is) arrogant," Stutzman said. "Especially when you see him doing things like replacing board members who have spoken out against the hearings."

Joseph Dawson said he was more optimistic that some sentences, especially Strickland's, will be upheld when the governor makes his final decisions.

"I think people behind the death penalty and against the clemency hearings are exerting enough political pressure," he said. "I think (Ryan) is looking at them case by case. Although it was revisited, if he listens to the review board's recommendations, I think he won't commute the sentence."

build a new traffic light. Kolberg said IDOT has been reluctant to allow a new traffic light on Dundee Road and had always tried to steer the village toward keeping the bridge.

The village has budgeted \$250,000 to tear down the bridge, build a new traffic light and realign the London driveway with Cedar Run Drive this year.

District studying ways to solve money woes

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Elementary School District 21 cannot continue to operate unless it cuts expenses or raises taxes, and School Board President Phil Pritzker said raising taxes is "almost unavoidable."

DISTRICT 21

Superintendent Gary Mical outlined to the School Board during a financial workshop Nov. 7 what school officials are doing in both areas to put the district back on a sound financial footing.

The administration presented information on how much money the district might receive in new taxes and when the board can expect to see cuts in district spending. The board must decide by Jan. 27 whether to ask voters for a tax increase on the April 1 ballot.

Dan Cash, assistant superintendent of finance, presented projections using different increases in the education fund tax rate, which would have to be approved by voters.

Taxes on a home assessed at \$200,000 would

These are only examples. They're meant to give us an idea on what the outcome would be.

increase by \$97.87 next year if no change is made in the tax rate, Cash said.

If the rate is increased by 25 cents, the district would be able to get the education fund out of debt by the end of the 2004-05 school year. However, Cash's projections show the fund would be back in a deficit by the end of the 2008-09 school year.

The total increase in taxes on home assessed at \$200,000 with the 25-cent increase would be \$131.19 next year.

Should the district receive a 35-cent increase, the education fund would have a positive balance by the end of the 2003-04 school year, with deficits returning at the end of the 2011-12 school year, according to Cash's projections. The impact on a home assessed at \$200,000 would be a \$199.91 increase.

(Continued on page 13)

■ District studying *Continued from page 5*

Cash also presented projections for a 50-cent increase, which would create a positive education fund balance into the foreseeable future starting at the end of the 2003-04 school year. According to those projections, the district would have a \$48.8 million balance in the education fund at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Taxes would increase by \$303.34 on a home assessed at \$200,000.

All education fund balance projections were based on expected enrollment, maintaining existing educational programs and the values of homes in reassessment years.

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Pritzker said. "They're meant to give us an idea on what the outcome would be."

District officials also are working on a deficit-reduction plan, which will examine areas to cut expenses. That plan will be completed just after Thanksgiving, Mical said, and it will be handed over to the Board Finance Committee, a separate committee from the District 21 Board.

It is expected the Board Finance Committee will review the deficit-reduction plan,

make changes and give the final plan to the District 21 Board for its approval in January.

Mical said any plan to cut expenses will most likely be phased in over a two-year period and could eliminate the district's deficit on its own if taxes aren't increased. Cuts could be made in extra-curricular activities, technology, staff development, teaching assistants, instructional specialists, gifted programs and media center expenses. Mical said the district will do all it

can to ensure that the overall education received by students does not suffer because of the cuts.

The cost-reduction plan also will take into account savings from retiring teachers. The district is expecting 28 teachers to retire at the end of the current school year and be replaced by new teachers who earn less.

"We can look at increasing student fees (for activities) and building fees, but it won't be enough," Mical said. "We are going to have to look at

every resource (for cuts). ... We're running into a train at the end of the highway. We can't continue without new revenue or cutting expenses."

However, the District 21 Board could decide to do both.

School officials realize asking voters for a tax increase could be an uphill battle, based on how voters in other districts have reacted to education fund increases in the past. Mical said in the Nov. 5 election, 79 percent of those referenda in the state failed.

Keeping Dundee bridge remains an option

By CASEY MOFFITT

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■ Slain officer's Continued from page 5

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STAFF WRITER
11-14-02

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Keeping Dundee bridge remains an option

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
11-14-02

The pedestrian overpass spanning Dundee Road between Field Elementary School and London Middle School may stay after all.

Wheeling village officials have learned that the Illinois Department of Transportation will not require the village to comply with regulations in the Americans with Disabilities Act to repair the bridge, as once thought. IDOT also will not require the village to raise the clearance of the 13-foot 10-inch bridge.

Both would have added tremendous costs to repair the bridge, which is why the Village Board had previously preferred tearing the bridge down and replacing it with a traffic light. Adding handicap-accessible ramps also was viewed as impractical because the ramps would have taken space in the London parking lot and the Field playground.

Trustees have not made a final decision on the bridge's fate. They did elect to hire a structural engineer at a cost of \$6,000 to inspect the bridge and show exactly what needs to be repaired and give a cost estimate for the repairs.

"Kids from school painted it for a project. We've never put a dime into it."

Trustee Dean Argiris

"After the (engineer's) report, the board will have a complete picture of the problems with the bridge," said Anthony Stavros, public works engineer assistant.

Strand and Associates, Inc., a Joliet engineering firm, had evaluated the bridge in 1998. In that report, Strand estimated the cost to repair the bridge at \$105,000, including the ramps and adding height. The report also estimates a replacement bridge would cost \$130,000, but it was discovered the cost to replace the bridge would actually be closer to \$400,000.

Still, trustees were curious to see how much money it would take to repair the overpass.

"This is one part of the equation you have never

found out," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite.

"The ADA is why we never looked in this direction," Village President Greg Klatchek said.

It was the Strand report that led village officials to believe repairs to the bridge would have to include ADA compliance and raising the clearance. Guy Kolberg, public works director, said IDOT officials told the village at a recent meeting that neither would be necessary.

"They said maintenance (on the bridge) would not require ADA accessibility," Kolberg said.

Some trustees said they would prefer to see the bridge stay. They argue the bridge is the safest way for students to cross Dundee Road to get to school since it keeps them off the busy road.

"I've always been in favor of keeping the bridge," Trustee Michael Horcher said.

Trustee Dean Argiris said the village has done nothing to maintain the bridge since it was built in 1967, and it should do something now.

"Kids from school painted it for a project," he said. "We've never put a dime into it."

(Continued on page 14)

Wheeling boasts its fountain is area's top

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-10-02

It's easy to spout off about being the biggest, but sooner or later the challenges will float in.

Among all the praise bobbing around Wheeling's new fountain, there's also the boast that the village now has the biggest one in the suburbs.

Designers say the cascading waterfalls and landscaped sprays at the newly dedicated Friendship Park is second only to Chicago's Buckingham Fountain in the entire Chicago area.

Yet Carol Stream made the same boast in May when it flipped the switch to unleash the sprays of its fountain.

The firm that designed both towns' frothing features has concluded that both of their boasts hold water — depending on what you mean by biggest.

"They're different types of fountains," said Robert Watson, a partner at Fountain Technologies in Wheeling. "One is a waterfall and the other is a shooting type of water feature with nozzles that shoot really high in the air."

The 40-foot sprays in Carol Stream's Town Center Fountain near Gary Avenue and Lies Road require more water, Watson said. Four 185-horsepower pumps spew and recycle 6,700 gallons of water per minute.

Buckingham Fountain, in comparison, pumps and sprays at a rate of about 14,000 gallons per minute.

Fountain Square in Long Grove doesn't come close, with a total capacity of only 1,000 gallons of water. Rosemont's Waterfall Park at Higgins and River roads holds 100,000 gallons, but the village doesn't classify its feature as a fountain.

At Wheeling's Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park, the primary water cascade on the northern corners of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue circulates at a rate of 2,448 gallons per minute. Its spray shoots about 4 feet high.

"But the Wheeling fountain is

11-14-02

Horcher won't run for school board

Trustee Patrick Horcher said he will not seek a seat on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board next spring.

Horcher had no intentions of giving up his seat on the Wheeling Village Board, and he said he has been told by state officials that holding elected positions on both boards could open him up to a myriad of legal questions. He said he did not want to wind up in court defending himself because of holding the two seats.

Horcher had considered running for the School Board after residents had asked him to run. Horcher, who is serving the last year of his second term on the Village Board, said residents have asked him to seek re-election as trustee as well. He said he plans to run again for trustee.

District 21 Board members whose terms end this year are Pamela Becker Dean, Larry Krulewich and Ellen Clark. Trustees whose seats are up next election are Horcher, Judy Abruscato and Robert Heer.



BILL ZARS/DAILY HERALD

The large fountain built by the village of Wheeling, back, is mainly on the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, but it also spills over the northwest corner with a smaller fountain, seen in the foreground.

Fountain: Other towns argue their claim to 'biggest' title

Continued from Page 1

probably the largest footprint fountain other than the Buckingham in the Chicago area," said Watson of the fountain's square footage.

Watson's company has extensive experience with local fountains, having also designed prominent waterworks at Evanston Hospital, ABT Electronics Store in Glenview and Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie.

Wheeling's water features are on two corners, but Watson said Wheeling's fountain on the northeast corner alone is larger in terms of square footage than Carol Stream's fountain.

Also, the breadth of the waterfall is 131 feet, compared with the 100-foot diameter of Carol Stream's reflecting pool.

Yet, Carol Stream's director of engineering said he thinks the true measure is how much water a fountain uses.

"A fountain is water that sprays in the air," James Knudsen said. "You could always have a huge pond, and some just have one single (nozzle) that sprays in the air. So I guess it just depends what you're looking at."

Whether or not it's biggest, Lehmann still thinks Wheeling's fountain is best.

"Carol Stream's is more designed to

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James Knudsen,
Carol Stream director of engineering

people to that village's twice weekly music concerts.

At least two wedding parties have already taken photographs at the Wheeling fountain, and the village expects more activity when the flowers bloom in spring.

A park dedication drew some 300 residents and community leaders from Wheeling and neighboring towns last month, and thank-yous and congratulations abounded.

"It brought a lot of closure to the village, and the word is out on the street that Wheeling has a little something special," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

The \$1.56 million park was more than four years in the making. After three years of community

Other notable fountains in the Chicago area



COURTESY PHOTO

• Buckingham Fountain in Chicago pumps and sprays 14,000 gallons of water per minute into the air and remains the undisputed standard for Chicago area fountains.



BEV HORNE/DAILY HERALD

• Town Center Fountain in Carol Stream sprays 40 feet into the air while recycling 6,700 gallons of water per minute with the help of four 185-horsepower pumps.

second only to Chicago's Buckingham Fountain in the entire Chicago area.

Yet Carol Stream made the same boast in May when it flipped the switch to unleash the sprays of its fountain.

cascade on the northern corners of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue circulates at a rate of 2,448 gallons per minute. Its spray shoots about 4 feet high.

"But the Wheeling fountain is



BILL ZARS/DAILY HERALD

The large fountain built by the village of Wheeling, back, is mainly on the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, but it also spills over the northwest corner with a smaller fountain, seen in the foreground.

Fountain: Other towns argue their claim to 'biggest' title

Continued from Page 1

probably the largest footprint fountain other than the Buckingham in the Chicago area," said Watson of the fountain's square footage.

Watson's company has extensive experience with local fountains, having also designed prominent waterworks at Evanston Hospital, ABT Electronics Store in Glenview and Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie.

Wheeling's water features are on two corners, but Watson said Wheeling's fountain on the northeast corner alone is larger in terms of square footage than Carol Stream's fountain.

Also, the breadth of the waterfall is 131 feet, compared with the 100-foot diameter of Carol Stream's reflecting pool.

Yet, Carol Stream's director of engineering said he thinks the true measure is how much water a fountain uses.

"A fountain is water that sprays in the air," James Knudsen said. "You could always have a huge pond, and some just have one single (nozzle) that sprays in the air. So I guess it just depends what you're looking at."

Whether or not it's biggest, Lehmann still thinks Wheeling's fountain is best.

"Carol Stream's is more designed to be set off by itself, even though they said it has walking paths," said Lehmann, who personally commissioned the Wheeling design. "Ours is more 'you can get in there and be part of it.'"

Lush foliage lines stone walkways that lead visitors at one of the Wheeling park's corners to a gazebo atop a series of cascades.

The other corner serves as a resting place where passers-by can meditate while watching sprays of water shoot skyward.

"Ours is more the natural elements of the area, with the stone, the trees, the plantings," Lehmann said.

Wheeling hopes Friendship Park will draw residents in similar ways as Carol Stream's Town Center Fountain, which helps draw more than 500

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James Knudsen,
Carol Stream director of engineering

people to that village's twice weekly music concerts.

At least two wedding parties have already taken photographs at the Wheeling fountain, and the village expects more activity when the flowers bloom in spring.

A park dedication drew some 300 residents and community leaders from Wheeling and neighboring towns last month, and thank-yous and congratulations abounded.

"It brought a lot of closure to the village, and the word is out on the street that Wheeling has a little something special," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

The \$1.56 million park was more than four years in the making.

After three years of community meetings and design contests for a project that started out as Millennium Plaza, trustees voted unanimously in June of last year to nix the project. Very few people liked the plaza's steely design.

Trustees approved a new park design, but environmental clean-ups and design changes at the newly dubbed Friendship Park put off a July 3 ribbon cutting.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who was the only board member to support the Millennium Plaza plan, publicly thanked Lehmann for a project eventually completed in less than a year.

"I know he doesn't like me to say it, but he sweated a lot over this project," Klatecki said.

Other notable fountains in the Chicago area



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GILBERT BOUGHER/DAILY HERALD

• Fountain Square in Long Grove checks in at a relatively humble total capacity of about 1,000 gallons of water.

Still fresh after 20 years

Friendly bagel shop, deli celebrates anniversary in Wheeling

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-18-02

Cornfields surrounded Chicago Bagel and Bialy Deli Restaurant when it first opened in Wheeling in 1982.

Over the years, the mom-and-pop eatery would become a place where kids walking to London Middle School routinely stopped for their morning bagel and cream cheese.

Office receptionists would make the weekly run for discount bagels on "bagel day" Tuesdays, political candidates would come to view it as a prime community spot for campaigning and others would stop by just for "the schtick" offered by the jovial owners.

"It's been 20 years, and we're still here, and it's pretty amazing," said co-owner Sharon Harkavy. "From the time we opened, to the time we got thrown out because of Walgreens to now, we've survived in spite of everything."

"We've made so many friends that are loyal customers, and the school kids still come by to visit. They come and say hello, and they've grown up so much. It's unbelievable."

Sharon Harkavy

Once at the corner of Dundee and Schoenbeck Roads, the bagel shop now at 260 S. Milwaukee Ave. weathered the threat of a wrecking ball and moved across town in 2000 to make room for the big-chain pharmacy.

Today, Chicago Bagel has a spot on Wheeling's prestigious Restaurant Row, a following of loyal customers and marked its 20 years doing business in Wheeling on Nov. 12.

"We're so happy here," Harkavy said. "We've made so many friends that are loyal customers, and the school kids still come by to visit. They come and say hello, and

they've grown up so much. It's unbelievable."

Sharon Harkavy's husband, Harold Harkavy, opened Chicago Bagel and Bialy in 1982 after running a similar business in Northbrook.

He had sold his partnership in New York Bagel and decided to strike out on his own. He formed a new business partnership after meeting his wife 10 years later.

When Walgreens decided to buy out the Harkavys' lease, along with those of neighboring Hip Cat Records and Music Videos, Sharon Harkavy dug in her heels and collected more than 700 signatures on a petition to rally opposition against the pharmacy chain.

Eventually, though, village approval for a prime spot on Restaurant Row gave Chicago Bagel renewed energy.

"On a bagel day, we get almost 600 customers," Harkavy said of Tuesdays, when the shop offers bagels at \$2.99 a dozen. "I think now that we're on Restaurant Row, we're more visible. We knew it was up and coming, and it's been better than we anticipated."

Most of what keeps people coming back is the food, Harkavy said.

Chicago Bagel is not a chain, and all of the food is homemade.

"I make a lot of it, and I wouldn't serve anything I wouldn't eat myself," she said. "Our regular customers like that, and they're still with us."



PHOTOS BY BILL ZARS/DAILY HERALD
With a flick of the wrist, Alberto Albarca, along with Sindronio Perlata, churns out bagels at Chicago Bagel and Bialy in Wheeling. Below, Harold and Sharon Harkavy give a little lift to their bagels to celebrate 20 years doing business.



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Developers have already worked with residents in the neighboring Shadow Bend subdivision and agreed to install shaded lighting, create a landscaped barrier and build a fence

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"He didn't read the date," Wong said. "He forgot the details."

Managers at Hackney's and PS Pub declined to comment. A manager at Pico De Gallo was not available for comment.

Benson called the results of the sting "disappointing," considering the department has conducted such investigations in the past.

"This is concerning," he said. "I can't see an acceptable excuse to serve (the minors). All should be carded."

Benson said the department is working with the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up training with owners and managers of restaurants and bars in Wheeling.

Owners of the establishments where citations were issued will appear before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission for a hearing that could result in additional fines or liquor license suspensions if their employees are found guilty in court. The hearings could be held in February.

After the verdict, jurors said the signed confession of Shaun Fogle, 20, was the most persuasive piece of evidence against him. Jurors reached a decision after 2 1/4 hours of deliberations.

Fogle was accused of being part of a trio of thieves who robbed Emil Risenzon, a 47-year-old Russian immigrant who lived in Buffalo Grove, at his Wheeling jewelry store and left him dead.

As jurors affirmed the verdict, Fogle's generally sullen courtroom demeanor grew into a red-eyed weep. As he was led away, Fogle, who testified that he has never been in the jewelry store, could be heard gasping sobs. His relatives, as well as Risenzon's widow, sniffled as the verdict was read. Members of each family declined to comment.

Fogle conceivably could be sentenced to as many as 160 years in prison for the two convictions. Cook County Circuit Judge Thomas P. Pecarotta Jr. could sentence him as soon as Dec. 18.

On Aug. 17, 1999, Risenzon was found beaten to death behind the counter of his looted Wheeling Jewelry and Repair Store on Dundee Road. His skull had been fractured

have pleaded innocent and are awaiting trial on that charge.

In his closing arguments, Johnson said none of the physical evidence in the Wheeling case actually points to Fogle being in Risenzon's store.

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Shaun Fogle



Emil Risenzon

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BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nov 20,
2002

upscale shopping center on North Milwaukee Avenue.

To guarantee a desirable project, commissioners suggested requiring approval of tenants before signing leases. The developers balked at the idea.

William Hein, a consultant for the proposed Petersburg Place, insisted commissioners should believe him when he says the center on 1.2 acres just north of Dundee Road wouldn't be just another strip mall.

"This is called faith," Hein said. "I live in this community, and I want something good for it and I wouldn't cheapen it. This is going to be upscale."

The center would house 12 stores in two buildings on either side of a small courtyard at 119-145 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Hein said a jeweler has already invested in the property and the developers are in talks with Caribou Coffee. Requiring approval before

leases are signed would hamper the project's progress, Hein said.

"And you haven't done it to anyone else," he added.

Commissioners said Wheeling has been burned before.

"I don't want to see it happen to the residents who live there, and I don't want to see it happen to the entire village," Commissioner Pamela Dorband said.

The proposed development would be blocks away from the new com-

munity campus Wheeling is proposing as part of its comprehensive planning process, commissioners said. As presented, Petersburg Place fits well with plans to create retail and commercial space within walking distance of public buildings and residential areas, commissioners said.

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Jury finds Wheeling man guilty in murder of jeweler

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

11-20-02

A Cook County jury Tuesday night found a Wheeling man guilty of first-degree murder and armed robbery in the beating death of a Wheeling jeweler three years ago.

After the verdict, jurors said the signed confession of Shaun Fogle, 20, was the most persuasive piece of evidence against him. Jurors reached a decision after 2 1/4 hours of deliberations.

Fogle was accused of being part of a trio of thieves who robbed Emil Risenzon, a 47-year-old Russian immigrant who lived in Buffalo Grove, at his Wheeling jewelry store and left him dead.

As jurors affirmed the verdict, Fogle's generally sullen courtroom demeanor grew into a red-eyed weep. As he was led away, Fogle, who testified that he has never been in the jewelry store, could be heard gasping sobs. His relatives, as well as Risenzon's widow, sniffled as the verdict was read. Members of each family declined to comment.

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On Aug. 17, 1999, Risenzon was found beaten to death behind the counter of his looted Wheeling Jewelry and Repair Store on Dundee Road. His skull had been fractured seven times by what authorities say was a metal pipe. Three Wheeling men — Fogle, Rayon Sampson, 21, and Raymond Benavides, 22 — were charged with armed robbery and first-degree murder. Sampson and Benavides have maintained their innocence and are awaiting trial.

Prosecutors say what was intended as a "grab 'n' go" robbery turned awry when Risenzon resisted. They allege Sampson beat him to death with a metal pipe. Fogle and Benavides are charged with his murder as well because they planned and carried out the crime — armed robbery — that led to his death, prosecutors allege.

After Tuesday's verdict, jury member Brad Baird said: "I think probably the key piece was the confession. The defense was really not able to get around that."

Defense attorney Michael Johnson acknowledged the prosecutor-written confession, which Fogle signed, was an obstacle. "Jurors believe that no one who's not guilty would ever sign a confession if they didn't do anything," he said.

"The jury system worked," was prosecutor John Dillon's only comment after the verdict.

In closing arguments, Dillon and co-prosecutor Bernie Murray painted Fogle as a streetwise gang member who helped hatch a plan to rob Risenzon's store with fellow gang members Sampson and Benavides.



Shaun Fogle



Emil Risenzon

The goal was to raise \$2,000 to bail their leader out of Cook County jail, prosecutors said.

The three also are charged with a Prospect Heights robbery the next day. Fogle has pleaded guilty and could be sentenced on that charge Dec. 18. Benavides and Sampson have pleaded innocent and are awaiting trial on that charge.

In his closing arguments, Johnson said none of the physical evidence in the Wheeling case actually points to Fogle being in Risenzon's store.

Police ticket servers in bar, restaurant sting

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

11-21-02

Wheeling police issued tickets to five bartenders and waiters during a sting operation targeting the sale of alcohol to minors.

During the sting, conducted Nov. 5 and Nov. 6, officers sent 17-year-old girls and boys into 29 different restaurants and bars in Wheeling. They were accompanied by plainclothes Wheeling police officers who witnessed the transactions, said police Cmdr. William Benson.

Tickets were given to Ricardo Galindo, 25, 431 Castlewood Lane, Buffalo Grove, at Pico De Gallo; Sergio R. Leon, 25, 1917 N. Lacrosse, Chicago, at Benihana; Sarah L. Henderson, 49, 2515 Dundee Road, Northbrook, at PS Pub; Gary E. Poston, 58, 4144 N. LeClaire, Chicago, at Hackney's; and Anthony M. Biondo, 53, 1131 Victoria Drive, Fox River Grove, at Hang Outs. They are scheduled to appear in Cook County Court in Rolling Meadows Dec. 6 to face a charge of sale of alcohol to a minor.

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"It was a terrible, terrible oversight on my part," he said. "I made a mistake and let my

guard down. I'm very bothered by this."

Danny Wong, a manager at Benihana, said the server who was cited made a mistake and did not carefully examine the identification given to him.

"He didn't read the date," Wong said. "He forgot the details."

Managers at Hackney's and PS Pub declined to comment. A manager at Pico De Gallo was not available for comment.

Benson called the results of the sting "disappointing," considering the department has conducted such investigations in the past.

"This is concerning," he said. "I can't see an acceptable excuse to serve (the minors). All should be carded."

Benson said the department is working with the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up training with owners and managers of restaurants and bars in Wheeling.

Owners of the establishments where citations were issued will appear before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission for a hearing that could result in additional fines or liquor license suspensions if their employees are found guilty in court. The hearings could be held in February.

Buffalo Grove residents Jeri Rosauer, Sharon Weiner, Denise Rotman and Marcy Diamond enjoyed meeting Martin Indyk, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, at Women's American ORT "Vision 2002," held recently at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove. Featuring a cocktail reception and elegant dinner, the benefit drew 200 guests and raised more than \$400,000 for ORT-sponsored schools and high-tech job-training programs in Israel. Women's American ORT sponsors 140 schools and technical programs in Israel, serving 25 percent of all students from junior high through college.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE DONISCH



Wheeling officials suggest tenant approval for proposed center

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nov 20, 2002

A retail center hosting upscale shops of the caliber of Starbucks, Haagen-Dazs and fine jewelers would appeal to Wheeling plan commissioners.

What the village doesn't need is another collection of cigarette shops and hot dog stands, commissioners said. They made that clear to a group of developers that wants to build an

upscale shopping center on North Milwaukee Avenue.

To guarantee a desirable project, commissioners suggested requiring approval of tenants before signing leases. The developers balked at the idea.

William Hein, a consultant for the proposed Petersburg Place, insisted commissioners should believe him when he says the center on 1.2 acres just north of Dundee Road wouldn't be just another strip mall.

"This is called faith," Hein said. "I live in this community, and I want something good for it and I wouldn't cheapen it. This is going to be upscale."

The center would house 12 stores in two buildings on either side of a small courtyard at 119-145 N. Milwaukee Ave.

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The proposed development would be blocks away from the new com-

munity campus Wheeling is proposing as part of its comprehensive planning process, commissioners said. As presented, Petersburg Place fits well with plans to create retail and commercial space within walking distance of public buildings and residential areas, commissioners said.

Developers have already worked with residents in the neighboring Shadow Bend subdivision and agreed to install shaded lighting, create a landscaped barrier and build a fence

to shield homes.

"But you could easily sell later, and then we get hot dog sales or loud restaurants," Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said.

Still, the majority of the commission conceded that the proposed project would make good use of the narrow property. Commissioners held off on voting for the project, though, until developers could resolve access and turn-lane issues with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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The three also are charged with a Prospect Heights robbery the next day. Fogle has pleaded guilty and could be sentenced on that charge Dec. 18. Benavides and Sampson have pleaded innocent and are awaiting trial on that charge.

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in accurate as of 1/02

NO

NO

NO

Open Sundays

BE CARE

Wheeling homeowners could see some tax relief

By CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-15-02

Last year, a 12 percent increase in Wheeling's property tax levy did not sit well with homeowners.

A far cry from last year's hike, Wheeling's proposed property tax levy for next year will increase less than 0.5 percent.

"But we know what residents are interested in is the bottom line," Wheeling Finance Director Michael Mondschain said.

And that bottom line is that residents with homes valued at \$200,000 would pay only \$1.48 more to the village in property taxes if the village board approves an estimated \$7.5 million property tax levy, Mondschain said.

A new ambulance fee, utility use tax and hotel and motel tax the village board approved earlier this year are bringing in more than \$500,000 this year.

That will help the village hold the line on property taxes, despite an aggressive capital improvement schedule that elected officials hope will help Wheeling quickly upgrade its image.

Without the new fees, village property taxes would be increasing 9 percent or 10 percent, Village Man-

ager Wallace "Wally" Douthwaite said.

Trustee Dean Argiris suggested that the village try to knock down the proposed 0.39 percent property tax levy increase to a zero increase for residents.

"Since we all got reassessed, we all got hammered this year," Argiris said of the county's triennial property tax assessment that increased tax bills about \$35 for homes selling at \$151,900 in 2001.

The difference in revenue to the village would be \$28,000 if Wheeling didn't increase its levy at all.

However, other trustees said the village should maintain the small increase to keep Wheeling's improvement plans on track.

"This is the little details that make up the budget, and it's the little things that keep Wheeling going strong," Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

It's not worth the risk of not being able to continue such projects as the Wheeling fountain and streetscape improvements, just to get rid of a 0.39 percent increase, trustees said.

"What's happened in the past is we've played catchup a bit," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

The board will vote on the levy at a Dec. 19 meeting.

Trial starts for Wheeling woman accused of murdering her niece

By SHAMUS TOOMEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-14-02

eventually killed her, Nauheimer said. The prosecutor never used the words "child abuse" in her opening statement, but authorities allege that's what was happening in Farag's Wheeling home on Navajo Trail after Farag's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Ehab and Howyda Farag of Mundelein, dropped the girl off.

Defense attorney Robert H. Aronson said Farag, now 37, found the toddler at the bottom of the staircase and tried to revive her with perfume and sliced onions before calling 911. The child had suffered from earaches a month earlier, said Aronson, who suggested Angi passed out before falling down the stairs.

"She was not a well child, and the evidence will show my client cared for her in such a loving manner as to treat her almost as her own daughter," Aronson said.

Aronson plans to have his own experts testify that the child's head injuries were consistent with a fall. With Farag flatly denying the abuse accusations, the trial is shaping up as

a battle of medical experts testifying about whether the death was an accident or murder.

"How about a motive?" Aronson asked in his opening statement, posing the question to Associate Judge John J. Scotillo, who will decide the case instead of a jury at the defense's request.

Farag faces mandatory life in prison if convicted. She is free on \$300,000 bond.

A native of Egypt, a forlorn-looking Farag listened to the start of the trial through an Arabic interpreter. She speaks little English, and twice told her staircase story to an Arabic-speaking FBI interpreter the week after Angi died.

The trial could last more than a week.

Aronson said.

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a battle of medical experts testifying about whether the death was an accident or murder.

Bike path to make a 'symbolic linking'

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited bicycle path connecting the Metra train stations in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove will be built by the end of next summer.

Representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation met with the Wheeling Public Works Department in late October for a preconstruction meeting outlining the schedule for the path, said Tim Merrihew, capital projects manager for the Public Works Department. Construction is set to begin next spring by Thelan Sand and Gravel, and the path should be done by August.

The bike path will run along the Commonwealth Edison easement near the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks. The path will connect with existing bike paths in Buffalo Grove and the path built in Denoyer Park in Wheeling.

The project has been a long-time coming, Merrihew said. Originally a 1993 project, Merrihew said it has been delayed to work out issues concerning easement access with both ComEd and the railroad.

Merrihew said 80 percent of the \$764,000 construction cost is being funded by a federal grant. The other 20 percent of the cost is being split between the village governments of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, the park districts of both villages and the Wheeling and

Buffalo Grove Rotary clubs.

The Rotary clubs were instrumental in building the path at Denoyer Park near the Bill Simpson memorial. Simpson helped establish the Buffalo Grove Rotary Club, which spun off from the Wheeling Rotary Club in 1974, said Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Balling.

Balling called the path a "symbolic linking" of the two communities that have shared a close relationship both governmentally and civically.

"The two towns have kind of grown up together," he said. "This is nice representation of that."

Mark Harrison, director of parks and planning for the Wheeling Park District, said the path will hopefully be the beginning of more bicycling opportunities in Wheeling.

"We're trying to make bike-ways part of the village fabric," he said. "It's going to be a long-term commitment."

Harrison said the park district has been working with village officials to weave bike paths into the new comprehensive plan. Bike paths also will be a focus of the park district's own master plan, which will be revamped in 2003.

Harrison said future paths could connect with paths in Prospect Heights to the south and to the Cook County Forest Preserve District. Harrison said residents asked for more bike paths in district surveys.

Alternate juror dismissed after admitting reading news story

By DAVE ORRICK

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

An alternate juror in a Northwest suburban murder trial was dismissed Friday after acknowledging he read an article on the trial in the Daily Herald.

The juror, a Northwest suburban man, was serving as an alternate in the trial of Shaun Fogle of Wheeling, who is charged in the robbery and beating death of Wheeling jewelry store operator Emil Risenzon in August 1999.

Fogle and two other Wheeling men — Rayon Sampson and Raymond Benavides — are charged with armed robbery and first-degree murder in Risenzon's death. Fogle's trial began this week and is expected to conclude early next week. Benavides and Sampson have pleaded innocent and are awaiting trial in the death of Risenzon, a 47-year-old Buffalo Grove resident. Fogle has also pleaded innocent.

The same three men also are charged in a separate armed robbery that occurred in Prospect Heights the day after the Wheeling incident.

Fogle has pleaded guilty to that Prospect Heights robbery charge and is scheduled to be sentenced after his trial in the Wheeling incident.

Benavides also has pleaded guilty in the Prospect Heights incident and is awaiting sentencing. Sampson has not conceded to any of the charges in



Shaun Fogle



Emil Risenzon

connection with the Prospect Heights incident and is scheduled to appear Sept. 3.

Because certain details of the Prospect Heights incident are barred from Fogle's trial in the Wheeling matter, defense attorney Michael Johnson said jurors who read the article could be prejudiced.

On Friday, two jurors told Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas P. Fecarotta Jr. that they read the story.

A female juror said she recalled little of the article, but the man appeared to have read the piece thoroughly.

Fecarotta dismissed the man and allowed the woman to remain.

Fecarotta said he himself bore responsibility because on Thursday he may have not instructed jurors to avoid reading news accounts of the trial, something he normally tells jurors at the end of each day.

"If anyone's wrong, I am," Fecarotta said in court Friday. "For some reason, yesterday I don't think I admonished them (jurors)."

Defense questions medical findings in trial

Nov 21, 2002

BY DAVE ORRICK

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

The defense attorney for a Wheeling woman charged with murdering her 2-year-old niece continued to try to pick away at the prosecution's medical evidence-based case Wednesday.

The accused, Afaf Farag, 37, has maintained the toddler fell down a flight of stairs in Farag's Wheeling home, where she was babysitting the child Oct. 4, 2000. Prosecutors say Farag caused the death of Angi Farag by shaking or striking her.

On Wednesday, Dr. Anthony Niezyniecki, who pronounced the

girl dead, at first testified that he saw no bruising below Angi's neck.

But on cross examination from defense attorney Robert Aronson, Niezyniecki said, from the bruises he observed, "The possibility is there that she could have fallen."

Niezyniecki, a prosecution witness, was not part of the Cook

County medical examiner's team that determined the girl died from bruising to her brain.

The trial, which is to be decided by Associate Judge John J. Scottillo, may rest on whether the medical evidence conclusively shows that the girl's fatal injuries could not have occurred outside the few hours she was in Farag's

care.

Before the trial, a prosecutor said bruises on her forehead appeared to be "classic knuckle marks." Previously in the trial, an expert testified that retinal hemorrhages — damage to parts of the girl's eye — can only be caused by so-called shaken baby syndrome, not by blunt trauma.

On Wednesday, Niezyniecki suggested some of her wounds could have dated back for some time.

"It's hard to determine how many falls or injuries she had," he said. "The bruising I noted in my record were in various stages of healing."

The case is expected to last for at least another week.

Home day-care ordinance OK'd

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

11-21-02

A new home day-care ordinance was tweaked and approved by the Wheeling Village Board to the ire of at least one member of the Wheeling Plan Commission.

Trustees debated at length Nov. 12 the differences they had with the Plan Commission's recommendation. The ordinance reduces the number of children allowed in one home from 12 to eight and allows the provider to hire one assistant, a change from the Plan Commission recommendation.

According to village ordinance, a home business cannot hire any employees. However, home day-care services have always been considered a special use in Wheeling and not a home business, a difference in classification that allows home day-care providers to hire employees.

Stuart Shapiro, a plan com-

missioner who runs an insurance business out of his home, said the day-care ordinance passed by trustees "discriminates" against all other home businesses in the village. He said he was "outraged" by the Village Board's decision to include the one-assistant rule.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann

The Plan Commission included the no-employees provision to be fair to other home businesses. However, trustees said day-care centers are a

(Continued on page 10)

Day-care *Continued from page 8*

unique home business, because the health, safety and well-being of children is at stake.

Home day-care providers, many from communities other than Wheeling, implored the Village Board to allow the assistant, saying the person is needed while the provider prepares meals for the children or if there is an emergency in the home.

"I believe an assistant is needed," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "(The Department of Children and Family Services) may say they don't need it, but what I find interesting is these people are

agency, however, does require the hiring of assistants when a home day-care provider cares for more than five children under the age of 6 or two children under the age of 30 months.

The Village Board wanted to review the home day-care ordinance after Wheeling resident Lynda Claver appeared before the board for a home day-care license after she moved into a larger home and asked to care for 12 children. Trustees allowed Claver to care for eight children, and they then asked the Plan Commission to review the ordinance, which had allowed

Commission still not sold on plan

Pioneer Press

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

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Members of the Wheeling Plan Commission are still wrestling with a proposal to build an office building at the intersection of Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway and how it will fit in with future development.

Commissioners said they were having a difficult time with the proposal since Camiros, the consultant hired to help overhaul the comprehensive plan, has suggested the village leave the land in question as open space or possibly for use in flood control. Both issues make the proposal a difficult one to accept, commissioners said.

"Camiros suggests we keep it as green space in the middle of the community, and (the land) could be used for flood issues, too," said Ken Brady, plan commission chairman. "If (the building) can fit, it will generate income for the village. I think we can still achieve both."

Architect Robert Kirk shows the building on only four of the eight acres of the site. Kirk said he would like to work with Camiros and Burke Engineering, which the village hired to work on a flood mitigation study, to see how the building could fit into both plans.

"I want to get a better idea of what you want," Kirk told the commission. "I'm willing to work with Camiros."

Since the building will only use half of the land on the parcel, some commissioners believed the building can be

built and still use the other half of the site for open space, which would include a pond to help with flood issues.

"I would like to see it developed," Commissioner Ray Lang said. "We can come half way. I think we can get the best of both with your building and a landscape feature in the back."

Some commissioners said the flood issues should be taken as a priority. If Burke's report, expected to be done in December, suggests the site should be used for mitigation purposes, it could be more advantageous for the village to use it that way, said Commissioner Steven Boime.

"I'm opposed to this if it hinders the flood mitigation project to free land from the floodplain to the south and east," he said. "I think we should wait for the flood mitigation study and the comprehensive plan."

Some commissioners also asked how traffic from an office building would impact an already busy intersection, especially during rush hour.

The Village Board asked the Plan Commission to review the proposal for a second time after the commission sent a recommendation to deny the development. Commissioners originally elected to hold off on the project until the new comprehensive plan was done, but they voted on a recommendation at the insistence of the developer, Alex Loyfman.

Trustees said they wanted to see the office building built and sent the proposal back to the Plan Commission.

Police make prostitution arrests 11-21-02

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“I believe an assistant is needed,” Village President Greg Klatecki said. “(The Department of Children and Family Services) may say they don’t need it, but what I find interesting is these people are saying they want it.”

DCFS allows home day-care providers to care for up to eight children without any assistants in some cases. The

agency, however, does require the hiring of assistants when a home day-care provider cares for more than five children under the age of 6 or two children under the age of 30 months.

The Village Board wanted to review the home day-care ordinance after Wheeling resident Lynda Claver appeared before the board for a home day-care license after she moved into a larger home and asked to care for 12 children. Trustees allowed Claver to care for eight children, and they then asked the Plan Commission to review the ordinance, which had allowed up to 12 children in a home.

“We’re trying to find a medium to keep the residential character of our neighborhoods,” Lehmann said.

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Pioneer Press
By CASEY MOFFITT
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Trustees said they wanted to see the office building built and sent the proposal back to the Plan Commission.

Police make prostitution arrests 11-21-02

Wheeling police officers arrested three people in connection with a small prostitution operation at the Foxboro Apartment complex.

Patricia Perdomo Santana, 32, 2044 Avenida Borijuen, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Hilario Mazaba, 21, 160 Arbor Court, Unit A, Wheeling; and Cornelio Najera-Hernandez, 21, 427 Allen Court, Unit A, Wheeling, were all arrested in Najera-Hernandez’s apartment just after 7 p.m. on Nov. 12.

Santana was charged with prostitution, and Najera-Hernandez was charged with soliciting a prostitute and keeping a place of prostitution. Mazaba was charged with patronizing a prostitute.

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the department was tipped off by the building’s manager, who told police he was suspicious of the number of people coming and going from the apartment.

Hermes said investigators who went to the apartment were asked if they were “looking for ladies” and invited in. Hermes said the department believes the operation was small in nature and does not suspect it was part of a larger business.

Public works space debate s

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

11-21-02

Discussions on a six-month lease to store public works vehicles turned into a debate about the space needs of the department at a recent Wheeling Village Board meeting.

Space needs at the Village Hall campus have been debated for the past four years, and no permanent solutions have been discussed by the Village Board. In the last year, a space needs study has been conducted, and public works has created new office space above its garage.

The Village Board Nov. 4 approved a lease to store public works vehicles indoors at a private building during the winter months to protect the vehicles and ensure they will start in the cold weather. But some trustees called it "another Band-Aid" solution to the needs of the department.

"For the past four years we've been talking about a building on the Hintz Road property," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "We can keep doing this or do

'For the past four years we been talking about a building the Hintz Road property. We keep doing this or do something on Hintz Road.'

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something on Hintz Road."

The village bought a 10-acre lot on Hintz \$1.5 million in 2000. Nothing has been done with the property since. Abruscato argued it would be a perfect location for a new public works facility.

"We need to look at a program," she said. "It's time to look at what we need to service the community better."

However, building a new facility will take millions of dollars, and some trustees said now might not be the right time to undergo such an expensive project,

Public works Continued from page 7

campus on Dundee Road out of the flood plain, making it easier to expand the current public works facility.

If that were the case, the Hintz Road property could be used for something else and put on the tax rolls, according to some trustees.

Trustee Dean Argiris reminded the board that it is looking into a downtown redevelopment project around the Metra train station that could require relocating some busi-

"That (Hintz Road property) could be an ace in the hole for us," he said. "Where else are we going to put those guys if we want to relocate them?"

The board voted unanimously to sign the lease and store the vehicles at 2039 S. Foster Ave. during the winter. Guy Kolberg, public works director, said indoor storage will protect the investment of the vehicles. The public works fleet has an estimated value of \$2.7 million.

budget hearings start in the coming months.

"Last year, we didn't know how big a new facility would have to be," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "Now we have the study, and we need to look at this at budget time."

Lehmann also argued in favor of waiting for a flood mitigation study to come back to the village. That study may contain a solution to get the village (Continued on page 11)

Milwaukee project draw

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

11-21-02 Pioneer Press

Architect John Green took the ball and ran with it when members of the Wheeling Plan Commission urged him to think "outside the box" while creating a condominium development at Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road.

Green presented some of his ideas to the commission at its Nov. 14 meeting. His early design includes three, 11-story buildings on the 7.9-acre plot just south of the Wedgewood Riding Center. Green said he is excited about the eight different floor plans in each building, offering buyers a variety of condominiums that range from 1,150 square feet to 1,850 square feet.

"I was looking to create many different units, each with two views," Green said.

The building has a stepped look, wide at the bottom and narrowing as it goes up. It also incorporates

a large glass top, mirroring the two o just north of Lake-Cook Road on Milwaukee—a look commissioners did not like.

Green, who was hired by Tantillo project, said he was looking for suggestions Plan Commission. The commission has

Although the buildings were shown high with parking underneath, it shown to be covered with asphalt to more parking. Commissioners said they see more green space in the development.

"I thought the point of going up more green space," Commissioner said. "There's still a lot of asphalt."

Even though there is a lot of parking sign, there is not enough parking to codes.

"It's a paradox," Commissioner Steven Boime said. "There is too much parking, visually, but you don't have enough by a long shot."

Milwaukee Continued from page 5

new location for their business.

The Village Board is hoping the two developers can build projects that complement each other and create a gateway into Wheeling as people drive south on Milwaukee Avenue.

In the meantime, the village is considering condemning the AAA Auto Sales and Buyers, which would about the Tantillo project to the south. The village proposed a land swap with Tantillo, giving Tantillo the car dealer land for the northernmost portion of Tantillo's property.

The plan would be to build a boulevard, extending Wolf Road between Tantillo's land and the riding center, which would ease traffic access into the two developments, would be built to village standards and supply utilities to both projects.

Green's plan did not officially include the auto dealer land, but a plan is in the works to expand the project onto that property. Tantillo is itching to build, considering it has sat on the land, with no substantial progress made on its project, for over a year.

Riding Center, which abuts the Tantillo land to the north. Smith must wait about two years before he can build so that the riding center owners can find a (Continued on page 11)

Village seeking minimal increase in property taxes

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

11-21-02

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, has good news about next year's tax levy.

Mondschain recommended the village increase its property tax collection by about .39 percent to \$7.46 million next year, compared to this year's \$7.43 million tax levy. The amount of money going toward daily village operations will not increase, Mondschain said. The increases will go to the police officer's pension fund and the village's overall debt. Those increases will

lected for the full year.

The previous year, the Village Board increased the local sales tax by .25 percent, making the village's portion of the sales tax .75 percent. Increased sales tax revenue also kept the levy down, Mondschain said.

Mondschain estimated a resident living in a home with a market value of about \$200,000 can expect to see an increase of \$1.48 in the portion of property taxes going to the village. About 10 percent of a total tax bill goes to village government.

Trustees were pleased to hear the good news about next

By GASS CLAVETT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
11-23-02

All of Wheeling will come aglow in one moment Sunday for the first time in the history of the village's annual Festival of Lights.

Pinpoints of light will illuminate shimmering sprays in the new fountain at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road at the same time that the village turns on the holiday lights at the village hall, Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

The intersection at Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue, and at Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road, will also be bathed in muted shades of red, green and white as part

of an effort to illuminate all of the village's estimated 88,000 lights.

Our goal is to coordinate it all, and operations and maintenance tells me that if we have a person at each site, we can do it," said Abruscato, the chairman of the village's Special Events Commission. "I think it will be phenomenal and a great evening to start the holiday season with family and friends."

The sixth annual lights festival begins at 6 p.m. and will include performances from Wheeling High School's New Dawns singing group and the school's brass ensemble quintet. Both are new to the event this year.

A deletion, however, will be the

scheduled fireworks. Because of the threat of inclement weather, the fire department has made "the executive decision" to cancel the pyrotechnics display, Fire Chief Keith Macleasac said.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make their annual appearance, along with cocoa and homemade cookies from Market Square Restaurant in Wheeling.

"Everything is free, and Santa's going to give all the kids a little remembrance gift," Abruscato said.

The festival will be the first event officially coordinated by the newly formed Wheeling Special Events Commission.

For more information call Abruscato at (847) 541-8783.

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However, building a new facility would cost millions of dollars, and some trustees said now is not the right time to undergo such an ex

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Milwaukee project draws mixed reviews

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a large glass top, mirroring the two office buildings just north of Lake-Cook Road on Milwaukee Avenue — a look commissioners did not like.

Green, who was hired by Tantillo Homes for the project, said he was looking for suggestions from the Plan Commission. The commission had plenty.

Although the buildings were shown to be 11 stories high with parking underneath, the parcel was shown to be covered with asphalt to accommodate more parking. Commissioners said they wanted to see more green space in the development.

"I thought the point of going up was to create more green space," Commissioner Terry Steilen said. "There's still a lot of asphalt."

Even though there is a lot of parking in the design, there is not enough parking to meet village codes.

"It's a paradox," Commissioner Steven Boime said. "There is too much parking, visually, but you don't have enough by a long shot."

Some commissioners also said they believed the project's density, at 26 units per acre, was too high.

Commissioners did say they were pleased to see Green try to create something unique.

"Anything out of the shoe box pile is good," Commissioner David Cantwell said.

Green said he trying to create a project that defies convention.

"I'm trying to avoid people driving by it and saying, 'That looks like the building in Arlington Heights,'" he said. "I want them to say, 'That's the building in Wheeling.'"

Tantillo first proposed a condominium development for the site in November 2001. During that time, Mark Smith, of Smith Family Construction, had secured a contract to develop the Wedgewood Riding Center, which abuts the Tantillo land to the north. Smith must wait about two years before he can build so that the riding center owners can find a

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Duo puts catalog line into its first store

PioneerPress

By IRV LEAVITT
STAFF WRITER

11-21-02

As little kids, Scott Eirinberg and Jamie Cohen used to play in and around Northbrook Court.

Soon, as adults, they'll open a 6,500-square-foot store to sell stuff for little kids in the same shopping center. And it's gone far beyond playing around.

The two 36-year-olds — who've known each other since first grade at Northbrook's Meadowbrook School — started selling kids' furniture and accessories in their Land of Nod catalog eight years ago. In 2000, they sold a half-interest in the company to Northbrook-based Crate & Barrel, which is helping launch their first retail store on Tuesday. By the spring of 2004, stores are planned to open in Boston, Seattle, and at North and Clybourn avenues in Chicago, as well.

"This is a little terrifying," Eirinberg said as he walked through the shopping center to the store construction site Friday. "But it's a lot better if you have people with you who've got a lot of experience."

The first stores will be the test.

"If we see these four taking off, we'll try five or six more a year," Crate & Barrel Chief Executive Officer Gordon Segal said. "You could have 150 around the country, no problem. It just depends on how good we are at doing it."

Eirinberg, a former advertising copywriter, invited childhood pal Cohen, a com-

puter systems manager, to help him start the catalog business in 1996. He had noticed that children's furniture was one of the few retail categories that wasn't over-supplied.

"Between discounters and high-end boutiques, there was very little else" in children's furniture, Eirinberg said. Land of Nod's catalog business has grown to \$15 million per year, but Segal and the two partners felt that a large segment of the customer base shy away from catalogs and the Internet, and want to lay their hands on a \$749 crib at a real store before plunking down money.

So do executives at several other companies that have entered the same business in recent years. Their ranks are led by Pottery Barn Kids, which nearly doubled its store count to 54 this year.

Segal doesn't seem to mind that the Land of Nod stores are starting life looking at competitors' backs.

"We started Crate & Barrel in 1962 and we didn't have a second store until 1968," he said. "And we have more competition every year. Hundreds of different stores try to do what we do. And business gets better every year."

His partners say the key to Land of Nod stores' success will be continuing to provide what the catalog does: furniture and accessories that make a kid's room look like it belongs in a stylish upscale home.

"We're not selling plastic race-car beds. We sell high-quality furniture like you would have in the rest of your house," Eirinberg said.



Geoff Scheerer/Pioneer Press

Scott Eirinberg (left) and Jamie Cohen hung out in Northbrook Court as youngsters. Now they're opening a Land of Nod store there. They also have an office in Wheeling.

"We always felt that people could be decorating their children's rooms significantly better," Cohen said. "If you're decorating the rest of the house with (items from) Crate & Barrel, why does the kids' room have to be a sore thumb?"

The pair had a short-lived business as Urbana-Champaign disc jockeys in the 1980s when both attended the University of Illinois. More than a decade later, they started Land of Nod in Eirinberg's Northbrook basement as the firm's only employees. Now they have 50 workers in a Wheeling office, and Eirinberg and his wife, Karla, and three sons have moved to a bigger home in Highland Park. Bachelor Cohen lives in Deerfield.

Eirinberg handles the marketing end, including writing the catalog, and Cohen leads operations. They say one of the reasons they still get along well may be that they spend most of their days working at different duties.

They dubbed their holding company Meadowbrook LLC, but that's not the only bit of whimsy in the Land of Nod. In the catalog, an eye-catching \$235 crib set is dubbed "Womb with a view." A wooden kid-stuff catch-all to be affixed to a wall, at \$39 — or \$59 for a bigger unit — is called "Shelf Silverstein." A 5-by-8 foot, \$399 flowery floor-covering is the "Please step on the daisies rug."

Part of the Northbrook

Court store will be split up into rooms, so customers can see how the furniture would look in a typical setting. The catalog works similarly: For years, it has been photographed in cleared-out rooms in the homes of the partners' friends.

The store also will sell stuffed animals and kids' books and music, items not found in the catalog, to provide one-stop shopping for parents and grandparents.

Segal said he feels confident he picked the right partners.

"These two fellows are two of the most creative guys in the business," he said. "They're terrific to work with, and they're honest people."

BUS COM

1,807

TREASURER

Judy Baar Topinka
Thomas Dart

3,550
2,398

ferred to hire Fountain Technologies for the first year to see how much manpower it will take to maintain the fountain.

Fountain Technologies, a Wheeling-based company, designed and built the two fountains. Kolberg said it is a unique opportunity to learn how to maintain the fountain from those who built it.

11-28-02

Police Academy applications available

The Wheeling Police Department is preparing to hold another Citizens Police Academy, and applications are now available.

The academy is a 10-week program designed to give Wheeling residents a firsthand look at how the department works. Classes are held one night a week from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sgt. John Teevans said those interested in attending the academy should fill out an application and return it to the department at the front desk of the police station. Teevans said the next program will begin in late January or early February.

The classes are taught by different police officers in the areas of patrol, crime prevention, canine operations, gangs and investigations. Other issues to be discussed include domestic violence, child abuse, use of force and community policing.

Applications are available at the front lobby of Village Hall, the Community Recreation Center and through Neighborhood Watch groups. Applications can also be received by e-mail. Contact crimeprevention@vi.wheeling.il.us for an application.

For more information on the Citizens Police Academy, call Teevans at (847) 459-2990.

11-28-02

Duo puts catalog line into its first store

... WITH PORTRAITS AND PHOTO GREETING CARDS FROM MOTOPHOTO! MotoPhoto makes holiday shopping easy. You can get every card and gift you need this holiday season just by visiting MotoPhoto! MotoPhoto makes it easy to turn your favorite photo into a treasured holiday card. Simply bring in the negative, slide or photo and MotoPhoto will do the rest.

Memories Matter ... Share Them.



ADVERTISING

REAL ESTATE WEEKLY by Debbie Leibowitz

ADDING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS' CURB APPEAL

When sellers think about curb appeal, they usually think about their own front yard and the effort required to keep the house looking good. When prospective buyers look

Over \$10 million in sales for 2002 sold/pending.

Glenn Brezka & Nikki Elizondo, Licensed Ass/Buyer's Agent

RE/MAX EXPERTS 847-353-7683

visit the best R.E. website at www.glennbrezka.com

In cooperation w/MLS

lected for the full year. The previous year, the Village Board increased the local sales tax by .25 percent, making the village's portion of the sales tax .75 percent. In-creased sales tax revenue also kept the levy down, Mondschain said.

Michael Mondschain, finance director, has good news about next year's tax levy. Mondschain recommended the village increase its property tax collection by about .39

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Village seeking minimal increase in property taxes

have always been considered a special use in Wheeling and The Plan Commission included the no-employees provision to be fair to other home businesses. However, trustees said day-care centers are a plan com-

Stuart Shapiro, a plan com-

(Continued on page 10)

TIF registry opened

Those looking for information on the village's tax increment financing districts can fill out an application and receive that information through the mail.

The Wheeling Village Board created a registry for the new TIF district on the north side of town between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road, which should be officially formed in the next few months.

Those interested in putting their names on the registry should pick up an application at Finance Director Michael Mondschain's office in Village Hall and return it to Mondschain. As information on actions in the TIF district comes out, it will be mailed to those on the registry. There is no deadline to complete or return the forms.

Wheeling voters in step with state

To borrow from a phrase, as went Wheeling in the Nov. 5 election so went Illinois. Each candidate who won election to state office and Congress also posted winning numbers at Wheeling polling places. The vote totals were computed from information provided by the Cook County Clerk's Office.

U.S. SENATOR	
Richard Durbin	3,876
Jim Durkin	2,146
U.S REPRESENTATIVE	
Mark Kirk	3,581
Henry "Hank" Perritt	2,278
GOVERNOR	
Rod Blagojevich	3,358
Jim Ryan	2,584
ATTORNEY GENERAL	
Lisa Madigan	3,118
Joe Birkett	2,795
SECRETARY OF STATE	
Jesse White	4,454
Kris Cohn	1,807
TREASURER	
Judy Baar Topinka	3,550
Thomas Dart	2,398

Firm hired for fountain maintenance

The Wheeling Village Board approved a \$33,132 contract with Fountain Technologies to maintain the fountains at Friendship Park for the next year.

The contract, which takes effect Jan. 1, calls for crews to work on the fountain two times a week, making sure the intake valves are clear and the filters are clean. The crews also will make necessary chemical and light bulb changes.

Guy Kolberg, Wheeling public works director, said he believed public works crews could eventually take over maintenance duties at the fountain. However, Kolberg said he preferred to hire Fountain Technologies for the first year to see how much manpower it will take to maintain the fountain.

Fountain Technologies, a Wheeling-based company, designed and built the two fountains. Kolberg said it is a unique opportunity to learn how to maintain the fountain from those who built it.

Park decorated for photos

The Wheeling Village Board invites residents to Friendship Park now that it has been decorated for the holiday season.

Friendship Park was decorated and lit up Sunday, the same evening as the Festival of Lights celebration at Village Hall. Trustee Trevor Lehmann said the park, with its holiday lights and other decorations, makes a fun place to take photographs or just to relax and enjoy the display.

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11-28-02

How Wheeling is trying to reverse 20-year trend

BY GASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nov 24, 2002

Leaders see chance to bring community into step with other towns

Wheeling leaders never talk about the village as a test case.

They talk about a massive planning effort to create a future of rolling green fields, and fountains and ponds where flood plains lie fallow in the village.

They talk about a 20-year strategy for creating a town where kids cycle alongside their parents on paths that wind through shopping centers, and where mothers push strollers on sidewalks that link neighborhoods

with public buildings and commercial areas.

They say Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove and Elk Grove Village have realized similar visions through renovation, annexation and construction.

Real estate planners point out, however, that Wheeling is different from its neighbors. They say it's the town with the lowest percentage of single-family detached homes of any bedroom community in the North-

west suburbs.

With only 31 percent of its housing stock made up of ranch-style houses, two-story villas and other detached homes, Wheeling faces a hefty challenge trying to transform itself into a place where families want to spend a lifetime.

"The American dream has always been a single-family home," said DeAnn Glover, manager of Re/Max Experts of Buffalo Grove. "You absolutely have to have that mix of

housing, so it's more single-family and people can make the natural evolutions and remain in town."

Wheeling has 69 percent of its housing skewed toward transitional living, while only 43 percent of homes in Arlington Heights, 45 percent in Buffalo Grove and 40 percent in Des Plaines are made up of apartments, townhouses, condos and mobile homes.

An ideal family community is a place where people can see them-

selves leaving home and moving into an apartment, and then buying progressively larger homes with their own families before moving into a condo or townhouse in their golden years, Glover said.

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Wheeling: Leaders worried about falling into old ways

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Developers have to build multi-family developments or high-end homes selling at \$500,000 or more to make it worthwhile.

So, towns such as Wheeling also lose out when it comes to companies looking at housing demographics to locate new grocery stores and other enterprises that have been missing from Wheeling, real estate agents said.

Redemption by reusing

Wheeling officials say an aggressive push for redevelopment will help the village shed the "affordable, working-class suburb" image that has made Wheeling a stopping place for many on the way to something better. "This is not just about having people to pay the property taxes — even though, of course you need them to keep your projects going and keep roads and all that nice," Plan Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said. "If you have people who stay, you have people who are more involved in the community."

There is a "trickle-down effect" of people who care enough to stay also caring enough to have quality schools, quality parks and a village identity, Brady said.

"Let's face it, without all that, what kind of community are you going to have?" he said. "So it's going to have to be a very aggressive plan to recycle a lot of the land uses we have in the village to really make Wheeling a village of choice."

With the help of the Chicago planning firm Camiros and input from a series of community meetings, Wheeling plan commissioners are exploring several goals:

- Combine municipal buildings with community-oriented retail to promote Dundee Road as Wheeling's "Main Street."

- Encourage hotel, entertainment and other land uses with regional draw along Milwaukee Avenue.

- Establish a riverwalk system to connect restaurants, retail, parks and other amenities to the forest preserve east of the city.

- Pursue annexations along Milwaukee Avenue to control redevelopment of unincorporated residential areas to spur upgrades of existing housing.

By February, Wheeling hopes to

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Leaders of Arlington Heights and other towns that have accomplished their own transformations agreed it will be critical to gain backing from the community at every level. "I think it's very important to get support from the business community," said Charles Witherington-Perkins, Arlington Heights' director of planning and community development.

Wheeling's plans for creating a town center could displace Wickes Furniture, Meyer Material Co. and other industrial facilities, similar to the way Arlington Heights' downtown revitalization displaced some small businesses.

"It was not an easy ride for some of them with all of the construction we had that occurred in such a short time," Perkins said. "But the sales have more than doubled from before development since after completion of the last wave of major development."

Members of Wheeling's business community have joined village trustees and Wheeling Park District officials in helping shape the village's plan in recent months.

David Kolssak, a member of the Wheeling Economic Development Commission, said the biggest concern local businesses have is Wheeling might complete plans to remake itself, only to fall into familiar patterns. "And then in 10 years we have a glut of too many condos," said Kolssak of Turnkey Network Systems. After the condo market takes a dive, she said, "we have all this land to develop again and we're saying, 'Where did we go wrong?'"

Wheeling plan commissioners said the commission is confident things will change this time because Wheeling's leadership has changed.

A project called Wheeling 2000 started the ball rolling about five years ago with an effort to urge the community to create a vision of a new Wheeling, Commissioner David Cantwell said.

"We finally have enough can-do attitude on the village board and on a number of levels to move these things forward," Cantwell said.

Reinventing the Wheeling image

Wheeling leaders say a massive village planning effort and a new can-do attitude will help the village shed its "merely affordable" image and catch up with its upscale neighbors.

1. Reduce the amount of transitional housing

The mobile homes in Wheeling's Whippetree area represent the type of housing the village is trying to get away from as it explores upscale housing, an innovative heritage farm and new park space to rehabilitate the McHenry Road area.



PHOTOS BY MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

Almost 70 percent of Wheeling's housing is mobile homes, condos, townhouses and apartments.

3. More upscale housing

Wheeling hopes annexations will bring in high-end housing similar to that of north Buffalo Grove.



Buffalo Grove increased its tax base by annexing homes.

PAUL BEATY/DAILY HERALD

Commissioner Stuart Shapiro agreed, saying Wheeling has been almost shamed into change.

The village stood still for decades as its suburban neighbors raced to add to their borders and to their images as bustling, modern towns.

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Des Plaines and Arlington Heights updated their old-fashioned images by revitalizing aging downtowns, and Rolling Meadows spent 10 years using the last of its open space to build a corporate identity that has attracted the likes of 3Com, Boeing and Motorola.

"Unfortunately, we had past administrations that were interested in keeping Wheeling a small, sleepy town," Shapiro said. "We now have to

The plan commission will hold its next comprehensive planning session 7 p.m. Dec. 4. "If people think Wheeling has a hometown feel, this is when they should get involved," Commissioner Cantwell said.

"If residents in Wheeling have enjoyed visiting a place, they probably enjoyed it because of the quaintness of its architecture, the flow, the feel. That's what we believe Wheeling has the greatest potential of enhancing."

2. Redeveloped downtown



The centerpiece of Wheeling's plans to change its image is the creation of a town center that would combine commercial and residential space around the existing train station, along with a public use campus that would combine new municipal buildings, park district facilities and green space.

Source: The village of Wheeling

DAILY HERALD

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Efforts to do that finally began coming together recently as the

Wheeling Plan Commission got its first look at a village-wide future land use plan it's been working toward since February.

Highlights of the draft include an innovative educational farm site proposed along McHenry Road and open green space near a bustling "public community campus" that would unite parks and municipal buildings.

The proposed comprehensive plan also has new combinations of residential and commercial space in

See WHEELING on PAGE 4

Wheeling: Leaders worried about falling into old ways

Continued from Page 1

a town center and the creation of space for upscale, single-family housing.

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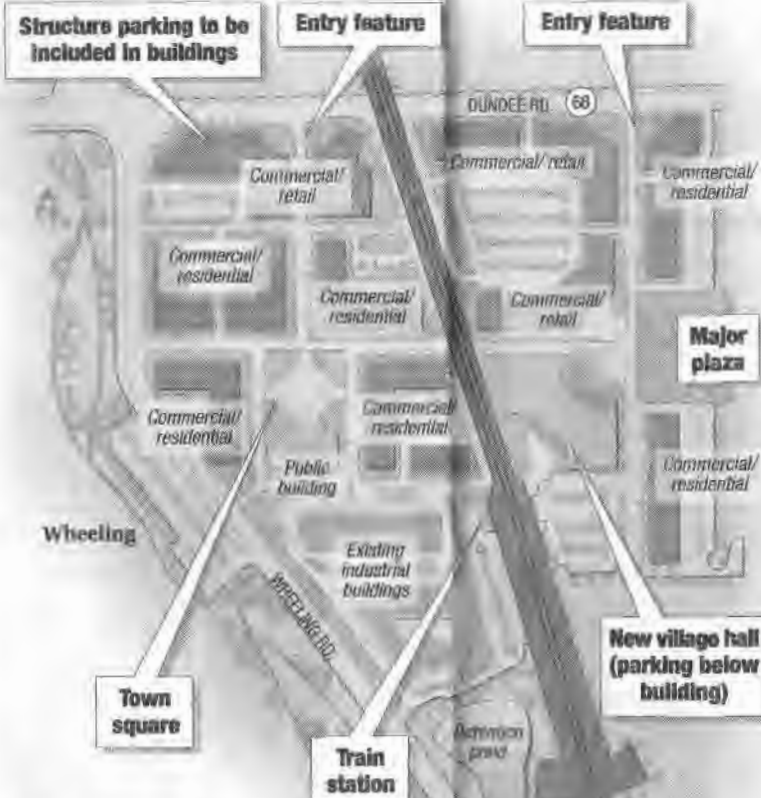


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Key redevelopment locations



Source: The village of Wheeling
DAILY HERALD

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By February, Wheeling hopes to complete the first full-scale re-mapping the village has done in more than 20 years. The comprehensive plan will set Wheeling's development priorities for 20 years to come.

All for one

Success will depend on getting the community behind the process.

"I think a big part of it is, getting residents to realize this is important," Commissioner Steven Boime said. "I think we can encourage people to do renovations of their homes. Maybe the village can work with lending institutions to come up with low-cost loans, but the big thing is getting the

community buy-in."

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Source: The village of Wheeling DAILY HERALD

Hawthorne expansion could win approval

Some things are not always as impossible as they may seem.

The school board in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 is exploring the possibility of renovating and expanding Hawthorne school in Wheeling, an idea that just a few months ago was presented as costly and risky.



Corrie Cutrer
Our schools

The building is in a floodway and would need serious work to make it a usable school for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, district officials said.

Despite these warnings, the school board decided to commission an architectural firm to draw up plans, submit them to local agencies and see if it was possible to expand the building.

The district could use Hawthorne's extra space because some schools in the east part of the district are crowded.

Hawthorne, 200 Glendale Ave. in Wheeling, has been used in recent years to house smaller groups of students. This year, kindergartners from nearby Whitman Elementary School are attending school there to give other students at Whitman more space.

At a recent board meeting, architect Eric Olson of Arcon Associates Inc. in Lombard, reported that local officials in Wheeling believe plans to add on at Hawthorne are not necessarily out of the district's reach.

"The village thought this was a very feasible idea," Olson told the board.

This unofficial nod may have something to do with Olson's plan to restructure the building in a way that would put a larger site in less danger of flooding.

While the district still has a long way to go in getting final approval for an expansion project, things are certainly looking up, said board member Bill Harrison. Money remains an issue, as it would cost several million dollars to complete the renovation.

"Wheeling's potential go-ahead is certainly a good step," Harrison said. "But there's still the question of how much it would cost to rework the land."

Costumes and cakes: The Parent Teacher Organization at Field Elementary School in Wheeling is holding a Halloween Family Fun Night from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the school's campus. PTO President Theresa Cherry said the event will include games for kids and a cake walk. The community is invited to attend and to wear a costume. For details, call (847) 520-2780.

Lace 'em up: Put on your skates, kids, and get ready to roll. The Parent Teacher Organization at Twain Elementary School in Wheeling is hosting an evening of roller-skating.

Kids are invited to the Great Skate Event from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Orbit Skate Center, 615 Consumers Ave., Palatine.

Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Skate rental is \$2 for regular skates, and \$4 for inline skates. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



PHOTOS BY BOB GHWEDY/DAILY HERALD
First-grader Amanda Jones helps tie a series of red ribbons along a fence that connects Longfellow Elementary and Cooper Middle schools.

5 days of events, lasting lesson

Red Ribbon Week brings anti-drug message to Dist. 21
11-5-02
BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A flurry of red ribbons could be seen from the streets recently as kids in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 recognized Red Ribbon Week.

Since 1988, schools across the nation have taken advantage of this weeklong emphasis on the drug-free message throughout the week.

Describe the event, and phone address that readers can use. Time, pose: the event. Tag: Give th
in or any o listed her o P.O. Box IL 60006



Kids at Twain Elementary School in Wheeling received a visit from some local police officers, who brought along their K9 unit to show students how search dogs can be used to find drugs.

Also, the staff and students at London Middle School in Wheeling kicked off the week with a special visit from the White House.

John Walters, the Bush-appointed director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, spoke with students at London about the importance of kids taking a stand in the battle against drugs.

The country is counting on

A mental 11.11-02 workout



A team of middle school students in the robotics club at Holmes Middle School watch to see how effectively their newly-created robot performs.

Holmes' robotics club teaches middle-schoolers computer programming, challenges imagination

BY CORRIE CUTRER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

This is not your ordinary after-school club. Visit Holmes Middle School in Wheeling during the afternoon hours and you will find more than 40 students learning about computers and technology.

Get this — they are having a great time doing it.

That's because the robotics club at Holmes allows kids to have fun building robots while learning about computer programming, said club sponsor and Holmes industrial technology teacher Elaine Margaritis.

"They're really just stretching their imaginations," Margaritis said of the students at the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school who are members of the club. "It's a sport of the mind."

Margaritis refers to the club as a mental workout because kids have to learn how to build a robot out of Legos and then program it with a computerized chip to perform certain tasks.

Legos purchased seven bits at \$200



Holmes Middle School students Paul Rubin and Jon Peters work on their robot creation.

apiece that provide the materials to build and to operate robots.

This year, students are working in teams of seven to design robots that can save residents of a miniature city from a natural disaster.

A small-scaled course of the city was built so students can see how effective the robots are at doing things, like repairing bridges or cleaning up a toxic spill.



What is happening: Describe the event or the purpose of the new release.

Who: The subject of the event. Also, include a name and phone number or e-mail address that can be published so readers can call for more information.

When: Give date and time.

Why, or for what purpose: Explain the nature of the event.

Where is it happening: Give the address.

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Make sure people in the picture are identified and supply some

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Other writing samples also show room for improvement

Nov 14, 2002
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
PioneerPress

Wheeling Elementary School District 21 will be putting more emphasis on improving writing skills after seeing results from last spring's Illinois Standards Achievement Tests.

DISTRICT 21

Gary Mical, District 21 superintendent, said the district wants to boost students' writ-

ing skills with an emphasis on correct grammar, sentence structure and creativity.

Cieply, assistant superintendent for instruction, students performed poorly in many extended-response areas of the tests. In reading, only 26 percent of third-graders met or exceeded standards in the written response section of the test. Only 22 percent of fifth-graders and 26 percent of eighth-graders met or exceeded standards on the extended-response sections of the reading test. Overall, 73 percent of third-graders, 64 percent of fifth-graders and 74 percent of eighth-graders met or exceeded standards on the reading test.

The extended-response section of the math tests also were problematic for students. In the third grade, 35 percent met or exceeded standards on that part, and 41 percent of fifth-graders met or exceeded standards on the extended-response section of the math test.

Eighth-graders fared much better, with 74 percent meeting or exceeding standards on the extended-response section

of the math test.

District 21 Board President Phil Pritzker said district middle schools have been working to get students to express learning concepts both verbally and in written form. He, too, said writing will be the next area of emphasis.

"We want to put more emphasis on not only comprehension, but expressing it," he said. Since writing is such a big part of the ISATs, Mical said he believes all scores will improve with increased writing skills. However, he also said it is important for students to write well, not just because it will increase test scores.

"Of course we're happy when scores go up, but we want our children to be good writers," he said. "It's an important lifelong skill." The district has worked to improve math and reading skills over the past few years. And officials have always maintained the goal of getting all of their students to meet or exceed standards in all areas of the ISATs. However, there

will be more pressure to do so, since it will be a requirement under the new No Child Left Behind Act. The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to set achievement guidelines for districts to reach, with the eventuality of getting all students to meet or exceed standards. If districts don't meet those guidelines, consequences could include allowing school choice and, eventually, changes in staff and administration.

Mical said the district is working to assess student achievement, track student progress and identify school needs more easily with new Ongoing School Renewal Plans. These plans replace the old School Improvement Plans.

The new plans were developed by Cieply and district principals. The Ongoing School Renewal Plans will help each school to make changes in instruction through a more comprehensive evaluation of assessments

and again in November, February and June. "We found, between August and June, significant growth in all areas," he said. "Our kids were doing better in all areas."

Still, Hawthorne students posted some of the lowest ISAT scores in the district, and Klein said there are a number of reasons why that might have occurred.

One is the low number of students taking each test. The averages show the results of, at most, 20 students taking any given test. If only a few students scored poorly on the tests, those results could drive down averages significantly.

"We're looking at groups of less than 30, and that's not very useful data," Klein said. "Some of our students did very well on the ISATs. Some didn't do well at all."

The results also back educational research that shows poverty rates are a great predictor in standardized testing scores, Klein said. Hawthorne's poverty rate was at 77.3 percent, the highest in the district.

District officials announced Hawthorne Academy's closing in April 2002, the same month the ISATs were given. District officials said it was not worth putting money into the school since it did not help the space issue, although it was considered an academic success.

The Hawthorne School building is currently being used to house kindergarten classes from Whitman Elementary School to create more space in the Whitman building. Most students who attended the Hawthorne Academy are currently enrolled in either Whitman or Frost Elementary Schools, and most fifth-graders from Hawthorne are now at Holmes Middle School.

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Hawthorne Academy reported some of the lowest scores in Wheeling Elementary School District 21 on last year's Illinois Standard Achievement Test, but officials say the scores do not reflect the education the students received.

Hawthorne Academy was established to try to alleviate the space problem in the district's east-side schools. The school had students in the third, fourth and fifth grades. A total of 44 students attended the new school, and it was closed at the end of the year because it did not generate enough interest to help solve the space issue.

Educators assigned at the school decided to use the opportunity of having small classroom sizes to take a different approach to educating students. Most of the lessons were based on real-life issues and integrating concepts of reading, writing, math, science and social studies into those issues. The curriculum was based on Illinois State Learning Standards.

Some of the issues students worked on included designing an addition and landscape plan for the school, examining the state Route 53 extension and debating space exploration.

Despite the ISAT scores, Jason Klein, the former principal at Hawthorne Academy, said the students made gains in learning last year.

"We were able to show growth in other ways that were still large and significant," he said.

Klein said all students were assessed four times last year in four areas: reading, writing, mathematical computation and mathematical application. The students were assessed in those areas in August, when the school opened,

District 214 incumbents throw hats into ring for spring

BY ERIN HOLMES
Daily Herald Staff Writer / 1.18.02

Four veteran Northwest Suburban High School District 214 board members who collectively have served the school system for nearly three decades say they will run to retain their seats this spring.

Board President Bob Zimmanck, vice president Bill Dussling and member Alva Kreutzer all will seek re-election April 1. Stan Eisenhammer, a former member who rejoined



Bill Dussling the board last year when he was appointed to fill a vacancy, will seek formal election to serve out the remainder of that term. All say they're running to maintain the top-notch system they consider

District 214 to be now. There aren't any particularly hot topics facing the six-school system, but candidates say there are important issues to be dealt with nonetheless — from seeing a multi-million dollar expansion and renovation project through to completion to dishing out a quality education in times of tight finances and teacher shortages.

Dussling, 60, of Arlington Heights was appointed to the board in 1998 and ran successfully in the April 1999 election. He serves as executive director of the Enhanced Training Opportunities Program Inc., a national training and education corporation.

Eisenhammer, 53, of Arlington Heights sat on the board from 1985 to 1993 and returned in December. He has served as an Arlington Heights village trustee and is a plan commission member. He is a lawyer with Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn in Arlington Heights.

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*News
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Paved cart paths, above left, replace dusty gravel at the newly renovated Chevy Chase Golf Course in Wheeling. Above right, the ninth hole at Chevy Chase Golf Course provides a prime view of the country club. Play will resume at the course in early June.

Polishing a diamond in the rough

Chevy Chase renovation offers change of pace, scene

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Green hills carpeted with carefully selected grass rise and fall where large tracts of fallow earth used to lie at the Chevy Chase Golf Course in Wheeling.

Paved cart paths have replaced the dusty gravel, and new fountains spray skyward against the backdrop of the historic Chevy Chase clubhouse.

In the nine months the course has been closed, it has been transformed from an outdated, mostly flat attraction, to more challenging and picturesque greens.

The course is on track for an early

June reopening, Wheeling Park District officials said during a project update this week.

They said patrons will be amazed.

"Chevy Chase always had a great layout, but it was quite boring and it

was mostly flat," park board President Tom Weber said. "People are going to be surprised to see the elevations, and the bunkering is quite an attraction that is going to catch the eye and have people hoping they never get trapped in."

Also, the course will "play a lot longer" and require more strategy, even though its length has not



PHOTOS BY MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

The new 18th hole at the Chevy Chase Golf Course in Wheeling, complete with water jets, is a prime example of recent improvements.

changed, architects said.

"I think the key to the success of this course, though, will be the drainage," said Todd Quitno, project architect with Lohmann Golf Designs.

Lohmann was contracted to redesign the course in August 2001 after the Wheeling parks board approved the \$3 million golf course renovation to correct chronic flooding problems.

A new series of retention ponds and drainage basins will handle flooding from the Des Plaines River that used to close Chevy Chase for days at a time, Quitno said.

"We got our first test about a month ago when we got 4 or 5 inches of rain on the golf course," Quitno said. "Before, it would have taken two or three days to get all that water out of here. It took less than 24 hours, so

that is a good sign that it works."

The park district expects golfers to praise the improvements this spring, but officials admit they might lose some former patrons.

"There may be a little bit of sticker shock when people see the new rates," parks spokesman Steve Carasso said. "We have a feeling we are going to lose some of our clientele, but we are prepared for that. The course is going to be a much better product than before, and you pay for what you get."

A park district resident will pay \$28 for 18 holes of golf on weekdays, compared with the \$20 paid before the course closed in 2001. Nonresidents will pay a \$40 greens fee for 18 holes, up from \$27 last year.

The weekend rates — Friday through Sunday — are \$53 until 4 p.m. for residents playing 18 holes and \$65 for nonresidents. The fees include the price of a cart rental.

Despite the increases, the park district expects to do as much or more business at Chevy Chase than before the course closed for renovations.

"When the golf course opens in 2003, which will be just from June on, we're expecting to have close to 30,000 rounds of golf," Carasso said.

In the first full year of operations, the course expects to host 38,000 to 40,000 rounds of golf, compared to 35,000 in previous rainy seasons and 44,000 in "really good seasons."

"By virtue of the course being new and kind of a novelty, we expect people will come want to see," Golf Operations Superintendent Steve Schiller said. "The key is, we want to make sure we really wow people with our customer service. Once they get here, we want to keep them here."



Better drainage to prevent frequent flooding from the Des Plaines River fueled a \$3 million renovation of Wheeling's Chevy Chase Golf Course.



Tom McDonald, left, and Steve Shiller of Chevy Chase Golf Course inspect the grass after nine months of dormancy on the greens.

Wellness on Wheels coming to Wheeling

The Cook County Department of Public Health is taking appointments for those who want to visit the Wellness on Wheels van, which will be at Wheeling Village Hall Dec. 13.

The WOW van provides health services and testing for Cook County residents who qualify financially. A financial screening will be conducted when people call the Cook County Department of Public Health to make an appointment.

County health professionals will conduct complete physicals, as well as tests for anemia, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol levels, tuberculosis, pelvic pap smears for women and prostate and testicular cancer exams for men. The van also will have information on self-exams for cancers.

The van will be at Wheeling Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee Road from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments must be made in advance. To make an appointment, call the Cook County Department of Public Health at (847) 818-2860. 11-5-02



LAURA WEISMAN/DAILY HERALD
Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on a fire truck Sunday to welcome children to Wheeling's annual Festival of Lights Celebration at village hall. The festival was the first event officially coordinated by the newly formed Wheeling Special Events Commission. 11-25-2002

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Administration preparing list of budget cuts

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
12-3-02

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 administration will present a worst-case deficit-reduction plan to a School Board committee next week that will give board members an idea of how much money will have to be cut from the budget in order to balance it.

DISTRICT 21

The plan will show where the district can afford cuts while maintaining the quality of instruction given to students if there is no increase in revenue. Once it is complete, the plan will show how the district can balance its budget in a two- or three-year period.

"The plan is assuming the what would need to be cut without more revenue, but also help determine how much money the district will need through the referendum to get back in the black.

The deficit-reduction plan

district will receive no new revenue, either without a referendum or if we lose one," Superintendent Gary Mical said. "If we do get some new revenue, we will look at the spending plan again."

The first draft of the plan will be reviewed Dec. 12 by the Board Finance Committee, which is made up of District 21 Board members Phil Pritzker, Arlen Gould, Ellen Clark and Larry Krulwich. The committee will be asked to look at the recommendations and give its input for changes. The plan will go back to the administration for adjustments and be presented to the full board at its Jan. 16 meeting.

Pritzker said he hopes to examine between five and 10 different cost-cutting options that can be phased in to put the district back on sound financial footing.

(Continued on page 10)
meeting at 7 p.m. in the district administration building, 999 W. Dundee Road, Dec. 12. The meeting is open to the public and will proceed the regular board meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Planners getting leery of development push

BY GASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer
12-4-02

Wheeling has to decide whether its leaders or outside developers will dictate the path of the village's future, Wheeling planners say.

Three developers are trying to push through plans to build housing complexes and commercial centers in Wheeling, even as plan commissioners try to complete a massive effort to remake Wheeling into a "community of choice."

Wheeling commissioners have decided to draw a line in the sand. Many refuse to relax opposition to a proposed office complex until the village finalizes a plan that will decide its development priorities for 20 years.

"I'm not in favor of the tail wagging the dog, and I think that's what's happening here," Plan Commissioner David Cantwell said.

Yet the lure of immediate tax gratification—favored by village trustees in one case—seems to be on the developers' side. Developers for the office complex say they can make a flood-prone site profitable.

Also, consultants for a proposed strip center on Milwaukee Avenue are pushing an aggressive schedule for building to deposit revenue into village coffers. A separate condo developer is anxious about finalizing a Wolf Road project on a site that has sat dormant for a year.

"We can't let developers dictate the path of the village's changes," Plan Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said. "Developments have to fit the new comprehensive plan, not vice versa."

Commissioners today are scheduled to approve a draft of a village-wide land-use plan they've been developing since February to improve Wheeling's image. They decided to put off until mid-December and January further reviews of the three development proposals.

Alex Loyman of Highland Park wants to build an office and retail center on 7.2 acres on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway. The plan commission opposed the project in October on the grounds that it doesn't fit plans taking shape in the village's land-use map. The plans suggest green space at Northgate Parkway as part of a proposed community campus near a new town center.

Trustees last month, though, favored a development that would generate taxes. They sent it back to planners with directions to revamp the glass design.

"I think we need leadership on the village board that when they say no, they say no," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said of the importance of consistency.

He and other commissioners pointed out that the village didn't finalize developments for the northeast area of the village until fast-tracking a land plan there.

"When the time comes that we have the comprehensive plan and we know what our game plan is going to be for the next 10 or 20 years, then they can tell developers that we can look at their projects," Shapiro said.

Developer Loyman told plan commissioners he began working on his project more than a year ago, unaware that Wheeling had a comprehensive plan in the works.

Loyman's architect, Robert Kirk, acknowledged he learned of the village's planning process months ago but said he thought Wheeling hadn't hired a planning firm he could consult with on designs. "I've said I would be willing to work with the firm doing the comprehensive plan," Kirk told plan commissioners. "I'm very clear on the direction you want on this."

Another developer's plans to solicit such stores as Caribou Coffee for an upscale strip center on North Milwaukee Avenue fit the vision of Wheeling's brighter future. But plan commissioners aren't rushing those plans either. The commission told consultant William Hein of Wheeling to return Dec. 12 to make sure the center won't create traffic problems.

Commissioners are still trying to make heads or tails out of plans for a towering condominium complex proposed for Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"You don't want people to drive by and say, 'That's like the building in Arlington Heights,'" architect John Green told plan commissioners as he proposed the complex. "We want them to drive by and say, 'Oh, that's like the building in Wheeling.'"

Green, who was hired by Tantillo Homes, told the commission that three 11-story buildings would give Wheeling a landmark development. Floors of various square-footage would present a distinct geometric shape. Commissioners said they would like less asphalt, less glass and a rustic look more in keeping with Wheeling's character.

The ink wasn't dry on the village's last development plan before developers were allowed to build against recommendations, Commission Chairman Brady said. "That has got to stop," he said.

Library to hold extra book sale 12-5-02

The Friends of the Indian Trails Public Library have too many books and are hoping people will stop by the library Saturday to take some off their hands.

Jim McCarthy, outreach services specialist for the library, said the Friends has collected more donated books than expected and is running out of storage space to keep them all. He said the group decided to hold a one-day sale of fiction books to make more room for donations.

McCarthy said Saturday's sale is not one of the regularly scheduled used books sales the Friends of Indian Trails holds each year.

Paperback books will be sold for 25 cents each, and hardcover and trade paperbacks will be sold for 50 cents.

The sale will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Indian Trails Public Library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

More allegations against ex-priest

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer
12/4/2002

Prosecutors unleashed a host of new allegations Tuesday against a former Roman Catholic priest from Wheeling, claiming he has an "extraordinarily extensive" history of molesting and raping young boys who looked up to him.

At least 16 boys were molested over the years by former St. Joseph the Worker associate pastor Vincent McCaffrey, including two boys under his care when he was in the seminary, federal prosecutors alleged in court documents filed Tuesday.

The other victims were young parishioners at several Chicago-area churches where McCaffrey was assigned to serve, prosecutors said. He is accused of using alcohol and invoking God's name to repeatedly molest children hundreds of times, including in church rectories, at his Michigan cabin and while they slept,

prosecutors alleged.

The new allegations against McCaffrey, 50, were made public just six days before he is to be sentenced on a child pornography conviction. Prosecutors are hoping to use testimony from the victims to increase McCaffrey's maximum sentence from 10 years in prison to 17½ years.

McCaffrey, who has been in custody since June, has not been charged with molestation. Prosecutors have said the statute of limitations on the more than decade-old cases has expired, but they have introduced the victim testimony as evidence McCaffrey has a criminal past that should increase his sentence for child pornography.

Seven of the alleged victims have written statements that will be read during the sentencing hearing. At least six of the victims will be flying in from all parts of the country to testify, Assistant U.S. Attorney T. Markus Funk said.

Attorneys on both sides have agreed to let the victims use just their first names when testifying.

"Defendant targeted young boys who were vulnerable and were looking for a father figure or someone to be their big brother," prosecutors said in the court documents. "Defendant made boys feel emotionally close to them. Defendant would befriend boys' parents to gain access and trust."

He pleaded guilty in September to having more than 4,500 lewd images of children at his Chicago home. Police say they were tipped off when McCaffrey's name was found on a list of subscribers to an overseas child porn Web site.

McCaffrey told the FBI he kept the porn to avoid having contact with children, prosecutors said.

McCaffrey was ordained in 1978 and served at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Wheeling from 1982

through 1987. Tuesday's court filings do not list which parishes the alleged victims attended. But one man said he was molested more than 200 times by McCaffrey between 1985 and 1989, according to court documents.

That man said he was 12 years old when the molestation began. He told prosecutors McCaffrey would say: "God would not have brought us together in this way unless (McCaffrey) was allowed to do this," the documents said.

McCaffrey's actions continued despite being reprimanded by church officials, prosecutors say. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin removed McCaffrey from a Chicago parish amid abuse allegations in 1991 and forced him to resign in 1992. McCaffrey was given an \$85,000 severance package from the Archdiocese of Chicago when he was forced out.

His attorney could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Budget cuts Continued from page 5

nancial footing. The district is looking at an education fund deficit of \$4.6 million at the end of this school year, but the deficit-reduction plan will look at all spending areas.

"There's lots of programs and positions we'll be able to look at and prioritize for the reduction plan," Pritzker said. "The board is really anxious to get its hands on the information."

Mical said the district is hoping to spread spending cuts across all areas and have "the least impact on instruction," although it will be a challenge.

"Of course there would be some impact (on instruction)," Mical said. "But the philosophy of the board has always been instruction is the number-one priority."

Pritzker said the plan will be taken into account when it is time for the board to decide whether to ask voters for more tax money in an April referendum. The plan, Pritzker said, will not only show the board what would need to be cut without more revenue, but also help determine how much money the district will need through the referendum to get back in the black.

The deficit-reduction plan

will be implemented if the district does not ask for a referendum, or if a referendum fails. However, the plan can always be adjusted.

"The plan is loaded with assumptions," Mical said. "Plus, if (a referendum) fails, we may go again and be successful, and adjust the plan."

Pritzker, too, said a lot of things could happen that might require the district to adjust any deficit-reduction plan, if enacted.

"The plan doesn't lock us into something," he said. "If we do get an unexpected revenue increase, or if the economy slumps even more, we can modify the plan as situations change in the next year or two."

Pritzker also said coming up with a plan is necessary if the district must lay off teachers. Any potential personnel changes must be announced in March to meet a union agreement.

The District 21 Board Budget Committee will be meeting at 6 p.m. in the district administration building, 999 W. Dundee Road, Dec. 12. The meeting is open to the public and will proceed the regular board meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Planners getting leery of development push

BY CASS CLIAAT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-4-02

Wheeling has to decide whether its leaders or outside developers will dictate the path of the village's future, Wheeling planners say.

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"I think we need leadership on the village board that when they say no, they say no," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said of the importance of consistency.

He and other commissioners pointed out that the village didn't finalize developments for the northeast area of the village until fast-tracking a land plan there.

"When the time comes that we have the comprehensive plan and we know what our game plan is going to be for the next 10 or 20 years, then they can tell developers that we can look at their projects," Shapiro said.

Developer Loyfman told plan commissioners he began working on his project more than a year ago, unaware that Wheeling had a comprehensive plan in the works.

Loyfman's architect, Robert Kirk, acknowledged he learned of the village's planning process months ago but said he thought Wheeling hadn't hired a planning firm he could consult with on designs. "I've said I would be willing to work with the firm doing the comprehensive plan," Kirk told plan commissioners. "I'm very clear on the direction you want on this."

Another developer's plans to solicit such stores as Caribou Coffee for an upscale strip center on North Milwaukee Avenue fit the vision of Wheeling's brighter future. But plan commissioners aren't rushing those plans either. The commission told consultant William Hein of Wheeling to return Dec. 12 to make sure the center won't create traffic problems.

Commissioners are still trying to make heads or tails out of plans for a towering condominium complex proposed for Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"You don't want people to drive by and say, 'That's like the building in Arlington Heights,'" architect John Green told plan commissioners as he proposed the complex. "We want them to drive by and say, 'Oh, that's like the building in Wheeling.'"

Green, who was hired by Tantillo Homes, told the commission that three 11-story buildings would give Wheeling a landmark development. Floors of various square-footage would present a distinct geometric shape. Commissioners said they would like less asphalt, less glass and a rustic look more in keeping with Wheeling's character.

The ink wasn't dry on the village's last development plan before developers were allowed to build against recommendations, Commission Chairman Brady said. "That has got to stop," he said.

Library to hold extra book sale 12-5-02

The Friends of the Indian Trails Public Library have too many books and are hoping people will stop by the library Saturday to take some off their hands.

Jim McCarthy, outreach services specialist for the library, said the Friends has collected more donated books than expected and is running out of storage space to keep them all. He said the group decided to hold a one-day sale of fiction books to make more room for donations.

McCarthy said Saturday's sale is not one of the regularly scheduled used books sales the Friends of Indian Trails holds each year.

Paperback books will be sold for 25 cents each, and hardcover and trade paperbacks will be sold for 50 cents.

The sale will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Indian Trails Public Library, 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

More allegations against ex-priest

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12/4/20 02

Prosecutors unleashed a host of new allegations Tuesday against a former Roman Catholic priest from Wheeling, claiming he has an "extraordinarily extensive" history of molesting and raping young boys who looked up to him.

At least 16 boys were molested over the years by former St. Joseph the Worker associate pastor Vincent McCaffrey, including two boys under his care when he was in the seminary, federal prosecutors alleged in court documents filed Tuesday.

The other victims were young parishioners at several Chicago-area churches where McCaffrey was assigned to serve, prosecutors said. He is accused of using alcohol and invoking God's name to repeatedly molest children hundreds of times, including in church rectories, at his Michigan cabin and while they slept,

prosecutors alleged.

The new allegations against McCaffrey, 50, were made public just six days before he is to be sentenced on a child pornography conviction. Prosecutors are hoping to use testimony from the victims to increase McCaffrey's maximum sentence from 10 years in prison to 17½ years.

McCaffrey, who has been in custody since June, has not been charged with molestation. Prosecutors have said the statute of limitations on the more than decade-old cases has expired, but they have introduced the victim testimony as evidence McCaffrey has a criminal past that should increase his sentence for child pornography.

Seven of the alleged victims have written statements that will be read during the sentencing hearing. At least six of the victims will be flying in from all parts of the country to testify, Assistant U.S. Attorney T. Markus Funk said.

Attorneys on both sides have agreed to let the victims use just their first names when testifying.

"Defendant targeted young boys who were vulnerable and were looking for a father figure or someone to be their big brother," prosecutors said in the court documents. "Defendant made boys feel emotionally close to them. Defendant would befriend boys' parents to gain access and trust."

He pleaded guilty in September to having more than 4,500 lewd images of children at his Chicago home. Police say they were tipped off when McCaffrey's name was found on a list of subscribers to an overseas child porn Web site.

McCaffrey told the FBI he kept the porn to avoid having contact with children, prosecutors said.

McCaffrey was ordained in 1978 and served at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Wheeling from 1982

through 1987. Tuesday's court filings do not list which parishes the alleged victims attended. But one man said he was molested more than 200 times by McCaffrey between 1985 and 1989, according to court documents.

That man said he was 12 years old when the molestation began. He told prosecutors McCaffrey would say, "God would not have brought us together in this way unless (McCaffrey) was allowed to do this," the documents said.

McCaffrey's actions continued despite being reprimanded by church officials, prosecutors say. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin removed McCaffrey from a Chicago parish amid abuse allegations in 1991 and forced him to resign in 1992. McCaffrey was given an \$85,000 severance package from the Archdiocese of Chicago when he was forced out.

His attorney could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Redevelopment program kicking into gear

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Village officials are wrapping up work to create a new tax increment financing district in the northeastern part of town that should accelerate development there.

A draft redevelopment plan of the new TIF district will be reviewed by representatives from all taxing bodies in the village Dec. 20, and the Village Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal Jan. 27. An ordinance establishing the TIF district will be drawn up after the hearing, and the Village Board will then vote to approve it.

The new TIF district will run along North Milwaukee Avenue from Lake-Cook Road down to Mayer Avenue. It

will encompass areas along the east side of North Wolf Road and extend eastward to the Cook County Forest Preserve. It will also include mostly vacant land on the west side of Wolf Road from Lake-Cook Road to Picardy Lane.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the area has the greatest potential for redevelopment, with little effort needed to attract developers.

"There is a lot of open area and bigger parcels, which are easier to work with," he said. "There's also a lot of interest (from developers) up there."

Trustee Dean Argiris said the TIF also will make it easier for the village to make needed infrastructure improvements in order to spur redevelopment projects.

"There is nothing up there for water and sanitary lines," he said. "If someone wants to build an 11-, 12-, 13-story office building there, we don't have lines for water for them. This is long overdue."

Using TIF dollars would be the easiest way to make those improvements, because the costs would not have to come out of the village's annual budget.

TIFs defined

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, explained that a TIF district essentially freezes the assessed values of property inside the TIF boundaries. When the property increases in value after development,

the land owner pays taxes in full. However, since the value is frozen to other taxing bodies, the remaining tax dollars — or the increment — is placed into a separate fund. That money can then be used to pay for infrastructure improvements, land acquisition or environmental cleanup projects, Mondschain said.

Only specific areas can be designated as a TIF district. Those areas typically are blighted or undeveloped and produce limited property taxes for the village and other taxing bodies.

"The theory is the TIF allows the community to put money into an area to help increase property values where it might not otherwise (increase)," Mondschain said.

(Continued on page 9)

Wheeling residents wonder what's bad about affordable town

Meeting focuses on plan to upgrade village's image

By CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-8-02

Some Wheeling residents like their town just the way it is.

Plans to upgrade the village's image are making these residents nervous, and they took their concerns to village leaders this week.

They told plan commissioners they don't need upscale shops or expensive housing to enjoy living in Wheeling. Residents met with leaders in one of the final planning sessions to decide the course of Wheeling's development future.

"I don't go to places based on what they look like," said Louise Reinier of Buck Board Drive. "When I go, I look for quality and service. I don't go to the pretty malls because I have to pay more for the upscale."

As part of a yearlong planning effort, Wheeling plan commissioners have sought input from civic groups and residents, saying they want Wheeling to become more upscale as a "community of choice."

A comprehensive plan that will set development priorities for the next 20 years seeks to transform Wheeling into a village known for more than its affordability.

"What is wrong with Wheeling being merely affordable or an affordable, working-class suburb?" Reinier asked. "Does no one see the oversaturation of the Lake Forest, Kenilworth effect?"

Rene Pientka, a resident of the Whippletree Village mobile home park, said she thinks Wheeling is losing its culture and history.

"What about the worker?" Pientka said.

Plan commissioners and trustees repeatedly asked why residents chose to live in Wheeling, appearing flustered when "because it's affordable" was the repeated response.

"But don't you want it to be more than just affordable?" Trustee Trevor Lehmann asked. "Didn't you choose it because of its park facilities, because it has services that make your life convenient? We want the community to be more of a

"What is wrong with Wheeling being merely affordable or an affordable, working-class suburb? Does no one see the oversaturation of the Lake Forest, Kenilworth effect?"

Louise Reinier,
Buck Board Drive resident

place where people can walk to parks and shopping and amenities."

The latest recommendations for the comprehensive plan include creating new mixes of commercial and residential space along Wolf Road and redeveloping strip malls throughout town to create promenades along shopping centers.

The plan draft also promotes condominium conversions in the multifamily areas along Wolf Road, installing a canoe launch on Milwaukee Avenue south of Restaurant Row to carry people to the forest preserve and redeveloping the Foxboro mobile home park.

Reinier and most of the residents at Wednesday's meeting live in the Whippletree Village mobile home park and were concerned about continuing comments about upgrading Wheeling's housing stock.

"What happens to all of the homes that were there, because they are not transitional homes," Reinier said. She challenged planners, asking "have you ever even been in one of those (mobile home) communities?"

Commissioners assured residents that Wheeling doesn't intend to drive out its residents.

"The goal is to keep things nice and keep our commercial areas successful so the people can continue to afford to live here," Plan Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said.

The commission plans to receive and approve a final draft of the comprehensive plan in late January or February. The plan will then go to the village board for approval.

Wheeling already has two TIF districts: the Crossroads TIF surrounding the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection, and the Southern TIF just south of the Crossroads TIF.

Some elected officials have been critical of the Crossroads TIF, which was established in 1985 but hadn't seen much activity until only recently. It expires in 2008, and the Village Board has tried to acquire more land in the Crossroads TIF in the last year or so. The first Crossroads TIF project was One Milwaukee Place, construction of which began in 1999. TIF money also was used to build Friendship Park, which opened in October. TIF money also was used to bury

power lines, build sidewalks and improve water and sewer lines in the Crossroads area.

Klatecki said the village will move more quickly on the Northern TIF district.

"If we do the TIF, we have to get on it right away," he said.

On the drawing board

There are already developers interested in building in the new TIF district. The Village Board has seen some plans for the area, including Smith Family Construction's Prairie Park and a condominium proposal from Tantillo Homes.

"I'm excited about the North TIF," Klatecki said. "It

has the potential to be a showpiece for the village that could be great."

However, if that showpiece is to be built, the area needs water and sewer main improvements, where a lot of TIF money will most likely go.

"We need to jump-start the area," Argiris said. "We need to be prepared for development. We need the infrastructure there, because these developers are not going to pay for it themselves."

Argiris said interest rates are low, making it a good time for the village to borrow for infrastructure improvements now and pay off the debt with TIF dollars once they start rolling in.

"We have to use these tools," he said.

Dundee Road plaza will have a new view

By KIMBERLY FORNEK

STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press Dec 5, 2002

The demolition of the eastern portion of Plaza Verde should bring relief to the businesses that remain and to Aetna Development, the owner of the shopping center.

The building that runs parallel to Arlington Heights Road in the shopping plaza on the southwest corner of Arlington Heights and Dundee roads was scheduled to be demolished this week, said George Hanus, president of Aetna, which owns the eastern half of Plaza Verde.

"That was good news for the operators of the Melting Pot restaurant. The restaurant adjoins the eastern building but is not connected to it.

"We are short of parking spaces," said Gary Shchupakevich, a manager at the Melting Pot.

The restaurant lost roughly 60 spaces when a Walgreens pharmacy was built last year in the parking lot to the west of the Melting Pot. Fifty-two parking spaces will replace the eastern building once it's demolished.

The restaurant will become a free-standing building after the demolition.

"That's a very positive thing," said Shchupakevich. "We'll have more visibility and ... we'll put up a sign on the back of the building" to catch the eye of motorists traveling north on Arlington Heights Road. Shchupakevich was told the building would be torn down by Dec. 15.

If the building is not demolished by Dec. 31, Aetna would have to forfeit \$50,000 of a guarantee bond the company had to post with the village to get approval to build the Walgreens in Plaza Verde. The Village Board required Aetna to post an initial guarantee bond of \$250,000 to ensure improvements at Plaza

Verde would not stop with the Walgreens.

Demolition had to wait until the tenants in the building relocated to new quarters. The last to move was the Pizza Paddle restaurant, which closed at 10 p.m. Nov. 19 and reopened for lunch Nov. 21 in a different spot within Plaza Verde. Relocating next to the Play it Again Sports store in the building at the southern border of the shopping plaza will give motorists driving south on Arlington Heights Road a view of the Italian restaurant that wasn't available before. The new Pizza Paddle, which has tables for dining as well as take-out service, is 30 square feet smaller than the previous one, a decrease manager Gregg Hansen does not consider significant. Foot First Podiatry was the only other tenant from the building awaiting demolition that relocated within Plaza Verde.

Maria Fournier moved her dental surgery practice from Plaza Verde to an office in the Signature Square North building on the east side of Arlington Heights Road just south of Dundee. And Adam Keno said the management of Town Center did "a phenomenal job" helping him relocate his Keno Optical store and practice to the shopping center at Lake-Cook Road and state Route 83. Keno wanted to stay in Buffalo Grove and found space to lease in Town Center that is 400 square feet larger than his former store in Plaza Verde.

The western half of Plaza Verde is owned by a different company. Arbor Acquisitions and Development Inc. of Skokie purchased the western half in 2000 and has been planning since then to open a banquet facility there. Village officials issued a certificate of occupancy last week to the new facility, named L'Hermitage, but company representatives did not return calls about when the banquet rooms would be open for business.

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Gary Shchupakevich, a manager of Melting Pot restaurant

Wheeling park looks beautiful with holiday decorations

12-9-02

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The lights are breathtaking and the blow-up polar bears and penguins are perfect for this wintry weather we've been having.

The giant Mr. Snowman makes me smile every time I see him.

Not an evening has gone by that I haven't seen groups of people enjoying the park and posing for pictures with the various figures. Wheeling is finally on a roll.

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Wheeling

Wheeling to take new look at fate of pedestrian bridge

By Cass Cliatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-11-02

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The decision to demolish the bridge was based on outdated information, village officials say.

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engineering firm to study the feasibility of keeping the bridge, citing the importance of keeping children safe as they walk to school.

"We were told by IDOT at one point the bridge would have to meet certain vertical clearance requirements and on the other hand it would have to meet certain requirements for the American with Disabilities Act," Public Works Director Guy Kolberg said.

The transportation department

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Wheeling ready for better roads and sewers

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storm sewer upgrades to control flooding.

The village now will be able to increase the pace of improvements in all of these areas,

thanks to new additions to the Wheeling Public Works Department.

As part of a restructuring and modernization, the department has hired three engineers to plan, design and oversee many of Wheeling's improvements.

"The addition of these highly qualified engineers is a distinct step forward in meeting the needs of Wheeling residents. ... Now, we can upgrade our capabilities, respond more quickly and save significantly in the process."

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"The addition of these highly qualified engineers is a distinct step forward in meeting the needs of Wheeling residents," public works Director Guy Kolberg said. "Before, we had to contract out for these services. Now, we can upgrade our capabilities, respond more quickly and save significantly in the process."

Kolberg in May announced the search for the engineers to help computerize mapping of village streets, sewers and water mains.

Today, residents who request driveway permits have to wait while clerks wade through piles of paper to find the locations of utilities on neighborhood maps, and the village had to draw designs for recent street light and paving improvements in pen and ink.

All of that should change with the addition of staff to help bring Wheeling's public works into the digital age, Kolberg said.

Engineer Timothy M. Merrihew of Wheeling has become Wheeling's new capital projects manager, filling a position vacated when Kolberg became public works director in April.

Merrihew, who has worked extensively in public and private industry in Wheeling, Rosemont and Glen-

Wheeling officials see new year starting on right foot

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The new year will bring the gift of 350 jobs to Wheeling as four companies move to town.

Despite a sagging economy that has many businesses cutting staff and costs, FedEx Ground, Durable Packaging, Bio Industries and Argus Plastics will transfer industrial operations to the village.

"Particularly knowing what the economy has been, it's great to have the employment numbers," said Wheeling's Economic Development Director William D. Whitmer. "Certainly the village will enjoy having the taxes generated, because it's the taxes that help the village function, but to have the addition of that kind of source of employment is a great thing."

After receiving village approval in August, FedEx Ground has begun building a 112,000-square-foot package center on South Wolf Road to relocate its Northbrook ground delivery facility.

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"To have a stakeholder now own the real estate is something positive," Whitmer said, adding the move proves businesses are attracted to Wheeling for its access to interstates, expanding rail lines and municipal and metro airports.

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A Cook County tax incentive for "abandoned" buildings allowed Wheeling to decrease taxes on the building to attract business, Whitmer said.

"But knowing they're bringing in 150 employees, the benefits are important in overcoming the lessening of tax revenue," Whitmer said.

"I hope this means there's going to be more across-the-board (economic) upturn and hopefully we're going to see that this is a beginning."

How Wheeling markets its image could mean jump in home values

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But that's only if community leaders are willing to commit to drastic changes.

The plan commission has been working closely with consultants from the planning firm Camiros since February to develop a village-wide land use plan that will become a blueprint for redevelopment for up to the next 20 years.

Yet frustrations ran high recently as consultants and village leaders tried to reconcile Wheeling's flooding problems with plans to upgrade the

village's image.

Plan commissioners have become torn between an office complex proposed for a flood-prone area along Dundee Road and an alternative recommendation from consultants to incorporate all of the land as open space in a future community campus.

Camiros consultant William James seemed frustrated the village might consider a piecemeal approach to developing the community campus to benefit monetarily from a site previously considered not developable.

"This is one of those things that, if done correctly, could add \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the value of every home in Wheeling," James said of the plan to combine municipal and open space in a community campus near a town center. "This is the type of thing that

gets people excited."

When a village talks about upgrading its image, it has to make big changes, James said.

"You have people with the idea that Wheeling is nothing but 1950s tract-style housing," he said. "I think the public-use campus with the town center could radically change Wheeling's image."

James told commissioners the flood-prone nature of the swath of land north and south of Dundee Road complicates plans for major hallmark projects that could give Wheeling an identity, other than the community campus.

The consultants and the plan commissioners agreed to postpone any final decisions for the flood plain until the flood study is complete, which should be in June.

12.12-02

le for local elections

or April 1 elections are now available bodies in the community.

n the Wheeling Village Board. Nominated by calling Chris Brady at Village 08. Papers must be returned to Village Road.

on the Wheeling Elementary School pick up papers at the administration dee Road. Papers are available in the ere they must be returned. Three

Wolves 'Read to Succeed' 12.12-02

The eighth annual Read to Succeed winter reading program is under way at the Indian Trails Public Library.

The program is for children ages 6 through 14. Kids are asked to keep track of how much they read between now and Feb. 14 for a chance to win prizes, including hockey pucks, hockey sticks, pennants and vouchers for Chicago Wolves hockey games.

Read to Succeed is co-sponsored by Indian Trails Public Library, the North Suburban Library System and the Chicago Wolves. To register or find out more about the program, call (847) 459-4100 or stop by the "Ask Here" desk on the first floor of the library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.



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the bridge, realign the roads and install a traffic signal near London Middle School. The village budgeted about \$300,000 for the project.

Still, parents spoke out at meetings last spring to protest the demolition, saying the bridge keeps children safe from traffic. Some trustees were also leery of doing away with it.

Now, the village can take a fresh look at the issue, with results of the new feasibility study expected in about 90 days, Kolberg said.

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James told commissioners the flood-prone nature of the swath of land north and south of Dundee Road complicates plans for major landmark projects that could give Wheeling an identity, other than the community campus.

The consultants and the plan commissioners agreed to postpone any

Wheeling Trustee Dean Argiris, Tony Stavros and the rest of the Public Works Department crew for the absolutely magnificent job they did on decorating the new Friendship Park for the holiday season.

The lights are breathtaking and the blow-up polar bears and penguins are perfect for this wintry weather we've been having.

The giant Mr. Snowman makes me smile every time I see him.

Not an evening has gone by that I haven't seen groups of people enjoying the park and posing for pictures with the various figures. Wheeling is finally on a roll.

Christine S. Dolgopoul
Wheeling

Wheeling to take new

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-11-02

The Dundee Road pedestrian bridge in Wheeling had an appointment with the wrecking ball, but that fateful encounter has been postponed and could eventually be canceled.

The decision to demolish the bridge was based on outdated information, village officials say. Trustees voted this week to hire an

engineering firm to study the feasibility of keeping the bridge, citing the importance of keeping children safe as they walk to school.

"We were told by IDOT at one point the bridge would have to meet certain vertical clearance requirements and on the other hand it would have to meet certain requirements for the American with Disabilities Act," Public Works Director Guy Kolberg said. The transportation department

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and 5:30 to 7 p.m. On Dec. 15, sixth graders will try out and eighth grade fr Both sessions will b at the high school, 1 Arlington Heights. Anyone with qu Trapani at (847) 25

Hockey

Buffalo Grove Twin Hawks, playing in Hockey League, de 3-1 Dec. 8. Jonath his second goal of t aster from the de

Wheeling ready for better roads and sewers

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-10-02

Motorists bemoan the teeth-jangling, pothole obstacle courses that inevitably develop on Wheeling side streets after the winter thaw.

Wheeling leaders would like to see more streetlight improvements and brick paving to enhance the village's image, and residents and officials alike realize

"The addition of these highly qualified engineers is a distinct step forward in meeting the needs of Wheeling residents. ... Now, we can upgrade our capabilities, respond more quickly and save significantly in the process."

Guy Kolberg,
public works director

As part of a restructuring and modernization, the department has hired three engineers to plan, design and oversee many of Wheeling's improvements.

The addition of these highly qualified engineers is a distinct step forward in meeting the needs of Wheeling residents," public works Director Guy Kolberg said. "Before, we had to contract out for these services. Now, we can upgrade our capabilities, respond more quickly and save significantly in the process."

Kolberg in May announced the search for the engineers to help computerize mapping of village streets, sewers and water mains.

Today, residents who request driveway permits have to wait while clerks wade through piles of paper to find the locations of utilities on neighborhood maps, and the village had to draw designs for recent street light and paving improvements in pen and ink.

All of that should change with the addition of staff to help bring Wheeling's public works into the digital age, Kolberg said.

Engineer Timothy M. Merrihew of Wheeling has become Wheeling's new capital projects manager, filling a position vacated when Kolberg became public works director in April.

Merrihew, who has worked extensively in public and private industry in Wheeling, Rosemont and Glenview, will oversee street paving, water and sewer maintenance and street-light improvements.

Jayani Shah, formerly of Evanston's water and sewer division, is a new staff engineer, while Bill Herrmann brings diverse private and municipal experience to his position as chief

Wheeling officials see new year starting on right foot

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-11-02

The new year will bring the gift of 350 jobs to Wheeling as four companies move to town.

Despite a sagging economy that has many businesses cutting staff and costs, FedEx Ground, Durable Packaging, Bio Industries and Argus Plastics will transfer industrial operations to the village.

"Particularly knowing what the economy has been, it's great to have the employment numbers," said Wheeling's Economic Development Director William D. Whitmer. "Certainly the village will enjoy having the taxes generated, because it's the taxes that help the village function, but to have the addition of that kind of source of employment is a great thing."

After receiving village approval in August, FedEx Ground has begun building a 112,000-square-foot package center on South Wolf Road to relocate its Northbrook ground delivery facility.

The company plans to transfer 94 part- and full-time jobs and 55 independent contractors to Wheeling and it also has a 10-year build-out plan that will create potential for new jobs.

"The Wheeling location will provide FedEx Ground with improved access to its service area, major highways and a large labor pool," John Cameron, managing director for FedEx Ground said in a prepared statement.

Durable Packaging of Schaumburg will shift warehouse operations from Elk Grove Village by buying an existing building at

750 Northgate Parkway in Wheeling.

The company makes aluminum foil rolls and pans and has repeatedly moved its warehouse as the business grew.

"Now we finally have a permanent home," said Durable's Chief Executive Officer Darren Anders. "Plus, we love the area."

Moen Faucets vacated Durable's new home in October at the end of that company's lease, Whitmer said.

"To have a stakeholder now own the real estate is something positive," Whitmer said, adding the move proves businesses are attracted to Wheeling for its access to interstates, expanding rail lines and municipal and metro airports.

Also buying the building they'll share on Allendale Drive in Wheel-

ing is the company that owns Argus Plastics of Des Plaines and Bio Industries of Addison.

One of the biggest benefits Wheeling will see, though, will be making use of a building that has sat vacant since its former owner declared bankruptcy two years ago.

A Cook County tax incentive for "abandoned" buildings allowed Wheeling to decrease taxes on the building to attract business, Whitmer said.

"But knowing they're bringing in 150 employees, the benefits are important in overcoming the lessening of tax revenue," Whitmer said.

"I hope this means there's going to be more across-the-board (economic) upturn and hopefully we're going to see that this is a beginning."

How Wheeling markets its image could mean jump in home values

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-11-02

Upgrading Wheeling's image could add up to \$10,000 to the value of every Wheeling home, a planning consultant told village officials this month.

But that's only if community leaders are willing to commit to drastic changes.

The plan commission has been working closely with consultants from the planning firm Camiros since February to develop a village-wide land use plan that will become a blueprint for redevelopment for up to the next 20 years.

Yet frustrations ran high recently as consultants and village leaders tried to reconcile Wheeling's flooding problems with plans to upgrade the

village's image.

Plan commissioners have become torn between an office complex proposed for a flood-prone area along Dundee Road and an alternative recommendation from consultants to incorporate all of the land as open space in a future community campus.

Camiros consultant William James seemed frustrated the village might consider a piecemeal approach to developing the community campus to benefit monetarily from a site previously considered not developable.

"This is one of those things that, if done correctly, could add \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the value of every home in Wheeling," James said of the plan to combine municipal and open space in a community campus near a town center. "This is the type of thing that

gets people excited."

When a village talks about upgrading its image, it has to make big changes, James said.

"You have people with the idea that Wheeling is nothing but 1950s tract-style housing," he said. "I think the public-use campus with the town center could radically change Wheeling's image."

James told commissioners the flood-prone nature of the swath of land north and south of Dundee Road complicates plans for major landmark projects that could give Wheeling an identity, other than the community campus.

The consultants and the plan commissioners agreed to postpone any final decisions for the flood plain until the flood study is complete, which should be in June.

12.12-02

le for local elections

or April 1 elections are now available in the community.

in the Wheeling Village Board. Nominations are accepted by calling Chris Brady at Village Board.

on the Wheeling Elementary School pick up papers at the administration office on Dundee Road. Papers are available in the office where they must be returned. Three

Wolves 'Read to Succeed' 12-12-02

The eighth annual Read to Succeed winter reading program is under way at the Indian Trails Public Library.

The program is for children ages 6 through 14. Kids are asked to keep track of how much they read between now and Feb. 14 for a chance to win prizes, including hockey pucks, hockey sticks, pennants and vouchers for Chicago Wolves hockey games.

Read to Succeed is co-sponsored by Indian Trails Public Library, the North Suburban Library System and the Chicago Wolves. To register or find out more about the program, call (847) 459-4100 or stop by the "Ask Here" desk on the first floor of the library at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.



Redevelopment program kicking into gear

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

12-5-02
Village officials are wrapping up work to create a new tax increment financing district in the northeastern part of town that should accelerate development there.

A draft redevelopment plan of the new TIF district will be reviewed by representatives from all taxing bodies in the village Dec. 20, and the Village Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal Jan. 27. An ordinance establishing the TIF district will be drawn up after the hearing, and the Village Board will then vote to approve it.

The new TIF district will run along North Milwaukee Avenue from Lake-Cook Road down to Mayer Avenue. It

will encompass areas along the east side of North Wolf Road and extend eastward to the Cook County Forest Preserve. It will also include mostly vacant land on the west side of Wolf Road from Lake-Cook Road to Picardy Lane.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the area has the greatest potential for redevelopment, with little effort needed to attract developers.

"There is a lot of open area and bigger parcels, which are easier to work with," he said. "There's also a lot of interest (from developers) up there."

Trustee Dean Argiris said the TIF also will make it easier for the village to make needed infrastructure improvements in order to spur redevelopment projects.

"There is nothing up there for water and sanitary lines," he said. "If someone wants to build an 11-, 12-, 13-story office building there, we don't have lines for water for them. This is long overdue."

Using TIF dollars would be the easiest way to make those improvements, because the costs would not have to come out of the village's annual budget.

TIFs defined

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, explained that a TIF district essentially freezes the assessed values of property inside the TIF boundaries. When the property increases in value after development,

the land owner pays taxes in full. However, since the value is frozen to other taxing bodies, the remaining tax dollars — or the increment — is placed into a separate fund. That money can then be used to pay for infrastructure improvements, land acquisition or environmental cleanup projects, Mondschain said.

Only specific areas can be designated as a TIF district. Those areas typically are blighted or undeveloped and produce limited property taxes for the village and other taxing bodies.

"The theory is the TIF allows the community to put money into an area to help increase property values where it might not otherwise (increase)," Mondschain said.

(Continued on page 9)

Wheeling residents wonder what's bad about affordable town

Meeting focuses on plan to upgrade village's image

By CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-8-02

Some Wheeling residents like their town just the way it is.

Plans to upgrade the village's image are making these residents nervous, and they took their concerns to village leaders this week.

They told plan commissioners they don't need upscale shops or expensive housing to enjoy living in Wheeling. Residents met with leaders in one of the final planning sessions to decide the course of Wheeling's development future.

"I don't go to places based on what they look like," said Louise Reinier of Buck Board Drive. "When I go, I look for quality and service. I don't go to the pretty malls because I have to pay more for the upscale-ness."

As part of a yearlong planning effort, Wheeling plan commissioners have sought input from civic groups and residents, saying they want Wheeling to become more upscale as a "community of choice."

A comprehensive plan that will set development priorities for the next 20 years seeks to transform Wheeling into a village known for more than its affordability.

"What is wrong with Wheeling being merely affordable or an affordable, working-class suburb?" Reinier asked. "Does no one see the oversaturation of the Lake Forest, Kenilworth effect?"

Rene Pientka, a resident of the Whippetree Village mobile home park, said she thinks Wheeling is losing its culture and history.

"What about the worker?" Pientka said.

Plan commissioners and trustees repeatedly asked why residents chose to live in Wheeling, appearing flustered when "because it's affordable" was the repeated response.

"But don't you want it to be more than just affordable?" Trustee Trevor Lehmann asked. "Didn't you choose it because of its park facilities, because it has services that make your life convenient? We want the community to be more of a

"What is wrong with Wheeling being merely affordable or an affordable, working-class suburb? Does no one see the oversaturation of the Lake Forest, Kenilworth effect?"

Louise Reinier,
Buck Board Drive resident

place where people can walk to parks and shopping and amenities."

The latest recommendations for the comprehensive plan include creating new mixes of commercial and residential space along Wolf Road and redeveloping strip malls throughout town to create promenades along shopping centers.

The plan draft also promotes condominium conversions in the multifamily areas along Wolf Road, installing a canoe launch on Milwaukee Avenue south of Restaurant Row to carry people to the forest preserve and redeveloping the Foxboro mobile home park.

Reinier and most of the residents at Wednesday's meeting live in the Whippetree Village mobile home park and were concerned about continuing comments about upgrading Wheeling's housing stock.

"What happens to all of the homes that were there, because they are not transitional homes," Reinier said. She challenged planners, asking "have you ever even been in one of those (mobile home) communities?"

Commissioners assured residents that Wheeling doesn't intend to drive out its residents.

"The goal is to keep things nice and keep our commercial areas successful so the people can continue to afford to live here," Plan Commission Chairman Kenneth Brady said.

The commission plans to receive and approve a final draft of the comprehensive plan in late January or February. The plan will then go to the village board for approval.

Wheeling already has two TIF districts: the Crossroads TIF surrounding the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection, and the Southern TIF just south of the Crossroads TIF.

Some elected officials have been critical of the Crossroads TIF, which was established in 1985 but hadn't seen much activity until only recently. It expires in 2008, and the Village Board has tried to acquire more land in the Crossroads TIF in the last year or so. The first Crossroads TIF project was One Milwaukee Place, construction of which began in 1999. TIF money also was used to build Friendship Park, which opened in October. TIF money also was used to bury

power lines, build sidewalks and improve water and sewer lines in the Crossroads area.

Klatecki said the village will move more quickly on the Northern TIF district.

"If we do the TIF, we have to get on it right away," he said.

On the drawing board

There are already developers interested in building in the new TIF district. The Village Board has seen some plans for the area, including Smith Family Construction's Prairie Park and a condominium proposal from Tantillo Homes.

"I'm excited about the North TIF," Klatecki said. "It

has the potential to be a showpiece for the village that could be great."

However, if that showpiece is to be built, the area needs water and sewer main improvements, where a lot of TIF money will most likely go.

"We need to jump-start the area," Argiris said. "We need to be prepared for development. We need the infrastructure there, because these developers are not going to pay for it themselves."

Argiris said interest rates are low, making it a good time for the village to borrow for infrastructure improvements now and pay off the debt with TIF dollars once they start rolling in.

"We have to use these tools," he said.

Dundee Road plaza will have a new view

By KIMBERLY FORNEK

STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press Dec 5, 2002

The demolition of the eastern portion of Plaza Verde should bring relief to the businesses that remain and to Aetna Development, the owner of the shopping center.

The building that runs parallel to Arlington Heights Road in the shopping plaza on the southwest corner of Arlington Heights and Dundee roads was scheduled to be demolished this week, said George Hanus, president of Aetna, which owns the eastern half of Plaza Verde.

That was good news for the operators of the Melting Pot restaurant. The restaurant adjoins the eastern building but is not connected to it.

"We are short of parking spaces," said Gary Shchupakevich, a manager at the Melting Pot.

The restaurant lost roughly 60 spaces when a Walgreens pharmacy was built last year in the parking lot to the west of the Melting Pot. Fifty-two parking spaces will replace the eastern building once it's demolished.

The restaurant will become a free-standing building after the demolition.

"That's a very positive thing," said Shchupakevich. "We'll have more visibility and ... we'll put up a sign on the back of the building" to catch the eye of motorists traveling north on Arlington Heights Road. Shchupakevich was told the building would be torn down by Dec. 15.

If the building is not demolished by Dec. 31, Aetna would have to forfeit \$50,000 of a guarantee bond the company had to post with the village to get approval to build the Walgreens in Plaza Verde. The Village Board required Aetna to post an initial guarantee bond of \$250,000 to ensure improvements at Plaza

Verde would not stop with the Walgreens.

Demolition had to wait until the tenants in the building relocated to new quarters. The last to move was the Pizza Paddle restaurant, which closed at 10 p.m. Nov. 19 and reopened for lunch Nov. 21 in a different spot within Plaza Verde. Relocating next to the Play it Again Sports store in the building at the southern border of the shopping plaza will give motorists driving south on Arlington Heights Road a view of the Italian restaurant that wasn't available before. The new Pizza Paddle, which has tables for dining as well as take-out service, is 30 square feet smaller than the previous one, a decrease manager Gregg Hansen does not consider significant. Foot First Podiatry was the only other tenant from the building awaiting demolition that relocated within Plaza Verde.

Maria Fournier moved her dental surgery practice from Plaza Verde to an office in the Signature Square North building on the east side of Arlington Heights Road just south of Dundee. And Adam Keno said the management of Town Center did "a phenomenal job" helping him relocate his Keno Optical store and practice to the shopping center at Lake-Cook Road and state Route 83. Keno wanted to stay in Buffalo Grove and found space to lease in Town Center that is 400 square feet larger than his former store in Plaza Verde.

The western half of Plaza Verde is owned by a different company. Arbor Acquisitions and Development Inc. of Skokie purchased the western half in 2000 and has been planning since then to open a banquet facility there. Village officials issued a certificate of occupancy last week to the new facility, named L'Hermitage, but company representatives did not return calls about when the banquet rooms would be open for business.

‘That’s a very positive thing. We’ll have more visibility and ... we’ll put up a sign on the back of the building.’

Gary Shchupakevich, a manager of Melting Pot restaurant

Plan for Wheeling's future coming into focus

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

12-12-02

As Wheeling officials piece together the future appearance of the village, the Wheeling Plan Commission continues to work with a consultant to determine just how the redevelopment puzzle will look.

Commissioners and William James of Camiros talked about redevelopment plans for South Milwaukee Avenue and North Wolf Road at a Dec. 4 meeting focusing on the village's comprehensive plan. The areas are the last two that remained up for discussion before the final draft of the new plan is completed.

Commissioners were agreeable to

James' suggestions for South Milwaukee Avenue. James suggested annexing the unincorporated areas between Hintz Road and Sumac Lane near Palwaukee Municipal Airport. That would make it easier for the village to redevelop those areas into uses that would complement the airport.

James also suggested creating an open area along the Des Plaines River that could include a canoe launch or even a foot bridge spanning the river to connect with the trail system in the Cook County Forest Preserve.

"The idea is to create an area where people might want to walk and to introduce complementary uses," he said.

James also suggests luring more restaurants into the area to strengthen

the popular Restaurant Row.

Plan commissioners were less pleased with James' suggestions for North Wolf Road. Part of those plans included improving the apartments just north of the Dundee Road intersection and building condominiums north of Chamber Park up to Mayer Avenue.

"Condos are one of the strongest development interests in Wheeling," James said. "The more you get, the more upscale it will be. It may even drive up (the renovation of) single-family homes."

Commissioners, however, said multifamily housing is creeping up to the 70 percent mark of Wheeling's total housing market, and they thought

smaller single-family homes north of the park might be a better way to go.

Commissioners David Cantwell and Steven Boime said they would prefer to see bungalow-style houses with deep, narrow lots instead of more condos.

James also suggested ways to enhance the small commercial area just south of Chamber Park. He said the businesses there, while dated in their appearance, have character and are successful.

"The six-lane bowling alley (Jeffery Lanes) is unique," he said. "Joe's Pizza has a lot of character. If you can improve what's there, it could be a nice mixed-use area."

(Continued on page 11)

Trustees reject request to land jet at Palwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

Pioneer Press

12-12-02

The Wheeling Village Board voted to bar a new business jet from landing at the airport out of concern for the safety of residents and school children.

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said an airport user is looking to purchase a Global 5000 business jet and build a hangar at Palwaukee in order to keep the jet there. However, airport rules do not allow the Global 5000 to fly in or out of Palwaukee, and Rouleau asked the board to change that rule.

Jets with a maximum takeoff weight of more than 77,000 pounds are not allowed to operate at Palwaukee, with the exception of four models: the Gulfstream IV-SP, the Gulfstream V, the Falcon 9000 and the Challenger Global Express. Those planes have been allowed to use the airport since 1993, when airport users who expressed interest in buying the newly manufactured aircraft asked for a waiver from the weight restrictions, according to Trustee Trevor Lehmann, who also serves on the Palwaukee Airport Commission. The Global 5000 is a sister aircraft to the Global Express.

Rouleau asked the board to allow jets with a maximum takeoff weight of 98,000 pounds. Raising the weight limit would permanently

allow the operation of the Global 5000 and the other four models that are excluded from the current 77,000-pound limit.

However, raising the weight limit also would allow other models of jets to use Palwaukee, and trustees were not comfortable allowing those models onto the airport.

"These jets fly over residents, they fly over schools, they fly over parks, and I think it's scary," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "Until you can get them going east to west (on takeoffs and landings) then I say, no."

Trustee Patrick Horcher said he also believed allowing some of the bigger jets to use Palwaukee would be intrusive on the residents. He said corporate jets are getting smaller and cheaper, allowing more corporations to purchase and use them, so losing one customer with a larger jet is not a big deal, since more smaller jets will most likely want to use Palwaukee in the near future.

Rouleau said he does not like to see customers move to another airport.

"I don't want anyone to move, whether it's the owner of a Global 5000 or a single-engine plane," he said. "My goal is to keep people at Palwaukee."

Trustees also voted down a proposal to add the Global 5000 onto the list of models (Continued on page 9)

Jet

Continued from page 5

exempted from the 77,000-pound weight limit. The Global 5000 is a smaller jet than the Global Express. The Global 5000 has a maximum takeoff weight of 87,700 pounds, compared to the 95,000-pound Global Express. The Global 5000 also is about 3 feet shorter than the 99.42-foot Global Express.

Rouleau argued allowing the Global Express to operate at Palwaukee, and not allowing the Global 5000, could present legal trouble in the future.

However, trustees did not buy into that argument.

Trustees Lehmann and Michael Horcher were willing to change the airport rules to allow the Global 5000 to fly in and out of Palwaukee. Village President Greg Klatacki also voiced his support for the rule change.

"The new corporate jets are quieter and smaller," Klatacki said. "The noisy planes are the old planes. I say let's get the new ones in and the old ones out."

Since the airport is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, both governing boards would have to agree to change the rules. The Prospect Heights City Council also elected to leave the rules alone at its Dec. 2 meeting.

Police to host youth event

The Wheeling Police Department will be hosting "Cops and Kids Rockin the Night" this weekend as a youth outreach event.

Officer John Bonk, who works as the outreach officer at Wheeling High School, said the department received a Cook County Local Law Enforcement Block Grant to host the event, which will feature a disc jockey, food and access to the gym and indoor aquatic center at the Community Recreation Center.

Bonk said the event is geared toward "at-risk" students in grades five through eight to show that police officers can have fun, too.

The event will be held at the Community Recreation Center from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday. The event is free, but students must get a parent permission slip from a school officer. Holmes Middle School students can get a form from Officer John Connolly; London Middle School students must get one from Officer Christina Parr, and fifth-grade students can get slips from DARE teachers.

Plan Continued from page 7

The commission has been working with Camiros since December 2001 to overhaul the comprehensive plan, which village officials say will guide land use for the next 20 years. The comprehensive plan was last updated in the 1980s. The Plan Commission

will hold a public hearing on the final draft of the comprehensive plan in late January or early February.

The commission will then make final adjustments to the plan for a recommendation to the Village Board.

Residents free to take wedding photos at park

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

12-12-02

The new Cole Taylor Friendship Park may turn out to be a hot spot for taking wedding photos or holding wedding services, and the Village Board is trying to find the best way to accommodate blushing brides and their handsome grooms.

Trustees unanimously agreed that the park should be available for free to anyone who wants to take photos at any time.

"There should be no charge for photos," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "It's a public place, (and) it's good PR for the village."

However, people who may want to hold a wedding service at the park may have to pay a fee and reserve the gazebo.

"There should be no charge for photos. It's a public place, (and) it's good PR for the village."

Trustees asked Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite to draft some rules about wedding functions at the park at the board's Dec. 2 meeting.

There are plenty of issues to be dealt with concerning the use of the park, and parking is one of the biggest.

Should a service be held at the park, the guests and limousines are going to have to park somewhere. Most likely, that will be in the Cole Taylor Bank parking lot, and trustees said a schedule around the bank's business hours should be developed out of fairness to the bank and its customers.

Those wishing to reserve the park

for a wedding will most likely have to pay a fee that would cover costs of setting up the area and cleaning it up after the ceremony. Trustees may also want to put a police officer at the intersection during a wedding, and that fee could also go to paying that officer.

Trustee Robert Heer also suggested wedding parties put down a refundable security deposit in case there is any damage to the park during a ceremony. No dollar figures were discussed for the fee or deposit.

No alcohol would be allowed at the park for a ceremony or photos.

The board also decided to establish

an ad-hoc fountain committee to explore other park uses. The committee might look at special events for the park or even discuss things like what flowers to plant.

"I think it will expedite some of our discussion (about the park)," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "There are a thousand ideas for that fountain, but how do we tie them with events in the village?"

The committee, which will include two trustees, will have a limited life of two or three years and then turn its work and duties over to village staff. Trustees Abruscato, Heer and Village President Greg Klatacki were opposed to forming a committee. They said the village's Special Events Commission and village staff could handle the work.

Send us your photos, your poems, short essays, a report from your vacation; pictures of your grandchildren, your sports teams, anything you want to share.

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Call 437-4484 or e-mail to

Drum Center owner not happy

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-18-02

A plan for an upscale shopping center in Wheeling could meet with opposition as it heads to the village board for approval.

Wheeling plan commissioners have voted to recommend that trustees approve Petersburg Place, a 12-store retail strip center meant to attract such vendors as Caribou Coffee and jewelers to 119-145 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Commissioners have praised the project for rehabilitating an area that consisted of deteriorating properties before developers for Petersburg Place bought them for the project.

However, the owner of Drum Center Inc., neighboring the proposed retail center, says he's ready to act to prevent it from going much further.

Mitch Greenberg complained that the construction of Petersburg Place would make it impossible for him to improve or redevelop his property at

109 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"If they pass this permit, it devalue my property and make unsellable and transform it into nothing but a driveway for Bill Heine said Greenberg, who also lives at his store.

Greenberg referred to development consultant for Petersburg Place, William Hein, whom accused of being part of a village effort to take over the Drum Center property.

Hein told commissioners



Battle between towns

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-20-02

Wheeling is in the midst of plans to remake its image, and Prospect Heights is striving to get its financial house in order, but lurking legal troubles continue to distract from village and city business.

On an almost monthly basis for the past year, officials in both towns have been called upon to respond to complaints from two plane maintenance

firms at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport, which has been accused of unfair lease practices favoring one airport tenant over others.

One case seems ready to come to an end after years of litigation, as both towns voted this month to terminate the lease of Aviation Ventures Group's Service Aviation.

However, the trouble with another firm, North American Jet, could be

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• Thunderbird Singles, 8 p.m., Annual Christmas Party Superdance, Sheraton Arlington Park Hotel, 3400 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights, \$7; win four dinner gift certificates. For information, call (847) 604-3446.

• Sociable Singles, a nondenominational group for singles.

Channel: Goal is not to develop flood plain

Continued from Page 1

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Parks raise concerns over flood channel

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-16-02

A Wheeling Park District official questioned at a recent village planning session about why there's no evidence the Wheeling diversionary channel has made a difference in altering the village's flood plain.

Wheeling officials insist the village has to wait to find out if its \$2.5 million William Rogers Memorial Diversion Channel will do the job it was intended to do.

The channel, which was 20 years in the making, has the primary purpose of diverting water to alleviate flooding downstream, Wheeling officials say.

The channel runs about 7,500 feet and diverts storm water from the Wheeling Ditch north of Dundee Road to the Des Plaines River near Milwaukee Avenue.

Park district Director of Parks and Planning Mark Harrison said flooding concerns continue to stymie the park district and village's efforts to develop further.

Speaking at a session to help the village develop a new village-wide land use plan meant to upgrade Wheeling's image, Harrison argued that flooding continues to frustrate many people's hopes for the diversionary channel project.

"We keep asking what affect the diversionary channel had, and we haven't gotten an answer," Harrison said. "If it's not diverting storm water, what is it doing?"

Anthony Stavros of the village's engineering division said the channel hasn't truly been tested. Stavros didn't attend the planning session, but he said the channel will help the park district when the village experiences days of excessive rains.

"It will help them (the park district) out when we have a 100-year storm and the property along the creek that it currently uses for recreational areas — the ball diamonds and all that stuff — is kept from going under water," Stavros said. "And it prevents the residences by the Jeffrey Avenue bridge from going under water."

Wheeling Trustee Dean Argiris, who attended the planning session, said the channel proved its worth during heavy rains in August, when

Man gets 33-year sentence for murder

BY DAVE ORRICK

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer 12-15-02

A Buffalo Grove man has been sentenced to 33 years in prison for the murder of his Wheeling friend over what authorities say was a disputed \$10,000 loan.

In October, a jury convicted Igor Lyubyezny, 45, of first-degree murder in the death of Tomasz Pohl, 45.

On Friday, Cook County Judge

Patrick Morse sentenced him to 33 years for the crime, which carries a 20- to 60-year sentence range.

Pohl's body was found in 1998 in a shallow grave in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Months before, Lyubyezny borrowed \$10,000 from Pohl to open an auto detail shop in Skokie.

When Pohl demanded repayment, Lyubyezny shot him dead, prosecutors said.

Village Board approves levy

The Wheeling Village Board approved a \$7.5 million tax levy at its Dec. 16 meeting. The new levy is an increase of .36 percent from this year's levy.

Finance Director Michael Mondschain said the small increase is due to more revenue coming in from a .25 percent increase in the sales tax and new taxes the board approved earlier this year. The board approved a utilities use tax, a hotel/motel tax and ambulance fees over the last year.

Increased revenue in the new levy will be used to pay for debt and the police pension fund. No new money from next year's levy will go to the village's operating fund.

Only one resident spoke at the levy hearing held Nov. 25. Steven Telow argued there should be no increase in the levy at all since the village should get some money from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, which sold property for its proposed landfill at \$20 million.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said SWANCC was using that money to pay off its debts, which will reduce the village's financial obligations to the agency.

New businesses moving into town

Two businesses are preparing to move into Wheeling's northern industrial area, adding about 150 jobs to the area.

Argus Plastics and Bio Industries will be moving into the building at 540 Allendale Drive, a building that has sat vacant for a few years.

Argus Plastics, currently located in Des Plaines, makes decorative merchandise bags for clients such as Sears and Marshall Field's. Bio Industries, of Addison, makes linings for plastic garbage cans.

The owners of each business created a partnership called 40 Foot High Realty as a holding company to purchase the property. The company bought the 127,000-square-foot building for \$44 million.

Both companies plan to complete their move next spring.

Don't seek th Visitation scheduled for today for soldier from Schaumburg

death in 1999. If convicted of first-degree murder, Bayon Sampson, 21, would now face a maximum of life in prison for the death of 47-year-old Emil Risenon of Buffalo Grove.

Sampson and two other Wheeling men — Shaun Fogle and Raymond Benavidez — are charged with murder, but only Sampson is

accused of murder. Risenon was pronounced dead at the scene. Fogle and Benavidez are charged with first-degree murder.

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Visitation will be held today for a Schaumburg Army pilot who died during a recent training exercise in Alabama.

Army 1st Capt. Stephen J. Valent, 31, will be remembered by his friends and family from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Shrine.



Apache aircraft for a training mission near Fort Rucker, Ala when the helicopter crashed Dec. 12.

The Conant High School

Drum Center owner not happy

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-18-02

A plan for an upscale shopping center in Wheeling could meet with opposition as it heads to the village board for approval.

Wheeling plan commissioners have voted to recommend that trustees approve Petersburg Place, a 12-store retail strip center meant to attract such vendors as Caribou Coffee and jewelers to 119-145 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Commissioners have praised the project for rehabilitating an area that consisted of deteriorating properties before developers for Petersburg Place bought them for the project.

However, the owner of Drum Center Inc., neighboring the proposed retail center, says he's ready to act to prevent it from going much further.

Mitch Greenberg complained that the construction of Petersburg Place would make it impossible for him to improve or redevelop his property at

109 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"If they pass this permit, it will devalue my property and make it unsellable and transform it into nothing but a driveway for Bill Helein," said Greenberg, who also lives at his store.

Greenberg referred to development consultant for Petersburg Place, William Hein, whom he accused of being part of a village effort to take over the Drum Center property.

Hein told commissioners



Battle between towns and Palwaukee tenants heats up

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 12-20-02

Wheeling is in the midst of plans to remake its image, and Prospect Heights is striving to get its financial house in order, but lurking legal troubles continue to distract from village and city business.

On an almost monthly basis for the past year, officials in both towns have been called upon to respond to complaints from two plane maintenance

firms at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights share ownership of the airport, which has been accused of unfair lease practices favoring one airport tenant over others.

One case seems ready to come to an end after years of litigation, as both towns voted this month to terminate the lease of Aviation Ventures Group's Service Aviation.

However, the trouble with another firm, North American Jet, could be

just heating up. That fixed-base operator complains that neither town is following recommendations made by the Federal Aviation Administration to improve lease practices at Palwaukee.

Service Aviation, North American Jet and other fixed-based operators rent land and hangar space at Palwaukee to provide fuel, clearing, concierge and other services to corporate and private planes using the airport.

After Service Aviation took Wheeling and Prospect Heights to court over Palwaukee's attempts to evict the company in 1998, a judge ruled the airport's leases are ambiguous.

After North American Jet complained its company was subsidizing rents paid by other tenants, the FAA and Illinois Department of Transportation reviewed all Palwaukee leases and recommended the airport develop equal rates and legal descriptions for leases.

The recommendations stemmed from an informal complaint lodged by North American Jet, but Wheeling and Prospect Heights might be ordered to make changes if the company proceeds with a formal complaint. Wheeling and Prospect Heights have held a series of closed-session meetings to deal with the legal issues associated with both cases. The most recent Dec. 4 meeting ended with the vote to evict Service Aviation.

"Mr. Jans, the proprietor for Service Aviation, is delinquent on his rent and has not otherwise fulfilled the terms of his lease," Wheeling Village Manager Wallace "Wally" Douthwaite said.

Although a judge ruled that Palwaukee hadn't succeeded in evicting Service Aviation's Dennis Jans in 1998, the ruling didn't prevent the two towns from voting to evict him at the end of his lease Feb. 28, officials said.

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The owners of each business created a partnership called



Wheeling's new comprehensive plan may call for improving some of the village's retail areas along Dundee Road to increase parking and landscaping.

Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Strip centers targeted for face lift

Dec 26, 2002

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling streets are lined with strip malls. And although vacant storefronts are few, village officials think the shopping centers can be even more successful with a little work.

Part of the new land-use plan being drafted by village officials will outline redevelopment possibilities for some of the existing retail centers in the village. Dundee Road is home to a number of retail businesses, but many are in strip malls with inadequate parking and little greenery, which village planners would like to see changed.

However, it will take a big commitment on the part of village officials and the building owners. Village planners know they cannot get rid of the strip malls, but they believe they can work with owners to make them more successful.

"The main purpose is to make our commercial areas more viable and a

greater asset to the community," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady said. "The second purpose is to improve them aesthetically."

William James, a principal with Camiros, the consulting firm creating the comprehensive plan for the village, outlined some ideas as to how to improve some of the shopping centers at a Dec. 4 meeting. To enhance parking, he suggested knocking down units in some of the strip malls and moving those businesses to other locations. That would create more space to add more parking and greenery.

"You have to find ways to make them attractive and inviting," James said. "You have to work with what you've got."

James suggested the village could accelerate redevelopment by offering such incentives as funding some of the improvements or offering to maintain part of the parking areas.

He showed a sketch of the Ace Hardware and B&L Liquors area that depicted the removal of part of the

B&L building for parking and a small frontage road between Dundee Road and the main parking area. Trees and bushes were added to improve the center's appearance.

However, village officials know that they must get cooperation from those building owners in order to accomplish their goals.

"The village has to show the owners that we're serious," James said. "We have to show them it's not just talk."

Grace Bastone, who has owned the B&L building for more than 35 years, said she knows there is a parking problem and a traffic-flow problem in her center. She said she understands why the village wants to make improvements to retail centers like hers, but she is confused as to how to improve it, given the way the building and the property are laid out.

"I have a big investment there, and I need to know what the village wants to do," she said.

Bastone said she does not like the idea of replacing units with parking,

because it's the rent on units that makes up her revenues. With fewer units, fewer dollars would come in.

"Can it be resolved without major moves? I don't know," she said. "But knocking half of my building down — that's insane."

Brady said the building owners overall do a good job maintaining their properties. And he acknowledges that there have been improvements in the last 30 years that he's lived in Wheeling.

"I remember back in the '70s there was no greenery at all," he said. "It was like an asphalt jungle."

But Brady believes retail centers can make even more money, as well as attract and keep successful businesses, if improvements are made.

"Lord knows, if people don't see any parking, they're going to go right by," he said. "Many areas are in good shape, and the owners take pride. But we're having trouble holding onto quality businesses because of the traffic problem and the layout of drives."

from zoning inspectors.

Federal subpoenas began arriving in Wheeling by the dozen in 1973. When it was all over, Wheeling's former building director, two former trustees, a major developer and other minor players went to prison on conspiracy, extortion, tax evasion and other charges in 1974.

A year later, Wheeling became one of the first Illinois towns to adopt a code of ethics to govern the actions of its appointed and elected officials.

It has remained one of the few towns to maintain a board of ethics to serve as a watchdog over all official village proceedings.

On Monday, that could change.

Wheeling's village trustees will vote on amendments to the code that would do away with the ethics board and bring the village's ethics laws more in line with state law. The idea of removing some brakes from government's often slippery slope makes some nervous, but attorneys for the village say state law doesn't require local ethics commissions.

this month to do away with its commission — formed in 1975 to restore faith in a local government disgraced by federal corruption prosecutions.

However, trustees tabled the issue when they realized cutting the panel could force them to become their own watchdogs in some cases, Village President Greg Klatecki said.

The ethics code governs the

SOUL laws contracts, bid rigging and financial disclosure.

The movement toward the basic standards of the state law makes former Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz nervous, she said.

Schultz was a member of the Citizens for Responsible Government group that campaigned for local ethics laws in the 1970s. "If you're going to make a local statement that you're going to run an ethical government, local ethics need to be spelled out," Schultz said. "Excuse me, but we don't want to put too much faith in state ethics laws these days."

Schultz referred to the licenses-for-bribes scandal that probed corruption in the offices of former Secretary of State George Ryan. "I'm not criticizing the state law, but with everything that went on here (in Wheeling in the 70s) that was disgraceful, we wanted to make a statement that this is not the way we want our village to operate," Schultz said.

Village trustees say using the state's

"We didn't want to pass the final draft until all our concerns were addressed, and the biggest one was that it would come back to the board, and we didn't like that," Klatecki said.

"We felt that if it did, politics could enter in, and we didn't want any politics entering this area."

Wheeling trustees voted to put off

tion after he was accused of profiting from zoning variances.

Lehmann abstained from votes during the approval process and acted similarly in 2000 when he was accused by another trustee of benefiting from the Park Point condominium development. The board ruled in Lehmann's favor in that case also.

Revisions that came after years of wrangling gave the board power to subpoena witnesses and charge fines up to \$1,000 to individuals who knowingly violate the law.

"They say there's only been three cases since 1975 so we don't need the code, but that sounds like you're talking about closing the barn door after all the horses are gone," said Ethics Commissioner Robert Gerhold.

"To have a strict code in place has got to be a caution to people to watch their Ps and Qs," Gerhold added.

Gerhold said he plans to attend the village board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday to protest the changes.

property for private gain, unbiased appointments to public committees and disclosure of political activities in which people could assume the village is represented.

James Furolo, an attorney for the village, said any Wheeling officials whose ethics have been questioned would never help decide their verdict under the proposed code.

Rou Der was Safety tive E- trator The semir ber 20 tion-A a vehic Rou) also sa way In

on fate of ethics panel

Furolo's firm, Klein Thorpe & Jenkins, advises the Illinois Municipal Conference on ethical matters. The firm amended Wheeling's codes to be more in line with a state law that works well, Furolo said.

Still, some prominent Wheeling residents spoke against changing the local law.

Ethics Commissioner Robert Gerhold was among those who questioned why the sitting ethics commission wasn't informed of pending changes.

Also, former Village President Sheila Schultz told trustees "ethics are still important to this community," even though an era of corruption has ended in Wheeling.

A federal crackdown on and corruption in Wheeling former elected officials in 1974 first spurred the village's ethics code.

One of the factors change is the mere three ethics commission has been its 27-year history. The board met in more than a year.

The Wheeling village take another look at the code and the ethics code at a Jan. 20.

"We want the lawyers some examples of (ethics) tell us what would be not," Klatecki said of judgment under the proposed law.

BY CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer
12-31-02

The village board was prepared this month to do away with its commission — formed in 1975 to restore draft until all our concerns were addressed, and the biggest one was that it would come back to the board, and we didn't like that," Klare said.

actions of all of Wheeling's elected and appointed officials. Proposed changes to Wheeling's code would let the state's ethics board enforce local ethics, instead of Wheeling's commission. Yet the Wheeling village board would have to hear cases in instances when the state could not or would not hear them.

research on making a change until a decision on the issue further. Wheeling's ethics code matches firm amended Wheeling's codes to be more in line with a state law that works well, Furolo said.

One of the factors prompting change is the mere three cases the ethics commission has been sent in its 27-year history. The board has not met in more than a year.

A federal crackdown on extortion and corruption in Wheeling that sent former elected officials to prison in 1974 first spurred the village to adopt its ethics code.

Wheeling trustees table vote on fate of ethics panel

many of whom rent and have roommates — Dela Cruz isn't paid a great deal, but she is compensated in "lifestyle," traveling the world and having time to enjoy it.

For help, Huffman went to Workforce Development, which he said was pivotal "in helping people work through the anger and denial and rejection they felt, and turning those emotions into very productive labor."

Novak now works for Workforce Development Inc. in Park Ridge, an agency which helps people who've lost their jobs due to fall-out from Sept. 11. The agency trains workers, helps them improve rusty resume-writing and interviewing skills, and helps them network and find new jobs.

Those other airline giants no longer exist, except US Airways, which is cutting workers and asking for pay cuts to stay in business.

"This is not the brass ring, but it provides a comfortable balance of things that are important to me," Huffman, who lives in Ivanhoe near Mundelein, has found a new job out of state in the aerospace industry.

Through a \$5 million federal grant, the agency has served more than 1,600 workers, including former Anderson and Motorola employees, but more from United than anywhere else.

Rouleau receives FAA safety award

Dennis Rouleau, manager of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, was given the Great Lakes Region Partnership in Runway Safety Award for Proactive Airport Management and Innovative Educational Programs by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA commended Rouleau for his participation as a seminar speaker in the Midwest FAA Conference in November 2001 on "Reducing Runway Incursions at General Aviation Airports." A runway incursion are those instances when a vehicle or airplane on the ground enters an active runway.

Rouleau said he was honored to receive the award, but he also said the recognition is deserving for the Palwaukee Runway Incursion Action Team. 12-26-02

Move to eliminate ethics law raises eyebrows in Wheeling

Before the state's ongoing license-enforcement effort, said James Furolo, an attorney on contract with the village. "It will be consistent with that would be how it would become more streamlined," Furolo said.

Losing a job, Novak said, is an opportunity to decide what you want to do next.

law would give Wheeling more control over its ethics code.

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Recreation Center to hold open gym

The Wheeling Park District will offer open gym hours during the holiday season at the Community Recreation Center at 333 W. Dundee Road.

Open gym hours will run through Jan. 3. First- and second-graders will be able to use the gym from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. each day. Third- and fourth-graders get open gym from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Adults 18 and older have it from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fifth- and sixth-graders are invited from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Seventh- and eighth-graders have open gym from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., and youth open gym for kids 8 to 18 will be from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Those wishing to use open gym must first purchase a punch card at the customer service desk at the recreation center. 12-26-02

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Dundee Road fence eyed

Pioneer Press
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER



■ Fence eyed *Continued from page 11*

fence. A total of 37 surveys were sent.

Stavros could not provide an exact cost for the Dundee Road fence. His estimates, which are about a year old, showed a single-sided wooden fence costing \$232,000 and a concrete fence costing \$266,000.

Trustees are split on which material to use.

"The residents have spoken," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "They said they want a concrete fence as high as it can be."

Trustee Michael Horcher said he liked concrete, too, because it would save the village money in maintenance costs.

Trustee Patrick Horcher said he liked the wooden fence because it cost less to build. And Village President Greg Klatecki said he preferred wood in order to be consistent with the Elmhurst Road fence.

"If every neighborhood has a say on the type of fence, we won't have uniform fences," Klatecki said.

Trustees did not make a final decision on what type of fence to build or even to build one at all. Money has not been budgeted for the project this year, and the decision to fund it next year will come up in budget hearings this winter.

"It all comes down to the budget," Klatecki said. "It could get cut."

Local folks giving from their heart

Pioneer Press
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

12.12.2002

The holiday season is a time for giving, and many local businesses have gotten into the spirit by accepting donations, collecting money or holding fund-raisers to help charities give to the neediest.

Merlin Brake and Muffler stores in the Chicago area have been collecting winter clothes for the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois for the past 11 years with its Snug Hugs for Kids program. This year, the Wheeling shop got involved in the program. Michael Seagraves, the owner and operator of the Wheeling store, said the community has responded to the program.

"I get people from the waiting room that come back a day or two later with donations," he said. "I got a call this morning from a woman who (later) came by and made a donation of about 10 coats."

Seagraves said the shop being closed for two years before it reopened in July has

not deterred people from making donations. He was even surprised by some of the donations that came in this season. Girl Scout Troop 2429 of Northbrook donated 30 pairs of wrapped gloves and mittens, each with a handmade card attached. Another woman came in with brand-new coats she bought at Kohl's for 75 percent off, driving to Merlin right from the store.

"These people made my day," Seagraves said. "It's pretty amazing that these people went out of their way."

Seagraves joined the caravan of Merlin vans this morning to the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois' Englewood and Viva centers in Chicago to drop off the donations.

America's Car Wash at 400 N. Milwaukee Ave. is also collecting warm clothes this season to help the Salvation Army. Mae Schwab, who co-owns the car wash with her husband, Al, said the business tries to take part in many different charitable drives, especially during the holidays.

(Continued on page 11)

Pilot system suggested to curb Palwaukee din

BY GASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10.6.02

Putting public pressure on pilots who don't "fly quiet" and rewarding pilots who do are two ways Palwaukee Municipal Airport could reduce airplane noise.

A community group formed to improve the relationship between Palwaukee and its neighbors recommends giving awards and discounts for the quietest planes that fly at Palwaukee and posting lists in public places of repeat noise offenders.

The group called the Palwaukee Community Engagement Council, or PACE, also suggests using software at the airport to track problem flyers as they take off and land and to change flight patterns to shift flights over the Prospect Heights Forest Preserve and away from homes.

The council made the recommendations during this week's twice yearly meeting of Palwaukee

Ahlstedt agreed. Council volunteers "aren't in it for the glory," she said. "We want results."

Palwaukee formed the council in May as a community outreach effort to involve residents and airport tenants in shaping the airport's future.

It's an advisory council that makes recommendations to the airport commission, which sets Palwaukee policy.

One of the first orders of business for the fledgling council was to set up a noise subcommittee to address residents' noise concerns. That subcommittee made the noise recommendations to the airport commission.

It bodes well that Acting Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau has already spoken to the Federal Aviation Administration about changing flight patterns at the airport, said Dourlain, co-chairman of the noise subcommittee.

Now, the council is looking to do more.

■ Giving *Continued from page 10*

"We try to help out whenever possible," she said. "We do as much for the community as we can."

Schwab said making donations at the carwash is easy, because the Salvation Army bin is outside the building and people can stop by at any time to make their donations. Schwab said somebody from the Salvation Army stops by to pick up the donations and did not know how well the collections were coming in.

"Hopefully, people are stopping by after hours or to and from work," she said.

Stasek Chevrolet is collecting toys with the village for the annual Toys for Tots drive.

While not all business are conducting donation drives, they are still trying to help in the community. Buca di

Beppo restaurant is hosting a special VIP event Dec. 17 to celebrate the publication of its new cook book, "Into the Sauce: From Our Cucina to Your Kitchen." The event will help the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry's scholarship fund.

Jim Klene, manager of Buca di Beppo, said executive chef Vittorio Renda will present a cooking demonstration and wine tasting Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the restaurant. Those attending will get the chance to sample signature dishes and wines chosen by Renda, a native of Italy. The event costs \$40, which includes the food and a copy of "Into the Sauce." Reservations must be made by Dec. 15 by calling (847) 808-9898.



1/2-03
 Santa and Mrs. Claus brought much cheer to Wheeling's Festival of Lights Sunday.

More property targeted on Milwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER

1-2-03
 The Wheeling Village Board made progress on its promise to clean up Milwaukee Avenue by passing measures to demolish some buildings and purchase property along one of the village's busiest thoroughfares.

At its Dec. 23 meeting, the board accepted a bid from Albrecht Enterprises of Des Plaines to demolish the buildings at 312, 400 and 432 S. Milwaukee Ave. at a total cost of \$78,488. The demolition will be paid with money from the tax increment financing fund, which is often used to buy properties that don't fit current or future development plans.

The board also elected to use \$650,000 in TIF money to purchase properties at 635, 647 and 667 S. Milwaukee Ave. at a total cost of \$650,000.

Board members say the plan is to

purchase and raze buildings along Milwaukee Avenue in order to put parcels together for redevelopment. Many of the properties along the avenue are too small for any significant development to occur on each one individually.

"We're trying to consolidate smaller properties on Milwaukee Avenue," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "Let's say someone wants to build a restaurant. Well, they can't put one there because there isn't enough room."

William Whitmer, Wheeling's economic development director, said the village has been approached by many different developers looking to build on Milwaukee Avenue. Those developers, he said, need larger parcels to meet their needs.

Whitmer said developers have difficulty designing a development that can accommodate a large enough building with proper access and ade-

quate parking on many of those lots, especially when trying to meet setback requirements.

"When you put all these things together, it's difficult to solve with (a site) less than an acre," he said.

The properties set to be demolished are already owned by the village. The sites were used for town homes, a veterinarian's office and a gas station. There are no specific redevelopment plans at this point for those properties.

Trustee Dean Argiris said the demolition project will help in getting rid of some blighted properties and help in the redevelopment plan.

"Right now it's a hodgepodge over there," he said. "We're trying to put parcels together to do something nice. We're trying to create parcels that are buildable."

Whitmer said Milwaukee Avenue remains a popular spot for those looking to build.

"We get a lot of interest on Milwau-

kee Avenue," he said. "People come to the community and say they want to operate there. The traffic counts are good, and the cluster of activity that's there already is significant enough to make it desirable for developers."

The properties to be purchased are across the street from the residential Astor Place development being built on the former Wheeling Nursery property. Those properties include a used car lot, some residential buildings and an overhead door company.

Whitmer said the village plans to raze the buildings and create open space, giving people access to the Cook County Forest Preserve and the Des Plaines River. Some of the properties also are prone to flooding.

"With the spring thaw and any precipitation, those properties are a risk to flooding," he said. "It's makes a lot of sense to keep it open."

The open space would also be a nice amenity to residents moving into Astor Place, Whitmer said. Argiris said he was pleased to purchase those properties and clean them up.

"We're going to get rid of them," he said. "Who wants to move across the street and look at used car lots?"

Klatecki said the village still wants to purchase one piece of property sitting in between the lots it agreed to buy. The process went smoothly to get those properties, he said, since the owner approached the village.

"The owner came to us and said he was willing to sell. So we sat down and negotiated with him," he said. "Usually, it's a dog fight for us."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said it's always easier when property owners are willing to sell, especially since the village is trying so hard to improve some areas along Milwaukee Avenue.

"We are being aggressive, there's no doubt about that," he said. "This is something that is a natural progression. But it's really nice to be able to work out deals with some of these owners."

Whitmer said cleaning up Milwaukee Avenue should help change people's perception of the village.

"Milwaukee Avenue is a busy thoroughfare," he said. "A lot of people get an impression of Wheeling based on what's there. It's real important to clean it up."

Wheeling's image does not need further upgrading

1-7-03

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580 or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

To the editor: Regarding the Dec. 11 article about upgrading Wheeling's image, I am a product of the 1950's tract-style housing that Mr. James dent-grates.

And while I understand that things change, buildings get old, pioneers move out and new people move in, the tract-style housing in Wheeling was a god-send to the World War II veterans like my dad, just starting to make a living for themselves and their families.

Those houses provided a great place for hundreds of kids like me and my buddies to grow up and become productive members of society.

Maybe from today's perspec-

tive, Wheeling's image needs to be freshened up, as they say.

But from where I come from, Wheeling's image is top notch.

I sometimes yearn for those carefree days at Amvets Field, St. Joe's, Koeppe's Farm Stand and Wheeling Days at Chamber and Commerce Park.

Progress isn't always necessarily better.

Chuck Graziano
Lake Barrington

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
1-9-03

The Wheeling police and health departments are working together to initiate a Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program in the village that could begin by the end of February.

The Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program is a worldwide program that gives landlords and property managers tools they can use to keep crime out of their buildings, said Sgt. John Teevans of the crime prevention unit of the Wheeling Police Department. Teevans said the program provides information on how to screen potential renters and how to keep a criminal element away from rental buildings.

"The program was started in Mesa, Ariz.," Teevans said. "It has expanded from apartment complexes and townhomes to mobile home parks and even single-family homes. Our main focus is going to be on apartments and rental housing."

Teevans said the three-pronged program takes a proactive approach to maintaining safe living for residents.

The first phase is strictly for landlords and property managers, who meet with an attorney to learn how they can screen applicants and write leases that allow them to evict tenants if crimes are committed. The landlords also hear

it easier for owners to control their properties."

The village of Schaumburg is one area community where the program is already under way. Teevans and Health Officer Michael Boyle recently attended a meeting there between property managers and attorneys. Boyle said the Health Department's role would include maintenance and housing code issues, keeping apartment complexes well-maintained and hopefully reducing property damage in and around Wheeling's rental communities.

Boyle said the program will benefit property owners and

It will make it easier for owners to control their properties."

Police Sgt. John Teevans

from a police officer in the department's tactical unit to help them identify criminal activity. They also hear from the health department about housing codes and someone from the fire department who speaks about fire codes.

A site analysis is conducted in the second phase. The survey teaches landlords how they can change or improve their complexes to deter criminal activity. Some possible changes include adding more lighting or eliminating places of low visibility.

The last phase involves the residents, where they gather together, get to know each other and ask questions about the program.

"If all goes well, (the owners) can put a logo on their leases and ads to let people know they are part of the program," Teevans said. "We can also help them with recommendations in pre-lease agreements, and even put an addendum to leases that says if a crime occurs in a unit, that person can be removed. It will make (Continued on page 6)

managers, residents and the community in general.

"This is to let them know they do have control of who they rent to, and that owners and managers can establish rules and policies that are fair and equitable to review applicants," Boyle said. "This is good, sound knowledge. Hopefully they can incorporate that knowledge and awareness."

Teevans said the Police Department is "putting out the feelers" to see if there is interest in the program, since it will be voluntary.

Road crews ready for winter woes

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
1-9-03

The Wheeling Public Works Department is better prepared than ever to clear the streets during bad winter weather.

This fall, a new salt storage bin was built that allows the department to store twice as much salt as it has been able to stockpile in the past. Streets supervisor Jeff Kopper said the village will not have to worry about running out of salt.

"There were a few instances in the past three or four years where we almost ran out," he said.

Some days, the department would take in a shipment of salt and immediately put it on the roads. With the new 25,500-cubic-foot bin, the department can store about 700 tons of salt. Kopper said another bin is proposed to be built next year, allowing the department to store another 700 tons. Last year, the village

was only able to keep 300 tons on hand.

"We only use about 1,800 to 2,000 tons each year," Kopper said. "We're going to have a smoother and better operation."

Kopper said the lack of storage, and the fact the village has to wait seven days for a shipment, have put the department in precarious situations where it has come very close to running out of salt.

"I've called my supplier and literally begged him for a truckload or two before he's required to ship it," he said. "We've survived due to his generosity and luck."

Generosity and luck are two things Kopper said he does not want to depend on in order to get the streets cleared of snow and ice.

"This has been a long time in the waiting," Kopper said of the new storage. "It's finally happened, and it turned out really nice."

Wheeling hires assistant village planner

1-10-03
Clare Sloan has eye on town's growth

By CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's plans to upgrade its image through redevelopment can't succeed without enforcement.

A yearlong comprehensive planning process will soon produce a finished blueprint for the village's future, and a new addition to Wheeling's planning department will help give that document meaning.

The village has filled its long-vacant assistant village planner position by hiring Elmhurst native Clare Sloan.

Village Planner Jeff Harris says Sloan will help administer a comprehensive land-use

plan designed to guide the future growth of the village.

"A day doesn't go by when I don't speak to two or three developers who want to do projects in the village," Harris said. "We are the capital staff for developers to learn if they have a project the village would want."

Most people know little about what a village planner does, but the planning staff serves as the first filter for building proposals, Harris said.

The assistant planning position has been vacant for more than four years, but a redevelopment process begun last January has increased Wheel-

ing's planning activity.

"It's more than just looking at a colored map and comparing the uses," Harris said of the coded map that outlines industrial, residential and other zoning areas in Wheeling.

"We take a look at the documentation, what the village has said they want, and help the developers make a decision whether they want to pursue it," Harris said. "There are obvious examples, such as, no one is going to want to let a developer put a Seven-11 in the middle of a residential subdivision."

Hired Nov. 22, Sloan has joined Harris in working with developers. She will also help report to the plan commission, which makes recommendations to the village board on

"A day doesn't go by when I don't speak to two or three developers who want to do projects in the village. We are the capital staff for developers to learn if they have a project the village would want."

Village Planner Jeff Harris

developments.

Sloan is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign and holds a degree in regional and urban planning. While in Champaign, she participated in planning a resi-

Noise near Palwaukee down, but not for long

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 1-10-03

The number of planes thundering over homes from Palwaukee Municipal Airport last year reached their lowest point in almost a decade, airport officials said this week.

The news is probably music to the ears of homeowners in Wheeling, Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights who live in the airport's flight paths.

However, airport leaders caution residents they shouldn't grow accustomed to skies made friendlier in 2002 by a sagging economy and airport construction.

A major project closed a Palwaukee runway on weekends for seven months last year, but the widening of the runway used by the airport's jets and noisier planes is now complete, said Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau.

"I think the residents who live off the end of the runway had an enjoy-

able summer without having jet traffic on Saturdays and some on Sundays," Rouleau said. "We have that runway back open now since November."

Complaints over airport noise had dipped as flight operations topped out at 164,890 in 2002, airport officials said.

Flights were down about 7,200 from the 172,110 arrivals and departures in 2001, while they were down about 15,100 from the 180,000 flights the year before the economic recession began to slow leisure and corporate air traffic.

"I'm getting reports back from several different areas that it has been quieter this past year and people would like that to continue," said Warren Sunde, chairman of the Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment. The resident action committee, known as CASE, has long fought against Palwaukee noise.

"People in the area are happy and would like to keep it this way, but

unfortunately they can't," Sunde said. Airport officials suspect that Palwaukee traffic last year would have matched 2001 levels if not for construction, and that flights could hit that 170,000 mark again this year.

One factor that could decrease noise from flights in 2003 is the departure of a major corporate tenant that was a frequent flier at Palwaukee, Rouleau said. Prospect Heights officials identified the tenant as W.W. Granger Inc., a company Rouleau said was "largely airport friendly."

The company had rid itself of an old loud jet and had replaced it with quieter planes that burned less fuel.

Airport officials stress that the community-based Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Committee continues to seek ways to decrease noise and improve the relationship between Palwaukee and its neighbors.

Residents with noise complaints should call the noise hotline, (847) 537-2580, Ext. 159.

Developer pulls office plan for now

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 1-12-03

A dispute over land that could be critical to Wheeling's plans to upgrade its image has been suspended — for the moment.

A developer who wants to build an office complex at Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway agreed this week to withdraw his petition.

Alex Loyfman of Highland Park had reappeared before the village plan commission prepared to present revised plans for a four-story office building that would combine shopping and office space.

However, commissioners preempted the presentation with a lengthy explanation of lingering questions that might make a public hearing on development there an exercise in futility.

drafting a plan that will help the village become a "community of choice" have strongly recommended that the vacant land become part of a town center with a community campus design.

Loyfman has been volleyed back and forth between the plan commission and village board since October as trustees and commissioners have disagreed over whether the proposed office complex can fit into those plans.

Commissioners this week told Loyfman that conflict has not been resolved.

"While trustees may say they'd like to see an income-producing building on that property, until the engineers and all the parties say that they have everything to make their determinations, we cannot give them our OK," said pro tem commission Chairman Stuart Shapiro.

A main reason Wheeling's consultants recommend the land remain open in a "hallmark" community campus is because current flood maps show the area in a flood plain. The consultants also stressed that Wheeling has to "think big" in terms of developing a community campus if the village is dedicated to drastically changing its image.

Loyfman's architect, Robert Kirk, acknowledged it might be pointless to give lengthy testimony on a project surrounded by so many unknowns.

"We don't mind waiting, as long as we're working within a certain time frame," Loyfman said.

The next comprehensive planning meeting is Thursday.

The village's 88-page land-use draft is ready for the commission's review, Village Planner Jeff Harris said.

Candidates start filing in 1-16-03

Monday was the first day candidates running for local elections April 1 could file their nominating petitions. Those seeking a seat on different governing bodies have until Jan. 21 to file.

All three incumbents on the Wheeling Village Board — Judy Abruscato, Robert Heer and Patrick Horcher — filed petitions. Plan commissioners Ken Brady and Pam Dorband also filed.

The only people to file petitions Monday as candidates for the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board were the three incumbents, Ellen Clark, Pamela Becker-Dean and Larry Krulwich. Three seats on the board are up for election.

Five candidates filed Monday for the High School District 214 Board of Education. They are incumbents Alva Kreutzer of Elk Grove Village, Robert Zimmanck, Bill Dussling and Stan Eisenhammer, all of Arlington Heights, and Art Gollberg of Mount Prospect.

Kreutzer, Zimmanck and Dussling are seeking re-election to three, four-year-terms on the board. Eisenhammer and Gollberg are vying for the sole two-year term.

Three seats are open on the Wheeling Park Board this year. Two incumbents, Dennis Drake and Cheri Klumpp, have filed petitions. Other candidates who have filed are William Hein, Jonathan Kolssak and Keith Peeka. Incumbent Bill Mattes had yet to file before press time.

Five people filed Monday for the three contested seats on the Harper College Board of Trustees.

Incumbent Trustees Leon Shure of Buffalo Grove and Barbara Barton of Palatine filed their petitions at 8 a.m. Monday along with William Kelley of Schaumburg, Matt Murphy of Palatine and Ryan Mahoney of Palatine.

Because all five candidates filed at the earliest possible time Monday, their names will be entered in a lottery to determine their position on the ballot. The lottery will be held Jan. 23.

Incumbent Trustee Patrick Botterman of Arlington Heights, whose seat is also contested, had not filed Monday.

Are dogs greater risk than board says?

To the editor: On Monday, the Wheeling village board put plans on hold for a day-care center pending a review of prior testimony from the woman's neighbor that he has dogs that are known to bite.

Last month, the board gave a preliminary go-ahead on the day care, providing she built a 6-foot fence to protect the children from the dogs. Now, they are trying to decide if she should build an 8-foot fence, or if it's even safe to locate a day care center near the dogs.

Why doesn't the village board ask themselves what measures

the man should take to protect all his neighbors and the potential day care center from the dogs? Are they only a danger to children in day care?

Cherryl M. Crouch
Arlington Heights

Wheeling ethics code should get full discussion

To the editor: It is entirely proper that there be a full and thorough discussion of the proposed changes to Wheeling's ethics ordinance.

After all, no one would argue that the integrity and honesty of our elected and appointed officials, as well as of our professional staff, are not of vital importance.

However, it is inappropriate and harmful to dredge up events that took place decades ago and use them to imply that in looking to streamline and improve the ethics ordinance, our trustees are acting improperly. Unfortunately, this is exactly the tactic a former village president employed in her

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effort to thwart such changes. Wheeling trustees have proposed that Wheeling adopt the state's ethics code and that any alleged violations of the code be investigated and judged by the state's ethics board.

This code has been adopted by many municipalities in the state and has been refined and improved through the efforts of many groups over the years. It is constantly reviewed to make sure it works the way it should.

The Wheeling ethics code was designed before the state code existed and was an important advance for our village, but it is very difficult and expensive for a single municipality to maintain an up-to-date, effective code on its own.

Further, the Wheeling ethics code has two flaws that I consider to be so serious as to render the whole process of ethics investigation under the code suspect.

First, the body that hears allegations of ethics code violations in Wheeling is a commission made up of citizens appointed by the village president and approved by the board of trustees.

Essentially, commissioners serve at the pleasure of the president and trustees. How can these people be expected to be impartial judges in any case that involves those elected officials?

Folks with such ties would never be allowed to serve on a jury anywhere in our country.

Second, even if one believes that such connections would not impair the judgment of our commissioners, the hearing process raises another bar. In a court of law the judge instructs jurors on the law and rules on procedural matters so that the jury does not hear improper information and to ensure due process.

The Wheeling ethics commissioners receive no such impartial guidance. Matters that arise under the ethics code can be highly technical and complex. In the past, the village's attorney, subject to the code himself and hired by the board of trustees, advised the commission.

This is another clear conflict and flaw of the ordinance. In short, the Wheeling ethics ordinance has such serious problems that adopting the state's code — which has been written and accepted by a wide range of experts and communities, and having that code enforced by

people with no ties to Wheeling officials and employees — would clearly be the best way to ensure the confidence of the citizens of Wheeling.

Steven Boime
Wheeling

Decision stuns Wheeling cops

Ryan a 'liar' in issuing blanket commutations

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

1-14-03

Members of the Wheeling Police Department are still reeling from then-Gov. George Ryan's decision to commute the sentences of 164 death-row inmates to life in prison without parole.

One of those inmates, Tyrone Strickland, was convicted of murdering Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson on Nov. 5, 1985, as Dawson responded to a burglary call on Cleo Court in the village.



Strickland

Wheeling police officer Joseph Dawson, the nephew of Kenneth Dawson, said he was "surprised" by Ryan's decision, especially after Ryan told victims' families that he was not going to issue blanket commutation.

"When he met with the families, he looked us straight in the eye and said he thought we'd be happy with his decision," Dawson said. "He listened to everybody's story and led us to believe that he wasn't going to do it."

In an overnight letter sent to victims' families that arrived only a few hours before his speech Saturday, Ryan acknowledged his change of heart.

"I have said that blanket commutation was an option, on the front burner, the back burner and out of consideration," Ryan's letter read. "I realize I have contradicted myself on the issue of blanket commutation. ... I believe public officials should always reserve the right to change their minds — especially if it is in the best interest of the public."

That explanation does not sit well with Dawson.

"He said he was going to review on a case-by-case basis," Dawson said. "I don't think he did. He's a liar."



This memorial plaque, which includes one of slain police officer Kenneth Dawson's sketches, hangs in the Wheeling Police Department.

Sense of betrayal

Dawson said his colleagues at the department are "all hot" about Ryan's decision. Dawson said he personally feels a sense of betrayal and doesn't like the message Ryan sent to those who might be willing to kill another police officer.

"It's inexcusable," Dawson said. "It's a blow to everyone who goes out and fights the good fight every day."

Wheeling police Sgt. William Stutzman, the first officer at the scene where Kenneth Dawson was killed, said Ryan's decision is an insult to every police officer.

"As police officers, we don't get involved in politics, but we do uphold the system," he said. "It's truly a slap in the face, and it shows a complete disregard for what we do."

Stutzman said he was always skeptical of Ryan's motives when the clemency hearings in front of the Prisoner Review Board were requested. He said he always believed Ryan was going to grant the blanket commutation to "take the spotlight away" from his own scandal during his tenure as sec-

retary of state. Ryan denied that such motives played any role in his decision.

Stutzman is particularly disappointed since the question of Strickland's guilt is not in question.

"I can't speak for every case, but the problems (Ryan) talked about were not present in this case," Stutzman said. "There is no question, yet (Ryan) does what he did because somebody was accused unjustly."

Strickland himself testified at trial that he shot Kenneth Dawson. Strickland has never recanted his testimony.

"This is an open wound that's ever-present," Dawson said.

Killer's defense

Robert Markfield, the attorney from the Office of the State's Appellate Defender who represented Strickland at his clemency hearing in October, said Ryan's decision was equitable. Strickland's clemency petition stated that the death-row inmate was suicidal and on psychotropic drugs during his trial. The petition argued that Strickland's

mental health should have been used as a mitigating factor during sentencing.

"I believe, based on the residual doubts, that commutation of the death penalty is a fair disposition," Markfield said.

In his speech given in the Lincoln Hall at the Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago Saturday, Ryan called the state's capital punishment system "broken." He said he may never feel comfortable about his final decision, but he did his very best in making it.

"Our capital system is haunted by the demon of error — error in determining guilt and error in determining who among the guilty deserves to die," Ryan said. "Because of all these reasons, today I am commuting the sentences of all death row inmates."

Ryan pointed to the 17 exonerated death-row inmates as part of his reasoning behind the blanket commutation. He also argued that the death penalty is administered through arbitrary means. Ryan said all 102 state's (Continued on page 9)

attorneys decide whether to pursue the death penalty for those charged with first-degree murder without any set standards. He said those convicted of first-degree murder are five times more likely to receive the death penalty in rural areas than in Cook County. He also questioned the roles of poverty and race in the administration of the death penalty.

"The facts I have seen in reviewing each and every one of these cases raised questions not only about the innocence of people on death row, but about the fairness of the death penalty system as a whole," he said. "If the system was making so many errors in determining whether someone was guilty in the first place, how fairly and accurately was it in determining which guilty defendants deserved to live and which deserved to die?"

Dawson said that is not rea-

son enough to grant the blanket commutation. He argued that sentencing for other crimes is not standardized either, and he asked why the sentence of death should be any different.

"There is no reason for a judge if everything is written out," Dawson said.

Ryan also expressed his frustration with the General Assembly, which did not act on any of the 85 reforms recommended by his Commission on Capital Punishment. He said he tried three times to get the legislature to act, but it did nothing.

Ryan said if the General Assembly had passed the reforms, it may have changed the outcome of his decision.

"I don't know why legislators could not heed the rising voices of reform," he said. "I don't know how many more systemic flaws we needed to uncover before they would be

spurred to action."

Cook County State's Attorney Dick Devine called on Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the new assembly the day after Ryan made his announcement to act on the death penalty legislation in its spring session.

Devine said the current system is broken, and the new legislature must decide if it wants to repeal the death penalty or reform it. Ryan placed a moratorium on executions three years ago after 13 death-row inmates had been found innocent. He then called for the Illinois Prisoner Review Board to grant hearings to all who had been sentenced to death for their crimes.

After the board reviewed all those cases and sent their confidential recommendations to him, Ryan announced his decision, after "three years of education, consultation, advice and agony."

TIF "reasonable" to District 21 1-23-03

School districts are never excited to see the establishment of new tax increment financing districts, but Gary Mical, Wheeling Elementary School District 21 superintendent, called the proposed North Milwaukee Avenue TIF District a reasonable plan.

The amount of tax dollars going to governing bodies from any TIF district is frozen during the duration of the TIF. That means District 21 will not see any new tax dollars from the North Milwaukee Avenue TIF District for 23 years.

Property owners still pay the full amount of tax dollars, but the increase after redevelopment — or increment — is put into a special fund. That money is typically used to pay for infrastructure improvements or land acquisition.

Mical said the school district receives very little in taxes from the proposed area, and he agreed the new TIF district will help spur redevelopment in the area. Although the school district will lose out monetarily from the TIF's creation, Mical agreed the windfall at the end of the TIF will be significant.

Mical also had some good news about the TIF. He said the district would be compensated if there are any new students entering school from new development in the TIF. Mical said he expects the compensation would equal the district's per-pupil expenditure from each new student who moves into the TIF district. That money would come from the TIF fund.

"Although new TIF districts are never desirable for a school district, it's a reasonable proposition for us," Mical told the District 21 School Board.

It is expected an ordinance to create the new TIF district will be given to the Wheeling Village Board at its Jan. 27 meeting.

Shopping center developers ask

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer
Jan 16, 2003

An upscale shopping center proposed for Milwaukee Avenue was supposed to be just what Wheeling needed to help improve its image.

Now, the center's developers will find out just how badly the village wants the project.

An agent for the proposed Petersburg Place has asked the

village for \$625,000 in tax financing help for a plaza that is supposed to attract a higher caliber of tenants than a normal "spec" strip mall.

The developers want to build a 12-store center at 199-145 N. Milwaukee Ave. to attract a jeweler and vendors of the caliber of Caribou Coffee and Haagen-Dazs. The Wheeling Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval as a way to cre-

ate a new shopping destination from a mish-mash of troubled properties.

However, Village Manager Wallace "Wally" Douthwaite sent a memo to trustees saying he is unwilling to recommend incentives for a project seeking help only in the final stages of the approval process. "It has proceeded on its own, with no representation that the project would not succeed without the incen-

tive," Douthwaite said.

Money for the \$625,000 in incentives would come from funds in a tax increment financing district set up in the 19 surrounding the mall site. In TIF district, the taxes a pro-owner pays to schools and taxing bodies are frozen at a specific amount, and any tax variation over the years that lift above that amount is funneled back into improving the prop-

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District 21 provides plan behind tax increase request

BY JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer
1-17-03

All that's left now is the promoting and the voting.

The Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board unanimously approved the placement of a 50 cent per \$100 of assessed valuation tax increase on April 1 election ballots Thursday night.

If approved by voters, the money would end deficit spending by the district. The district now faces a \$9 million shortfall. Without the tax

increase, board members said, teaching positions and programs will be gouged out to reduce spending.

Such cuts already discussed include raising student fees, slashing nearly 84 teaching positions over three years and stuffing as many as 35 children into classrooms. The plan for spending cuts in event of a failed tax increase will be finalized in March.

The board will likely approve some form of a spending reduction plan regardless of the tax increases' fate.

See PLAN on PAGE 12

Plan: District would phase in increase over two years

Continued from Page 1

However, the cuts would only be fat trimming if the tax increase passes. More money would allow the district to build and create more programs parents want such as foreign languages, the board said.

"This is all about how we provide quality education," said board member Arlen Gould about the tax increase.

"The dollars are the dollars. Without an increase or a reduction in some areas we won't be able to provide quality education.

"We've hit the end of the line financially," he continued. "The party is over."

If successful, the school board will look to phase in the tax increase. Plans for a two and three-year phase-

in are on the table.

A three-year phase-in would have a \$243 impact for the owner of a \$200,000 home in the first year. That's in addition to the \$100 increase that same homeowner will feel for the amount already levied by the district in December.

There would be no increase in the second year. The final year would have a \$104 impact on the same home.

A two-year phase-in would ratchet

tax bills up \$174 for a \$200,000 home each of the two years.

Board members said the 50-cent tax increase would be enough to not only maintain, but improve the quality of the district. Another 1 percent increase would not be necessary until early in the next decade, barring any troublesome state or federal mandates, board members said.

The last tax increase for the district was 14 years ago, and passed overwhelmingly.

Wheeling panel wraps up plan for future

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer
Jan 18, 2003

Wheeling planners Thursday gave their final review of a plan for the village's future before it goes public.

Amid cautions about balancing vision with realism, plan commissioners did more than a little tweaking in their first look at the comprehensive land-use document they have worked toward for the past year.

The commissioners told consultants with the Camiros firm the plan is still not specific enough in guaranteeing the future Wheeling will have more high-end housing.

They also wanted to see built-in assurances for the transformation of the run-down North Wolf Road area and assurances for the realization of a town center that's seen as the hallmark of the new Wheeling.

The comprehensive plan — being redrafted in its entirety for the first time in decades — will be a blueprint for Wheeling's development for the next 20 years.

"While we always try to promote single-family housing, it always seems to turn out that it's 'whatever's best for the developer' and that is multifamily," Commissioner Terry Steilen said.

"You have to make this more restrictive."

The comprehensive plan draft has too many areas labeled "mixed use" that would give developers too many options, Steilen and others said.

The consultants told commissioners they built flexibility into the plan to prevent redevelopment from being stymied.

Wheeling is undertaking drastic changes to create a new municipal campus, a new town center and new

mixes of retail and residential space where buildings already stand and where the infrastructure was not planned to support the development, consultants said.

If Wheeling doesn't give developers options, they may choose to build elsewhere. Consultant William James asserted it's important that commissioners "balance vision with practicality and reality."

"I think there is a lot of wishful thinking in this document," James said. "I think this is a group that wants to employ vision really more than any community we've worked with."

"But I understand that if you don't try to get what you want, you may never get what you want," James added. "So I'm comfortable having things in here that might not be practical."

Commissioners and village

trustees suggested the village can accomplish many of its goals with property swaps and natural attrition.

Aging industrial areas could fall into disuse and be transformed into housing, Trustee Dean Arigiris said.

Consultants agreed to incorporate some "leaps of faith" into the plan. They agreed to add land use policies to develop a retail promenade on North Wolf Road, an innovative Heritage Farm Site south of Aptakasic Road and the potential for homes at the vacant Kmart on Dundee Road.

In coming weeks, village officials plan to deposit copies of the revised draft at village hall, libraries and other locations to give residents a chance to see the proposal for the new Wheeling.

The plan commission will later receive feedback on the plan at a public hearing before sending it to trustees for final approval.

Meet the candidates 1-22-03

Tuesday was the last day for people seeking election to local offices to file petitions to gain a spot on the April 1 ballot. Here are the names of all those who have filed petitions of candidacy. An asterisk indicates an incumbent.

Municipalities

Buffalo Grove Village Board

INCUMBENT

(One 4-year term)
Elliott Hartstein*

TRUSTEES

(Three 4-year terms)
Jeffrey Borman*
R. Scott Bludom
DeAnn Glover*
Steve Trilling*

Long Grove Village Board

TRUSTEES

(Three 4-year terms)
Joseph Barry*
Christopher Borawski
Susan Klein*
Caroline D. Liebl

Wheeling Village Board

TRUSTEES

(Three 4-year terms)
Judy Abruscato*
Kenneth R. Brady
Pamela D. Dorband
Robert J. Heer*
Patrick A. Horcher*
Steven "The Owl" Telow

Park districts

Arlington Heights Park District

(Three 4-year terms)
Andrew Bennett
Andrea Mahalak
Robert J. Nefvacil

Buffalo Grove Park District

(Three 4-year terms)
Richard Drazner
Martha Weisen*
Larry Reiner*

Prospect Heights Park District

(Four 4-year terms)
John "Jack" Barrett*
Vicki Carney*
Jean Spiegelhalter*
Dan Pavlick*

Wheeling Park District

(Three 4-year terms)
Keith R. Pecka
Sheri Klumpp*
Dennis Drake*
Jonathan A. Kolssak
William "Bill" Hein

Library districts

Indian Trails Library District

(Three 4-year terms)
Larry Cahall*
Patricia Murray*

Prospect Heights Library District

(Two 6-year terms)
Mary Tammen*
Kathy Berman*

School districts

Wheeling Township District 21

(Three 4-year terms)
Ellen Clark*
Pamela Becker Dean*
Katherine M. Edmonds
Larry Krulewich*
Stacey P. Horcher

Prospect Heights District 23

(Four 4-year terms)
Linda Bimbaun*
Balwinder S. Gira
Kathy Gregg
Bonnie Innocentini
Thomas D. Klingner
Beth Murphy*

Aptakasic-Tripp District 102

(Three 4-year terms)
Mindy Lehtman*
Jeffrey C. Newman*
Ed Gildenberg
Elyn Ross

Northwest Suburban High School District 214

(Three 4-year terms)
Robert Zimmanck*
William Dussling*
Alva Kreutzer*

(One 2-year term)

Art Gollberg
Stan Eisenhammer*

Harper College

(Three 6-year terms)
Barbara Barton*
William Kelley
Ryan Mahoney
Matt Murphy
Leon Shure*

Diamond Lake Elementary District 76

(Four 4-year terms)
Rick Eggert
Ron Carlson*
Melissa B. Donaldson
Cheryl M. Longfellow
William A. Poetker III*

Fremont Elementary District 79

(Three 4-year terms)
Eileen LeFevre
Sandra Bickley
Kevin R. Petschow
Paul Friedman

Stevenson High School District 125

(Four 4-year terms)
Bruce Lubin*
Lester J. Raff*
Diane Holder*
Terry C. Moons*

College of Lake County District 532

Candidates file for April election

Tuesday was the last day candidates could turn in nominating petitions to run for public office in the April 1 election. As of Tuesday morning, five people had turned in forms to run for the Wheeling Village Board. All three incumbents, Judy Abruscato, Robert Heer and Patrick Horcher, filed for candidacy. Plan commissioners Ken Brady and Pam Dorband also turned in forms.

Four people had filed for three seats on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board. The three incumbents, Ellen Clark, Pamela Becker-Dean and Larry Krulewich, will all seek re-election. Stacey Horcher, the wife of Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher, also turned in a nomination form.

Five candidates filed for the three seats on the Wheeling Park Board. Dennis Drake and Cheri Klumpp are both seeking re-election to the board. William Hein, Jonathan Kolssak and Keith Pecka also filed. Board member Bill Mattes, whose term is ending, did not file a petition by Tuesday morning. Prospective candidates had until 5 p.m. Tuesday to file.

Plan commission gets down to nitty-gritty

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-23-03

The Wheeling Plan Commission is getting down to the fine details in formulating a plan for the village's future development.

Commission members said they are generally pleased with the draft comprehensive plan presented by consulting firm Camiros, Ltd. But they indi-

cated at a meeting Jan. 16 that they were looking for more detail when it comes to designating how some areas will be developed and redeveloped.

Commissioners want to see areas of the Horcher and Schwind properties in particular designated for single-family homes, a change from a general label of "residential development" affixed to the land by Camiros. The more specific designation would give

the village more leverage getting single-family homes built there.

"Developers are going to do what's in their best interest and not ours," said Plan Commissioner Stuart Shapiro. "If we want to see single-family homes, then let's make it that in the plan."

Commissioners also are seeking more specific redevelopment ideas for the Wolf and Dundee roads intersec-

tion, specifically the northeast corner, where they would like to see plans calling for a total redevelopment. Camiros consultants suggested in December that the village improve the facades of the commercial area and beautify the apartment buildings there.

Although commissioners asked for more specifics in some areas, they
(Continued on page 9)

asked for more flexibility in others. Commissioners asked for more general designations at the Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection and the Simmerling Fence property, allowing for the possibility of building single-family homes in those areas.

Developers are already working on multi-family developments in both of those areas, but the commission wanted some flexibility if those projects fall through.

Some commissioners also want to see more of an emphasis placed on more single-family homes that would attract second- or third-time buyers.

"We need to have a place for the move-up market," Plan Commissioner Pam Dorband said. "We want people to stay in Wheeling. We need to give people a place to stay."

Most of the draft plan was left untouched at

the Jan. 16 meeting. Other aspects of the comprehensive plan include developing a new downtown area near the Metra train station south of Dundee Road that would include residential and commercial properties.

The final adjustments to the plan will be made in the next few weeks, before a public hearing on the plan is held. The Village Board will have final say on the plan after the public hearing. The comprehensive plan is the definitive development document for the village. This is the first time the village has overhauled the plan since the mid-1980s.

Dorband said the yearlong review with Camiros should result in significant improvement over the current plan.

"I'm very impressed so far," Dorband said. "This is a very exciting process, and I think we've all learned a great deal."

Wheeling trustee invited to inauguration

Trustee Patrick Horcher missed the Jan. 13 Wheeling Village Board meeting so he could attend Gov. Rod Blagojevich's inauguration ceremony in Springfield.

Horcher said he was surprised to get the invitation. He lobbies in Springfield for the Illinois Farm Bureau and said he suspects it was his lobbying work that got him on the invited list.

Horcher said he was confident that his position as Wheeling trustee did not get him into the ceremony.

"It was an honor to be invited," he said. "If anyone gets invited, I suggest they go." 1-23-03

Homeowners will vote on school tax increase

1-23-03
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Voters in Wheeling Elementary School District 21 will have the final say April 1 on a proposed tax increase that would boost revenue in the district's education fund.

DISTRICT 21

The School Board elected to put the question on the ballot during its Jan. 16 meeting, after the Board Finance Committee sent a recommendation for a 50-cent increase to the tax rate. Such an increase would add nearly \$350 in taxes on a home with a \$200,000 market value.

Board members said the community has a choice: Either give more to the district or face painful cuts in programs.

"We're not about to sit here and lay out a Draconian plan and then pull it back if we fail (with the referendum) and say, 'Just kidding,'" said Board President Phil Pritzker. "We can't sustain current programming beyond this year."

Board member Arlen Gould also warned of painful cutbacks in staff and programs if voters don't support the referendum.

"It will not be good for our children, it will not be good for our home values and it will not be good for our staff," he said. "With little help from the state and no help from the federal government, we are on our own."

Board member Larry Krulewich pointed to feedback the district received during two state of the schools meetings held in October that

shows how the community wants expanded programs for school children. But the district, already facing a \$4.6 million deficit in its education fund this school year, is in no financial shape to provide them. Asking voters to pay for more programs is the only way, he said.

"The easiest thing for us to say is we don't want to be branded as people who won't raise taxes and make cuts," he said. "Let the people decide if they are willing to pay for programs. The only way to give you a chance to fund programs is to put it on the ballot."

Board members said the increase in taxes is needed, in part, because of the state-mandated tax cap. District 21 asked voters in 1989 for a tax increase that would have kept the district afloat financially, but tax cap laws imposed in 1994 severely limited the district's ability to collect the same taxes that voters approved five years earlier.

Besides the limited revenues the district receives, board members also pointed to rising costs in funding school operations. The district is anticipating a 15 percent to 20 percent increase in health-care costs for staff. Other rising costs, like increases in transportation, are surpassing the amount the district can collect in property taxes.

Board members also expressed fear that mandates laid out in the federal No Child Left Behind Act will require increased spending. The federal government, they said, is not providing additional funding to pay for those mandates.

The district is facing a \$4.6 million deficit in the education fund at the end of the current school year, with deficits increasing in the future.
(Continued on page 12)

Homeowners Continued from page 5

ture. The education fund pays for the school district's daily operating expenses, including teacher salaries.

The Board Finance Committee, made up of board members Pritzker, Gould, Krulewich and Ellen Clark, also is working on a cost-cutting plan to eliminate the deficits. The plan is based on the assumption that the referendum will fail. It outlines ways to cut \$9 million from the school budget over a three-year period. The plan has not been finalized, and committee members hope to get a working version together by March.

However, it is clear any cost-cutting proposal will have to include cuts in teaching staff.

"There's no mystery to where the expense side is (for the district)," Gould said. "About 85 percent of our budget is salaries and benefits."

Even if the referendum passes in April, Board Finance Committee members say their work will be expanded. It is the intent of the committee to continue to look at spending in the district to provide better educational programs.

"This is not made with the intention of keeping the status quo," Pritzker said. "We

are proud of our programs and our staff, but we do not simply want to maintain what we have. A great deal involves significantly improving our product, which is a quality education."

The immediate impact of the tax increase, if it passes, is not yet clear. The board must decide whether it wants to phase in the increase over a period of years or ask for the entire increase at once. Superintendent Gary Mical said that decision should be made before the election.

"If you move in (the phase-in) direction, it will certainly be part of the campaign to the public," he said.

Board member William Harrison agreed that the voters need to know the tax impact before they cast their ballots.

"In an honest relationship with the public, we need to make that decision," he said.

The taxes on a home with a market value of \$200,000 will increase by \$97.87 next year without approval of the referendum. If 50 cents is added to the tax rate next year, taxes on the same home will increase by \$347.07. Taxes would not go up as high if the board decides to phase in the increase over a longer period of time.

Dog issue causes board to pause on day care

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-23-03

The possibly dangerous mixture of dogs and children prompted the Wheeling Village Board to delay a vote on a proposed home day-care center.

Trustees tabled their final decision on whether Lolita Kadukov, of 24 Redwood Terrace, can open her home day-care center when Kadukov appeared before the Village Board at its Jan. 13 meeting with a positive recommendation from the Plan Commission to run the service in her home. Some trustees were bothered by some of the information they received from the Plan Commission's meeting on the woman's request for a business license.

Sheldon Aberman, who lives directly behind Kadukov's home at 21 Willow Terrace, told plan commissioners that his dog has bitten someone in the past. Aberman said he supported Kadukov's business, but he also expressed concerns about the children sliding their hands through the 4-foot chain-

link fence separating the two yards. Commissioners shared that concern and told Kadukov that she would need to erect a 6-foot stockade fence between the properties before the business can open.

Trustees said they want to know more about Aberman's dog before they make their decision.

"What happens if it gets loose?" asked Village President Greg Klatecki. "If the owner says it bites, to me, it's an accident waiting to happen."

Macie Aberman, Sheldon Aberman's mother, lives with her son and said the dog is aging and has not bitten anyone in years.

"I'm more concerned about other dogs in the neighborhood," she said.

Aberman said she and her son went to the Plan Commission meeting because of the natural curiosity between children and dogs. They wanted to make sure there was separation between the two.

"I know you can't let children poke their hands through a fence, and you can't let a dog poke through

a fence," she said. "I wanted to make sure everybody is protected."

Trustee Dean Argiris also was disappointed with the way Kadukov answered the five questions required to apply for her permit. Anyone requesting a special-use permit must answer the questions, which are designed to make sure the proposed use will not negatively impact the character of the neighborhood. Kadukov gave "yes" and "no" answers to the questions.

"How can I sit up here and make a final decision without these answers?" Argiris asked.

Argiris was even more critical toward village staff members and asked why they allowed Kadukov to submit such limited responses.

Kadukov is the first Wheeling resident to ask for a home day care since the Village Board approved new regulations to the home day-care ordinance in November. Trustees limited the number of children allowed to be cared for from 12 to eight and also allowed for one assistant to be hired to help in the home.

Districts may choose their OWN HOLIDAYS

By KAREN SHOFFNER
STAFF WRITER

Jan 23, 2003

Getting the day off from school in honor of certain historic figures could become a thing of the past.

State education officials would like local school districts to have more say over whether they should be in session on certain legal holidays. The holidays in question are those honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President Abraham Lincoln, Casimir Pulaski, Christopher Columbus and veterans of foreign wars.

Officials say the change is for the benefit of the schools.

"The big thing is they're going through a paperwork process for something they'll get automatically," Lee Milner, spokesman for the Illinois State Board of Education, said.

And there are a lot of school districts automatically getting waivers for one or more of the five aforementioned mandated state holidays. Since 1995, when the current waiver process began, 745, or nearly 84 percent, of Illinois school districts have been granted relief from some of them.

All school districts seeking relief must agree to provide instruction about the individuals being honored in lieu of observing the holidays.

According to a report from the State Board of Education, requests to use those days for purposes other than a holiday increased the most of any waivers sought, both in the number of petitions for waivers received and in the num-

ber of applicants seeking modifications for the first time. A total of 301 holiday petitions have been approved since February, 2002, with 102 districts submitting requests for the first time.

District 21 Board President Phil Pritzker

ber of applicants seeking modifications for the first time. A total of 301 holiday petitions have been approved since February, 2002, with 102 districts submitting requests for the first time.

More districts, 709 of them, received a waiver for Lincoln's Birthday than any other holiday, although they still observe his birthday on Presidents' Day, a federal holiday. More than 500 districts were granted a waiver for Casimir Pulaski Day, recognized only in Illinois and celebrated the first Monday in March.

About 30 percent of districts requested waivers for King Day in January and Columbus Day in October and 25 percent for Veterans' Day in November.

Wheeling Elementary School District 21 has received waivers to keep students in school on Lincoln's Birthday and Pulaski Day. Board President Phil Pritzker said it makes sense to teach students about those people and their accomplishments in the classroom.

"It seems a bit odd to celebrate these people away from school," he said. "From an educational point of view, it makes a lot of sense to stay in school and teach about these people. To students, a day off from school is just a day off from school."

Students spent an hour a week with Sgt. John Teevens of the Wheeling Police Department learning about drugs, what they do and how to deal with peer pressure.

While the effectiveness of the DARE program is frequently questioned, Principal John Patti said learning you don't have to do something just because others are doing it is a valuable lesson.

"If it helps just one or two kids, it's worth it," Patti said.

Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 will waive observance of Lincoln's Birthday but will observe Pulaski Day as a holiday March 3. Having the Monday holiday works well with the district schedule. The Thursday and Friday of the previous week are parent-teacher conference and teacher institute days. And Aptakisic eighth-graders visit Washington, D.C., the weekend of Feb. 28 to March 2.

"It makes a nice (three-day) weekend for families right after we have conferences and institute day," said Diane Holder, District 102 assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

For the first time, students in Kildeer-Countryside School District 96 will get President's Day off this year, but they have to attend school on Lincoln's Birthday. The district received a waiver to make the switch. The waiver is granted for five years, but school officials can decide each year which day will be a nonattendance day.

Waiving the waiver process would save school districts some work, said Sharon Kramer, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in District 96.

"It was paperwork, it was a public hearing, you had to post it in the newspaper so many days before the hearing,

Schools and state holidays

The five state holidays of the 2002-2003 school year in which Illinois school districts could opt to stay open, per state approval, are Columbus Day (Oct. 14), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (Jan. 20), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12) and Casimir Pulaski Day (March 3).

Of 18 northwest suburban school districts surveyed, 11 opted to close their schools for Columbus Day, Veterans Day and King's Birthday and remain open on Lincoln's Birthday and Pulaski Day during the 2002-2003 school year. These districts included:

- Wheeling District 21
- Arlington Heights District 25
- Cary District 26
- Schaumburg District 54
- Mount Prospect District 57
- Elk Grove District 59
- Lake Zurich District 95
- High School District 211 (Palatine)
- High School District 214 (Arlington Heights)
- Barrington District 220
- Community District 300 (Carpentersville)

Seven school districts in the northwest suburbs had a 2002-2003 schedule that varied from the one listed above. Below are these districts, listed with the day or days of variance.

- Fox River Grove District 3: closed Pulaski Day
- Palatine District 15: open Veterans Day
- Prospect Heights District 23: open Columbus Day
- Kildeer District 96: closed Pulaski Day
- Aptakisic-Tripp District 102: closed Pulaski Day
- Crystal Lake District 155: closed Pulaski Day
- Huntley District 158: open Veterans Day, closed Pulaski Day

In addition, all the schools were off for the federally mandated school holidays of Labor Day, Thanksgiving, winter break, President's Day and Memorial Day during the school year.

Source: Web sites of school districts listed

Pioneer Press / CHC

you had to let ... the teachers union know, and fill out how you would commemorate the (event) in school if you held school on the holiday," Kramer said. "The paperwork and the process were cumbersome."

State Rep. Kathleen L. "Kay" Wojcik, R-56th, is an advocate for local control and would be in favor of giving more say to local school districts and boards.

"Local school boards know

better what's good for their children. I think they have too many days off. Yes, I would vote for local school boards to make decisions for their children," she said.

State legislators are expected to consider the state education officials' proposal during the new legislative session that began last week.

— Staff writers Casey Moffitt and Kimberly Fornek contributed to this report.



Fifth-grader Kevin Galanto receives his certificate for completing the semester-long DARE program at Booth Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21.

Dog issue causes board to pause on day care

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-23-03

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Districts may choose their own holidays

By KAREN SHOFFNER
STAFF WRITER

Jan 23, 2003

Getting the day off from

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Schools and state holidays

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Children can pick up on the language and better grasp the sequence of events, Sikevitz said.

The storytellers cover the tale's plot but also detour to talk about the pig's way of life.

Center so children and their parents could climb aboard for story-related fun.

Lana Weiner, the Northbrook center's executive director, helped establish the StoryBus program with museum

37-foot long Winnebago carries hands-on exhibits that let children act out classic tales like "The Three Little Pigs" and "The Little Red Hen."

Sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Foundation and

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District 21 students graduate from drug resistance program

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-27-03

Booth Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling Township District 21 recently graduated 88 fifth-graders in its latest DARE program class.

This year's Drug Abuse Resistance Education ceremony had a special element in guest speaker Tom Zbikowski, a star football player at Buffalo Grove High School. Zbikowski delivered a message of the uselessness of drugs and how they never help anyone succeed.

"If it helps just one or two kids, it's worth it."

John Patti,
Booth Tarkington
Elementary principal

Students spent an hour a week with Sgt. John Teevans of the Wheeling Police Department learning about drugs, what they do and how to deal with peer pressure.

While the effectiveness of the DARE program is frequently questioned, Principal John Patti said learning you don't have to do something just because others are doing it is a valuable lesson.

"If it helps just one or two kids, it's worth it," Patti said.



Fifth-grader Kevin Galanto receives his certificate for completing the semester-long DARE program at Booth Tarkington Elementary School in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21.

Mical explains budget woes

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-30-03

Gary Mical, superintendent of Wheeling Elementary School District 21, is wasting no time trying to educate the community about the district's finances.

DISTRICT 21

Since the District 21 Board passed a measure to put a referendum to increase school taxes at its Jan. 16 meeting, Mical has spoken with parent-teacher organizations at Longfellow and Twain elementary schools, as well as with the Wheeling Garden Club and Historical Society.

On Monday, Mical went to the Pavilion Senior Center to address the Wheeling chapter of the AARP, where he showed a video outlining district programs and finances, and then took questions from the audience.

"This is not a pitch," Mical told the chapter. "I'm not going to ask you to vote for the referendum on April 1. But I think it's important to give you the information."

Although Mical said he was not asking for support on the referendum, he did talk about some of the consequences if it failed. He told seniors in order to balance the deficit in the education fund, the School Board will have to cut about \$9 million in a two-year period. The education fund is expected to run a deficit of \$4.6 million by the end of the current school year.

"It's a phenomenal amount of money," he said. "It's going to mean a lot of job losses, it's going to impact children and it's going to affect home values."

Mical also made two "reluctant" promises if the referendum passes.

"We're going to look to continue to improve our school

system, and we're going to look at how to spend money," he said. "We need to do that now."

Mical also said District 21 is not the only school district in Illinois facing financial difficulties. Sixty-one percent of Illinois school districts have budget deficits, he said, and 80 percent expect to be in the same situation next year.

Dolly Hein, president of the AARP Wheeling chapter, introduced Mical with a warm welcome by the members.

"He's only been in this job for six months, so we have to give a little leeway," she said.

Chapter members seemed pleased to have the opportunity to talk to Mical and ask questions about the district. Mical was asked to explain where staff and program cuts might be made, if changes were going to be made with bilingual education, how the district will look at the east-side space issue and what

would happen if the state appoints a Financial Oversight Committee to run the district's finances.

Mical said if an oversight committee is appointed, which would happen if deficits continue to grow, the committee will essentially run the district.

"They will make all the decisions," he said. "The board has no say, the administration has no say, and the community has no say."

Some members asked if the district was considering asking senior citizens to volunteer at the schools as reading tutors or supervisors. Mical said it is something he wants to pursue.

Some AARP members even said they were ready to support the referendum.

Mical said he called Hein to arrange the meeting with the AARP. Mical said he believes



Richard Bajajich/Pioneer Press

District 21 Superintendent Gary Mical addresses the Wheeling AARP.

the district and the senior population do not fully understand each others' needs.

"I called Dolly (Hein) and told her that I wanted to get to the seniors, and we set up the meeting," he said. "I've spoken with the Garden Club and the Historical Society, both with a lot of seniors, because I really wanted to reach out to them."

District 21 likely to 'phase in' tax hike if OK'd

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-30-03

The Wheeling District 21 Elementary School Board will be asked to phase in its 50-cent tax rate increase over a period of three years to ease the burden on taxpayers.

The Board Finance Committee, made up of board members Phil Pritzker, Ellen Clark, Arlen Gould and Larry Krulwich, all agreed phasing in the rate increase, if approved by voters April 1, will help both taxpayers and the district.

"We'll be in better financial shape with the phase-in," said Dan Cash, assistant superintendent of finances. "It will give us more years outside the tax cap."

The phase-in plan — which would ask for a 35-cent increase to the tax rate in next year's tax bills, keep that rate on the second year and add a 15-cent increase the third year — would put more money into reserve funds, Cash said.

Cash said exempting the district from the tax cap

over two years gives the district the ability to compound its new revenue. The district will be able to increase the tax rate on properties with higher equalized assessed values, putting more money into district coffers. Cash said the plan should keep the district in the black well into the future.

A homeowner with a house worth a fair market value of \$200,000 would receive a District 21 property tax increase of about \$98 next year without a referendum. If the referendum passes, the same homeowner can expect to pay a total increase of about \$340 next year instead. In the third-year, 15-cent rate increase, that homeowner would have to pay an additional \$104 to the school district.

While the committee decided to phase in the increase, it also looked at more information on the budget deficit plan. The plan will outline ways the district can cut costs and eliminate its deficits — estimated at \$4.6 million in the education fund by the end of the school year. The committee elected to create a plan that will cut close to \$9.5 million from the budget over two years.

This plan will include cuts in teaching staff — up to 83 teachers. Nearly 85 percent of the education fund is used to pay for teacher salaries and benefits.

The committee asked administrators to project classroom sizes in each school with the cuts. The committee toyed with the idea of maintaining classroom sizes in lower-performing schools.

However, those projections showed classrooms with as many as 40 to 49 students in Longfellow, Poe and Tarkington elementary schools by the 2005-06 school year, while classrooms in Whitman, Twain and Field elementary schools would average between 20 and 24 students. Committee members suggested the cuts be spread throughout the district.

"We have to look at a different way to put resources toward achievement," Pritzker said.

Superintendent Gary Mical agreed.

"It would be like penalizing them for scoring higher," he said.

The committee hopes to complete a working deficit reduction plan by the Feb. 20 meeting of the entire District 21 School Board.

Study shows big growth in Dist. 21 Hispanic population

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-24-03

The Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 melting pot is steadily changing its recipe. What was once of pinch of Hispanic is now a dash with an eye for becoming the main ingredient.

A recent demographic study shows the local, booming Hispanic population will continue its slow takeover of the majority

student body in District 21. If and before it does, the district will face a strong challenge to address the unique needs of those students and the schools they'll attend.

Field, Frost, Twain and Whitman elementary schools all have a predominantly Hispanic student population. Most of those students filter into Holmes Middle School. All five of those schools are recognized by par-

ents and the school board as "lower-achieving" because of language, economic and cultural gaps that hinder the learning process.

The district already hosts one of the 10 largest programs for English-language learners in Illinois. That program will likely grow along with the local Hispanic population.

The numbers tell the tale. At the time of the 1998 school

report cards, the district's melting pot recipe stood at 67.7 percent white compared to 22.6 percent Hispanic. The gap closed dramatically by the most recent, 2002 report cards — 57.5 percent white to 32.1 percent Hispanic.

The 32.1 percent is twice the state average for Hispanic population in a school district. The Hispanic population percentage has grown at least every year since the 1998 report card by

nearly 2.4 percent per year. If that pace holds, Hispanics will become the district's prevailing demographic within the next decade.

The numbers all add up to a district with a different approach in the future. Superintendent Gary Mical said that approach will be based on community input from the Superintendent's Advisory Committee of residents and the school board. All of it will

occur in long-range planning for staff, instruction and finances.

"Not only should we be looking at that, but we're going to have to devote specific attention to it," said Mical of the changing student body. "There will be a lot more that will come out of this."

Discussions on the topic could begin next month with the Superintendent's Advisory Committee report and school board meeting, Mical said.

New panel to track progress of park

1-24-03
Wheeling will establish an ad hoc committee to help maintain and improve the village's new Friendship Park. Officials dedicated the park Oct. 25 after working more than four years to develop a plaza at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue. To ensure the park will continue to be an attractive focal point for the village, a two-member committee will make recommendations to the village board for two years involving upkeep, improvement and public use of the park. Village President Greg Klutecki will appoint the two members, which can include trustees, the village manager, village staff, or members of the public.

Judicial

GOP-led Senate star

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Senate Republicans on Thursday broke a Democratic logjam that has prevented President Bush from installing conservatives in important federal judgeships, putting Miguel Estrada on a path that eventually could make him the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.

In a sign of the GOP's newfound power from last year's midterm elections, the president and his

Wheeling may assume Kmart site to preserve plan

Jan 28, 2003

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As Wheeling continues the push to improve its image, concerns mount over the fate of the vacant Kmart on Dundee Road.

A flea market manager has approached village officials about locating there and the village fears that a discount mattress store or other low-cost outlet might also cover the spot, said Village Manager Wally Douthwaite.

Trustees will decide Monday whether to take over Kmart's lease to

ensure that whatever happens to the property fits with plans to transform Wheeling into a "community of choice."

"We want to have some options so that we can be sure a quality tenant will go in there," Douthwaite said.

Kmart shuttered the store at 780 W. Dundee Road as one of its 284 closings after declaring bankruptcy last March.

The discount retailer sold the interest in its lease to the Kimco Realty Corp. real estate investment trust company, which is shopping for a tenant.

"Our concern is that Kimco may be more interested in residual rent income than the quality of the tenant," Douthwaite said. "We would like to have some control over that property."

The village is considering paying \$25,000 per year for a lease arrangement that would allow Wheeling to pick any new tenant to sublease, earn a potential profit and be in a better position to later buy the store.

The property could play a critical role in the village's redevelopment plans.

For the first time in decades,

Wheeling is completing a new comprehensive land-use plan that will set the village's development agenda for the next 20 years.

The goal is to upgrade Wheeling's identity as a "merely affordable" town.

"About the only risk is that we couldn't find a user for that big box," Douthwaite said of the 100,000-square-foot Kmart site. "And we'd be sitting on it and paying rent."

A sagging economy has stymied the expansion of "big boxes" and Kmart this week announced it will close 326 more stores, including a

Super K in Elk Grove Village.

Wheeling's risk is not big, though, Douthwaite said.

"Because, should we decide that a big-box user isn't the highest and best use anymore and would want to go in there and knock it down—it's a very attractive property," he said.

The site is bound by the primary arteries of Elmhurst and Dundee roads and is rare as a commercial site fronting Dundee Road.

Wheeling would pay about 25 cents per square foot for the Kmart in a market where commercial

properties are leasing for about \$8 per square foot, Douthwaite said.

"So, even if we sublease it for \$4, we're making a profit," he said. "And if we should want to acquire it for future development at a discounted rate, we wouldn't have to deal with the property owner trying to decide if a sale would mean losing out on the monetary value of the lease. We would control who the tenant would be in there."

The village board will vote on assuming Kmart's lease at its meeting 7:30 p.m. Monday at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Builder's project takes punches by planners

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-27-03
Wheeling won't support a condominium high-rise described by village planners as an unattractive fire trap surrounded by pavement.

The Wheeling Plan Commission Thursday pulled no punches in criticizing a proposal from Tantillo Hornes to build three, 10-story condo buildings at Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road.

The public hearing on the proposal was the culmination of more than a year's worth of meetings with village officials to perfect the design. Plan commissioners said they were disappointed with the result.

"You have what we had previously called the crown jewel of Milwaukee Avenue, and what you've done is made it just some more condos," Commissioner David Cantwell said. "And I have

serious fire concerns. If someone gets trapped up there, we can't get to them."

Commissioners said the village wants to see the prime 7.8 acres become a restaurant or other visual attraction that could be a hallmark for the village. They were pleased that architect John Green revised some 11-story, mostly glass designs presented in November. Yet they said aspects of the new plan looked plastic

and had too little parking, while also having too little green space.

"Wheeling has too many condos and townhomes as it is, and I don't see anything here that tells me why we should build more," Commissioner Ray Lang said.

Green told the commission his team welcomed the input.

"We don't take offense when you say the building isn't there yet," he said. "It's one of the reasons this is a concept plan."

Green responded to concerns that the buildings' heights would make them inaccessible to the fire department's equipment by explaining that roof levels built at 75 feet would give fire ladders access to lower floors.

Commissioners were disturbed that the developer hoped for permission to take seven years to complete the complex.

They agreed to continue the hearing Feb. 27.

Wheeling business owners and library officials object to proposed tax district

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1-28-03
Fear is rumbling through Wheeling's business community over concerns the village is preparing to toss businesses out of their properties.

The source of that fear is the same thing prompting an outcry from Indian Trails Public Library District officials who accuse the village of

plans to deprive the library of tax dollars that keep library shelves stocked.

The library officials and business owners packed a standing-room-only public hearing Monday to question Wheeling's plans to set up a new tax increment financing district on its north side.

In the TIF district proposed for the area from Lake-Cook Road to Meadow Lane and Northgate Park-

way to the Des Plaines River, the village would freeze the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years.

Wheeling would use the taxes paid for any increases in tax value above the frozen amount to promote redevelopment and pay for infrastructure improvements in the tax financing district.

Owners of insurance agencies, restaurants and other businesses

showed up en masse to protest classifications of their businesses as blighted or obsolete.

"I think most of us land owners are here with the assumption that our property will be condemned and we'll all be out," said Charles DeLachapelle of RSVP Direct. "I think that's our big fear."

Trustees assured the uneasy crowd that the TIF district would be set up as a tool to make money avail-

able to current business owners and potential developers to transform the area.

"Our hope is that everyone will take this and do facade improvements and otherwise improve their property," said board Chairman Protem Trustee Patrick Horcher. "This is not supposed to be used to push any businesses out."

Still, many questioned how the village could know it needs financing

help for an area without completing a land-use plan intended to establish a redevelopment blueprint for Wheeling.

Indian Trails library officials said they would protest any plans to siphon their tax dollars before the land plan is approved this spring.

Trustees said they will consider ways to reimburse the library and other taxing bodies before voting on the TIF in 14 to 90 days.

Wheeling police issue scam warnings

The Wheeling Police Department is warning consumers about two different scams that have victimized several residents: a deceptive utility repairs scam and a sweepstakes scam.

The first involves two people masquerading as utility-company employees, claiming they need to check utilities because of a problem in the neighborhood. While one distracts the resident, the other enters the home and steals valuables.

Dorann Swanson, a Wheeling police officer, suggests residents call the utility company to verify any repairman's requests to enter a home. Legitimate repairmen will carry proper identification and will not object if you verify.

The other scam involved a telemarketing sweepstakes. One resident was told by a telemarketer she won money from the Canadian lottery. The resident was asked to send a check to pay for the taxes on the prize. After several months and another phone call asking for money, the resident realized she was scammed.

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1-31-03
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Six people will be seeking three seats on the Wheeling Village Board. Trustees Judy Abruscato, Robert Heer and Patrick Horcher are all looking to be re-elected. They will be challenged by Plan Commissioners Ken Brady and Pam Dorband. Steven Telow also joined the race.

Five people will be looking for three seats on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board this year. Ellen Clark, Pam Becker Dean and Larry Krulewich are all looking to hold onto their seats. They will be challenged by Katherine Edmonds and Stacey Horcher.

The Wheeling Park District will also have a contested race this spring. Board members Dennis Drake and Cheri Klumpp are looking to be re-elected. William Hein, Jonathan Kolssak and Keith Pecka are challenging the incumbents. Board member Bill Mattes decided against running again.

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Swanson suggests people ask for written information about any sweepstakes prizes and confirm them with the Better Business Bureau or the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Affairs Office. Swanson also suggests people never give out their credit card, bank account or Social Security numbers over the phone unless they initiated the call.

For more information or to report suspicious behavior, call the Wheeling Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Department at (817) 459-2693.

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Only two people have filed for three seats on the Indian Trails Public Library Board of Trustees. Larry Cahall and Patricia Murray both filed seeking another term. Trustee Gwendolyn Barlow did not file a petition, after learning she received a promotion, which would require her to work more evening and travel more, said Tamiye Meehan, library director. Meehan said potential write-in candidates can file before March 28. If no write-in candidate is elected, the board will appoint a new member after the election.

High School District 214 has three candidates running for three four-year terms, and two candidates seeking the board's sole two-year term. Art Gollberg is challenging incumbent Stan Eisenhammer for the two-year term.

Local Focus

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Former priest sentenced to 15 years in prison

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer Jan 31, 2003

'Horrible' abuse testimony helps increase punishment in child pornography case

More than two decades of manipulating and molesting young boys while escaping prosecution finally caught up with former Roman Catholic priest Vincent McCaffrey on Thursday.

The one-time associate pastor of St. Joseph the Worker church in Wheeling was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison on child pornography charges nearly two months after admitting he molested at least 14 young boys under his care in the

1970s and 1980s.

Although the pornography charges were unrelated to his abuse, prosecutors used the past crimes — none of which were ever prosecuted — to ratchet up a sentence that could have been as few as two years had McCaffrey's victims not come forward.

Several victims gave written statements and five testified during a sentencing hearing Dec. 9. McCaffrey, 50, of Chicago, took the stand

during that hearing, admitted his crimes and acknowledged he has a sexual disorder that can be treated but not cured.

U.S. District Judge John Darrah pondered the admissions as well as the painful words of McCaffrey's now-adult victims and announced his decision Thursday in a courtroom that included McCaffrey and at least three victims.

"Their testimony was as stark and as tragic and as horrifying as any-

thing I've heard in this court," the judge said.

"He took from these children perhaps one of a child's most precious attributes — innocence."

As the sentence was announced, McCaffrey, wearing an orange prison jumpsuit over a baggy gray sweater, maintained the same dejected expression he has held through several court appearances.

He has been in custody since last June when U.S. Customs agents

found thousands of child pornography images on his computer and in his home. He was caught when an overseas Web site he subscribed to was raided. He pleaded guilty in September.

Since the former priest's arrest, Assistant U.S. Attorney T. Markus Funk uncovered evidence of McCaffrey's past sexual abuse. The evidence hiked the range of McCaffrey's possible sentence to between 30 years and life under federal sentencing guide-

lines. But because the maximum federal penalty for possession of child pornography is 15 years, Darrah had to give a sentence less than the guidelines demanded. Darrah scheduled a new hearing Tuesday to determine if a five-year sentence he gave McCaffrey on one count of receiving child pornography can be served consecutively, thereby extending the sentence to 20 years. Several of McCaffrey's victims had asked Darrah to give a life sentence.

See PRISON on PAGE 11

Continued from Page 1

But at least one was pleased with the outcome.

"He'll be real old," said Mike, who, like the other victims, testified under only his first name to shield his identity. "Little boys won't be able to come around him for a long time. He hurt a lot of people. It's a long time coming. It's a long time coming."

McCaffrey's attorney, Thomas Royce, said McCaffrey has tried to keep his sexual disorder under control with therapy and medication. Royce blamed the Archdiocese of Chicago for not doing more to help in the past and for continuing to return McCaffrey to parish ministry

in the 1980s even after he was treated for a sexual addiction to young boys.

Archdiocesan officials have said they followed the church protocol of the time and tried to get McCaffrey help. And when a new protocol was put in place by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in the early 1990s, McCaffrey was forced to resign, church officials said.

Royce took issue with prosecutors using McCaffrey's prior criminal acts against him years after the fact. Royce said the 10-year statute of limitations had expired on all the molestation accusations, but federal sentencing guidelines unfairly allow prosecutors to use even uncharged crimes at sen-

tencing time.

In court, Royce said McCaffrey is repentant and haunted by his actions. "He said to me this: 'Do you think I really wanted to do this? I would have suffered any other pain than the greatest pain I inflicted on these people.'"

McCaffrey's niece, identified only as Katie, took the stand Thursday to tell Darrah how long she wanted McCaffrey in prison.

"I want to see him go to jail for his natural-born life for three reasons — I have three beautiful little boys," she said. "I want them to grow up with a chance for a happy childhood and not to let a predator shatter their life."

Wheeling village government may lease former Kmart store

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-30-03
The Wheeling Village Board is trying to take over the lease of the former Kmart building to give the village an upper hand in redeveloping the area.

Wheeling trustees say taking over the lease now could save the village a lot of money if the village wants to condemn the property in the future for a downtown redevelopment project.

The Village Board is expected to take control of the lease by paying Kimco, the real estate trust that owns the property, \$810,000. The village would also pay rent on the property, at a cost of about 24

Douthwaite said the Village Board may consider looking for a tenant to fill the building with a short-term lease in order to recoup losses on the lease and rent. Douthwaite said commercial space can be leased at rates as high as \$8 per square foot.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said there are interested parties who might be willing to sign a short-term lease agreement.

"I'm confident we can do it," he said. "We're not looking for a profit, but we're looking to recoup what we've spent."

Trustees feared Kimco would find a tenant looking for a long-term lease, similar to the agreement with Kmart. Kmart signed its lease in 1987,

said. "There's a lot of upside to the village."

The proposal comes while village officials are putting the finishing touches on a new comprehensive plan, which calls for a large redevelopment project in the area where the Kmart building stands. Village officials also received a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to help pay for planning costs of the redevelopment plan. Trustees say taking over the lease will put the village in a good position to redevelop the area.

"We have to start thinking more like business people and be conscious of saving money," Lehmann said. "This is still cheaper than buying it out. We're saving money on

Condo proposal does not impress Plan Commission

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-30-03 Press

The Wheeling Plan Commission is disappointed with a proposed development for the Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road intersection.

At its Jan. 23 meeting, the commission asked the developer to keep working on the proposal.

The developer, Tantillo Homes, has been working with the Plan Commission for more than a year to build a condominium complex on the 7.8-acre site. Despite all the work, Tantillo is not much closer to realizing its project.

Commissioners had some serious concerns about the project, including the developer's requested timetable for construction. Tantillo had requested the village allow it seven years to construct the three-building, 100-unit complex.

"I'm disturbed by the seven years (request)," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said. "There is no way I would give approval to any developer to go seven years."

The village is hoping for a spectacular project for Tantillo's land and the land directly north, the Wedgwood Riding Center. Smith Family Construction has an agreement with the riding center to develop it in the future.

Tantillo had asked the village to go ahead with the plan, since Smith is a few years behind it.

That gave Shapiro another reason to ask

about the construction period.

"Why do you need seven years when you were complaining that Smith was a few years behind you?" he asked.

Commissioner Steve Boime wondered if Tantillo has the capability to build such a large complex. Tantillo has never built anything to this scale, and has mainly built town houses. Tantillo has built some condominium buildings, about three or four stories high. Tantillo proposes 10-story buildings for this project.

Since the combination of Tantillo's and Smith's land is a major gateway into Wheeling, the village wants a high-quality project there. The village has asked Tantillo and Smith to work together so both projects will be harmonious with each other.

Commissioner Ray Lang said it's difficult to approve anything on one property without having any idea what will be going in just to the north. "This is too huge of a piece of the puzzle," he said. "I want to know what's going on up to the north."

Other commissioners complained too much of the lot would be paved over, the buildings are not overly attractive, that it's too dense and that there is no commercial aspect to the plan.

"There is nothing special about this," Commissioner David Cantwell said. "We want something spectacular. This is average."

The Plan Commission asked the developer to work on some of the issues it brought up and return before the commission on Feb. 27.

Former priest sentenced to 15 years in

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer Jan 31, 2003

More than two decades of manipulating and molesting young boys while escaping prosecution finally caught up with former Roman Catholic priest Vincent McCaffrey on Thursday.

The one-time associate pastor of St. Joseph the Worker church in Wheeling was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison on child pornography charges nearly two months after admitting he molested at least 14 young boys under his care in the

1970s and 1980s.

Although the pornography charges were unrelated to his abuse, prosecutors used the past crimes — none of which were ever prosecuted — to ratchet up a sentence that could have been as few as two years had McCaffrey's victims not come forward.

Several victims gave written statements and five testified during a sentencing hearing Dec. 9. McCaffrey, 50, of Chicago, took the stand

during that hearing, admitted his crimes and acknowledged he has a sexual disorder that can be treated but not cured.

U.S. District Judge John Darrah pondered the admissions as well as the painful words of McCaffrey's now-adult victims and announced his decision Thursday in a courtroom that included McCaffrey and at least three victims.

"Their testimony was as stark and as tragic and as horrifying as any-

thing I've heard in this court," the judge said.

"He took from these children perhaps one of a child's most precious attributes — innocence."

As the sentence was announced, McCaffrey, wearing an orange prison jumpsuit over a baggy gray sweater, maintained the same dejected expression he has held through several court appearances.

He has been in custody since last June when U.S. Customs agents

found thousands of child pornography images on his computer at his home. He was caught with an overseas Web site he subscribed to. He pleaded guilty in October.

Since the former priest's Assistant U.S. Attorney T. M. Funk uncovered evidence of McCaffrey's past sexual abuse, the evidence ranged from McCaffrey's 15-year sentence to between 30 years to life under federal sentencing

Continued from Page 1

But at least one was pleased with the outcome.

"He'll be real old," said Mike, who, like the other victims, testified under only his first name to shield his identity. "Little boys won't be able to come around him for a long time. He hurt a lot of people. It's a long time coming. It's a long time coming."

McCaffrey's attorney, Thomas Royce, said McCaffrey has tried to keep his sexual disorder under control with therapy and medication. Royce blamed the Archdiocese of Chicago for not doing more to help in the past and for continuing to return McCaffrey to parish ministry

in the 1980s even after he was treated for a sexual addiction to young boys.

Archdiocesan officials have said they followed the church protocol of the time and tried to get McCaffrey help. And when a new protocol was put in place by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in the early 1990s, McCaffrey was forced to resign, church officials said.

Royce took issue with prosecutors using McCaffrey's prior criminal acts against him years after the fact. Royce said the 10-year statute of limitations had expired on all the molestation accusations, but federal sentencing guidelines unfairly allow prosecutors to use even uncharged crimes at sen-

tencing time.

In court, Royce said McCaffrey is repentant and haunted by his actions. "He said to me this: 'Do you think I really wanted to do this? I would have suffered any other pain than the greatest pain I inflicted on these people.'"

McCaffrey's niece, identified only as Katie, took the stand Thursday to tell Darrah how long she wanted McCaffrey in prison.

"I want to see him go to jail for his natural-born life for three reasons — I have three beautiful little boys," she said. "I want them to grow up with a chance for a happy childhood and not to let a predator shatter their life."

Wheeling village government may lease former Kmart store

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board is trying to take over the lease of the former Kmart building to give the village an upper hand in redeveloping the area.

Wheeling trustees say taking over the lease now could save the village a lot of money if the village wants to condemn the property in the future for a downtown redevelopment project.

The Village Board is expected to take control of the lease by paying Kimco, the real estate trust that owns the property, \$810,000. The village would also pay rent on the property, at a cost of about 24 cents per square foot, said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. That would make monthly rent on the 107,000-square-foot building almost \$26,000.

A resolution before the board Monday was tabled. Douthwaite said the village attorney and the Kimco attorney are working on "legal issues in the fine print" of the agreement, but he expects the resolution to come back to the board in its Monday, Feb. 10, meeting.

Douthwaite said the Village Board may consider looking for a tenant to fill the building with a short-term lease in order to recoup losses on the lease and rent. Douthwaite said commercial space can be leased at rates as high as \$8 per square foot.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann said there are interested parties who might be willing to sign a short-term lease agreement.

"I'm confident we can do it," he said. "We're not looking for a profit, but we're looking to recoup what we've spent."

Trustees feared Kimco would find a tenant looking for a long-term lease, similar to the agreement with Kmart. Kmart signed its lease in 1967, and it still has 48 years left.

If the village were to condemn the property for redevelopment, it would have to buy out any lease that is executed, which could easily cost millions of dollars.

Controlling the lease would also give the village a say in who moves into the building.

"This gives us the right to sublet to a business of our choice, and puts us in a better position to condemn, acquire and redevelop," Douthwaite

said. "There's a lot of upside to the village."

The proposal comes as the village officials are putting the finishing touches on a new comprehensive plan, which calls for a large redevelopment project in the area where the Kmart building stands. Village officials also received a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to help pay for planning costs of the redevelopment plan. Trustees say taking over the lease will put the village in a good position to redevelop the area.

"We have to start thinking more like business people and be conscious of saving money," Lehmann said. "This is still cheaper than buying it out. We're saving money either way, although we are being aggressive."

Trustee Robert Heer said the timing is right to take over the lease in order to push the redevelopment plan.

"We have to look beyond and look at the ultimate goal," he said. "We have to get it before somebody sets up shop there."

The Wheeling store was one of 284 Kmart closed when the company filed for bankruptcy last March.

Condo proposal d impress Plan Com

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Jan. 30, 2003 Pioneer Press

The Wheeling Plan Commission is disappointed with a proposed development for the Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road intersection.

At its Jan. 23 meeting, the commission asked the developer to keep working on the proposal.

The developer, Tantilio Homes, has been working with the Plan Commission for more than a year to build a condominium complex on the 7.8-acre site. Despite all the work, Tantilio is not much closer to realizing its project.

Commissioners had some serious concerns about the project, including the developer's requested timetable for construction. Tantilio had requested the village allow it seven years to construct the three buildings and complex.

"I'm disturbed by the seven years (request)," Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said. "There is no way I would give approval to any developer to go seven years."

The village is hoping for a spectacular project for Tantilio's land and the land directly north, the Wedgewood Riding Center. Smith Family Construction has an agreement with the riding center to develop it in the future.

Tantilio had asked the village to go ahead with the plan, since Smith is a few years behind it.

That gave Shapiro another reason to ask

about the construction. "Why do you were complaining behind you?" he

Commissioner Tantilio has the complex. Tantilio has this scale, and Tantilio has buildings, about three proposes 10-story

Since the commission's land is a the village wants work together so

Commissioner approve anything who north. "This is to zle," he said. "I w up to the north."

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The Plan Comm to work on some and return before t

City lifestyle offered at suburban Wheeling location

Feb. 8, 2003

Home shoppers who love the excitement and convenience of city living but want suburban tranquility will be delighted to discover the delights of Astor Place, the Kimball Hill Homes community of townhouses and condominiums in Wheeling.

The recently opened townhouses boast architecture reminiscent of the historic brownstones on Chicago's Astor Street and they evoke a cosmopolitan lifestyle that is popular with professional singles and couples. The location on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling ensures residents will be close to transportation, job centers for major corporations and restaurants, entertainment and shopping.

Brent Gustafson, marketing manager for Kimball Hill Homes, says, "The single-level and two-story homes at Astor Place offer include freedom from exterior maintenance

chores. The Wheeling location offers city-like convenience in the suburbs."

Astor Place is being developed on the site of the former Wheeling Nursery, and the legacy of natural beauty will be maintained throughout the neighborhood. Rolling greenbelts and landscaped grounds will ensure scenic views for residents.

Beyond the park-like setting of the Astor Place neighborhood is a wealth of area highlights that Astor Place residents will enjoy, including restaurants on Milwaukee Avenue, just minutes away. Home to some of the most renowned restaurants in Chicagoland, this "restaurant row" developed more than 160 years ago to serve travelers between Chicago and Milwaukee.

I-94 and Route 53 are 15 minutes away, the Wheeling com-

muter train station is five minutes away, and O'Hare Airport is about 20 minutes from Astor Place. Palwaukee Airport, which serves general aviation and corporate jets, is about five minutes away. Astor Place also is central to some of the best shopping areas in Chicago, including Northbrook Court, Woodfield Shopping Center, Deer Park and the attractions of Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove.

Astor Place will include 120 townhouses in buildings to include four, five or six townhouses. In addition, 128 condominiums will be located in four four-story brick buildings with enclosed garages.

Prices for the townhouses range from \$314,990 to \$347,990, and condominiums are priced from \$214,990 to \$267,990. Three professionally decorated townhouse models are open for viewing.

The three townhouse floor plans range from 1,995 to 2,135 square feet with two bedrooms, two bedrooms and a loft or three bedrooms; formal living and dining rooms; enhanced kitchens; finished lower levels; and two-car attached garages.

The Sheridan, a two-story plan with 2,135 square feet of living space, provides an example of the architectural interest and comfort within each of the homes.

From the graceful entry staircase, visitors can reach the main floor with a living room accented by a bay window and an adjacent dining room. These rooms may be divided by an optional three-sided fireplace. The dining room is partially open to the country kitchen with pantry and optional island as well as the breakfast nook with sliding glass doors to the deck. The main living area

includes a powder room.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has a bay window, walk-in closet and luxury bath with oval tub, separate shower and double-bowl vanity. Two other bedrooms are served by a hall bath. A laundry closet has been located on this floor.

"Flexible space is one of the most popular items on the priority lists of today's buyers, and the recreation rooms in these homes offer this versatility," Gustafson says. "Buyers may opt for another bedroom with an additional full bath in lieu of this recreation room. Another option that may appeal to singles who are pooling their resources to purchase a home is the second master suite which is an alternative to the two secondary bedrooms."

The townhouses include brick exteriors, central air conditioning, a choice of plush wall-to-

wall carpet, pre-wiring for telephones and televisions and energy-saving features.

Residents of Astor Place enjoy freedom from exterior maintenance chores, with a monthly fee covering exterior maintenance of the homes, lawn care and snow removal.

Condominium buyers may select from six plans ranging in size from 1,210 to 1,589 square feet. Designs include one bedroom and one bath, two bedrooms and two baths as well as a den or family room. All condominiums have private balconies one parking space plus individual storage areas in the ground-level enclosed garage.

Astor Place is at 630 S. Milwaukee Avenue, between Hintz and Dundee roads. For more information, call (847) 279-0131 or visit www.kimballhillhomes.com

Study: Neighbors don't mind Palwaukee

BY CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Feb. 20, 2003

The rumble of jet engines from Palwaukee Municipal Airport may not be as much a problem for neighbors as airport officials thought.

Palwaukee has completed its first-ever survey on community attitudes about the airport with surprising results, officials said. They include a mere 16 percent of residential neighbors who complained that airport noise was a strong concern for them.

Also, about 56 percent of participants from Wheeling and Prospect Heights with positive comments about the airport called it a "major asset to the community," while a mere 9.6 percent with negative comments made such suggestions as, "Burn it." However, at least one leading airport critic questions the validity of a survey completed after a year of decreased Palwaukee traffic.

"We know that the runway work was being done this year," Warren

"We know that the runway work was being done this year. If they did this next year, I think they'd get different results. I think their results are typical, coming from the airport."

Warren Sunde, chairman of Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment, said of a project to lengthen Palwaukee's major jet runway

Sunde, chairman of Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment, said of a project to lengthen Palwaukee's major jet runway.

"If they did this next year, I think they'd get different results," Sunde said. "I think their results are typical, coming from the airport."

Airport officials expected they might be criticized for touting results of an airport survey completed by the airport itself, but they insist the results aren't skewed.

"We listed all the positive and negative comments in there," Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said. "We didn't hold anything back. We knew

that if we did this, we'd be looked at more closely, so we made the extra effort to do it right."

The survey asked 365 residents of Wheeling and Prospect Heights the "open-ended" question of whether they think noise at Palwaukee is a concern.

On a scale of 1 to 5, almost 55 percent of residents leaving local post offices and drugstores said airport noise was "not an issue" for them and 16 percent said it "concerns me."

There were varying levels of concern in between, but Rouleau focused on the 16 percent.

"I was pleasantly surprised to see

such a low number," Rouleau said. "We looked at 365 people, most of which lived within a mile of the airport and this is telling us noise isn't as much of a concern as we thought to most people."

The survey also found that 91 percent of people who bought their homes knew Palwaukee existed before they did so.

That might fly in the face of frequent complaints from homeowners saying they didn't previously know the airport was nearby.

"I'm not saying the other people aren't being truthful," Rouleau said. "It's just letting us know that it's not happening to everybody."

Some leaders in Wheeling and Prospect Heights had been calling for a community attitudes survey for as long as 16 years, which is how long the two towns have owned the airport. Robert Mark of Mark Communications, which completed the study, said the key now is using it as a benchmark against future studies to measure improvement.

Palwaukee unit divides to land its mission

BY CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer

The group dedicated to improving the relationship between Palwaukee airport and its neighbors isn't just about noise anymore.

The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council divided itself into three groups with hopes of broadening its effectiveness. The subcommittees will study the overall economic impact the airport has on surrounding communities, new methods of council outreach and, of course, finding noise remedies. Now, the council known as PACE is renewing its search for new members interested in helping it fulfill its mission.

"Each of the three PACE committees has a mission statement that defines their purpose," said PACE Coordinator Robert Mark. "Part of the reason was as much for the committee members' benefit, as the public's understanding of what we are trying to accomplish."

"We've learned in the past six months that without a good statement of purpose, we could easily become sidetracked with other airport issues that appear related, but in the end are not," Mark said.

The mission statements helped council members understand that, despite their level of commitment, there are limits to what PACE can do right now, Mark added. The PACE council was formed last spring as an advisory group to make community recommendations about the future of the airport to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, which has final authority. Members of PACE include elected officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the two towns that own Palwaukee, in addition to residents from those towns Mount Prospect and Glenview.

The PACE council is looking for volunteers willing to commit at least two hours a month to helping resolve issues between Palwaukee and its neighbors.

The council meets the first Thursday of every month at the main airport office on Industrial Drive, just west of Milwaukee Avenue. The next meeting is 7 p.m. March 6. For information, call Mark at (847) 537-2580, Ext. 160.

Ram fund-raiser

The Ram restaurant is hoping to help Wheeling High School's senior class by donating 10 percent from the check of each guest who dines at the Milwaukee Avenue eatery Monday.

Ram staff members have been working with the Class of 2003 to make the event a success. They encourage everyone to visit the restaurant Monday. The Ram is located at 700 N. Milwaukee Ave. The restaurant can be reached at (847) 520-1222.

Palwaukee trying to expand runway

The Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission is trying to find a way to widen a secondary runway that would allow lighter and older jets to fly away from residential homes.

The commission is planning a resurfacing project to runway 12/30 and is hoping to widen it from 50 feet to 100 feet. The extra width would allow some older and noisier jets to use the runway, keeping them from flying over residential areas during landings and takeoffs. Jets using that runway would fly over the industrial park or the Cook County Forest Preserve.

Airport Commissioner and Wheeling Trustee Trevor Lehmann said use of the runway would not reduce overall noise at the airport, but it would lessen the impact of single-event takeoffs and landings that "wake people up at night."

Funding for the project has yet to be secured, said Palwaukee spokesman Robert Mark, and the widening is not scheduled to occur during the upcoming construction season.

The reality: 'The bills still come in'

Luxury items are first to go when the finances get tight

Feb 27, 2003
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

John Eaglesham was making a good living at a major insurance company when he was laid off with 255 other employees in November 2001.

The Wheeling resident had been working as an administrator in the company's software department for more than two years when his job was eliminated. He wasn't surprised. He saw the writing on the wall because of a new selling approach the company was taking in the Southern United States.

Eaglesham said the company was trying to sell two homeowners policies to every one a competitor was selling.

"It was a risky move," he said. "The field offices down there said they didn't like what they were doing and that it was too aggressive."

Not long after the selling strategy was curtailed, massive floods hit Texas and the company paid out on a lot of claims, Eaglesham said. The company then started cutting back on new purchases, especially computer equipment.

Then came the Sept. 11 attacks.

"They said they didn't lose money, but I don't believe it," Eaglesham said. "Everybody lost money."

Managers in Eaglesham's office starting quitting three or four at a time, he said. During a going-away party for one of those managers, Eaglesham approached the woman and asked why she was leaving.

"She said she didn't agree with the company's planning, and told me to keep my head down," he said. "Within a month I was given my papers."

Eaglesham received a severance package, and the service of an outsource company to help him find a new job. He said the outsource company was inundated with people looking for work. Although the job market was still alive at the time, he wasn't getting any good leads.

"It basically went like this: They told me there was a job and I should go see if they were interested in me," he said.

Eaglesham went out on his own to look for work as well, but he still didn't find anyone interested in hiring him.

"The feeling I was getting was that companies were not looking to hire laid-off employees at my salary over a college grad that they could pay a third of what I was making," he said.

Eaglesham decided to look outside his field for work. He began repairing cameras full



Richard Bajjateh/Pioneer Press

John Eaglesham of Wheeling fixes cameras at United Camera and Binocular Repair in Bensenville after being laid off from a national insurance company in November 2001.

time at United Camera and Binocular Repair in Bensenville, making about half as much money as he did with the insurance company. He also began shooting weddings photos for extra income, and his wife began a home day-care business to help make ends meet.

Eaglesham and his wife, who have three children ages 22, 16 and 4, were forced to adjust their spending habits.

The family is down to one car from two. They stay at home more often than going out to eat or the movies. He said some groceries are bought in bulk, and clothes last a little bit longer now.

"Those are the things that are luxuries," he said. "The bills still come in. There's no avoiding those."

Eaglesham is still looking for work in the technology field, but there are far fewer



opportunities these days.

"There used to be five or six pages of jobs in the paper before," he said. "Now there might be two or three, and most are looking for senior engineers that require 12- to 14-hour days. I can do that, but I need to spend time with my family."

Although things are tough, Eaglesham still feels lucky. He knows there are many more people in his shoes — and in worse situations.

"I'm fortunate I'm not in an older age group," he said. "A lot of people don't want to hire anyone over 50."

Eaglesham said the only thing he can do now is hope things turn around and better work comes along.

"They say tough times don't last, tough people do," he said. "Hopefully, things will change and get better."

Agencies riding ups and downs

By CASEY MOFFITT
and KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF WRITERS

Glass said.

Margo Rosal of Randstad said she also has been more successful in the past few months finding work for machine operators and forklift drivers.

"Manufacturing is getting some forward motion," she said.

But some search firms are having trouble keeping their own people employed.

Executive Recruiting Associates in Buffalo Grove, which places people in mid-level to executive-level management positions in a wide variety of industries, has gone from 11 staff members to five in a little more than a year. Three were laid off as a cost-cutting measure. A few chose to leave for personal reasons and were not replaced.

Tom Malloy, owner of Executive Recruiting, says his office is inundated with between 145 and 200 resumes a day. The job openings also arrive, but they come in more like a trickle.

In the third and fourth quarters of last year, Executive had only 40 percent of the sales recorded in the same periods in 2001, Malloy said. The market is so depressed, Malloy said, that he has begun setting revenue targets monthly instead of quarterly.

"And we are trying to do it with less people," he said.

While some local employment and recruiting agencies are finding it easier to place people in jobs, others are feeling the pinch of a depressed economy.

Manufacturing is one sector of the economy that has been picking up, according to two Wheeling employment-service agencies. But the owner of a Buffalo Grove recruiting agency has seen the downside of the economy have a direct effect on his business.

Officials with Wheeling's USA Technical Search and Randstad, both of which help the unemployed find jobs in industry, said they have been more successful in the past few months in finding open positions for their clients.

"Since 9/11 and ... until about two or three months ago, it's been slack," said Zenja "Z" Glass of USA Technical Search. "We have seen it picking up."

Glass said her office has been seeing about 150 people looking for work each day, and the firm has been more successful in finding jobs for many of those people. Glass said USA Technical has been able to find many openings for mechanics and technicians.

"We've had better chances with maintenance workers,"

Chamber to host candidates forum

The Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry will host a Meet the Candidates Luncheon at the Chevy Chase Country Club March 14. Candidates invited include those seeking seats on the Wheeling Village Board.

Fees for the forum, which includes lunch, are \$20 before March 14 and \$25 at the door. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. March 14 with lunch served at noon. To RSVP, mail payment to WPH Chamber at 395 E. Dundee Road, Unit 300, Wheeling, IL 60090. 3-6-03

Survey says: Airport noise no major concern

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

3-6-03

A survey of Wheeling and Prospect Heights residents indicates noise from Palwaukee Municipal Airport is not a concern for many people.

The survey, conducted by Mark Communications, Inc., on Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 in post offices and local drug stores in both communities, asked people for their opinions about the airport and specific airport issues such as noise. The survey polled 365 randomly selected people, 202 of whom live in Wheeling and 163 who live in Prospect Heights.

The airport paid \$5,500 for the survey, which included a 9.8 percent margin of error in Wheeling and a 10.8 percent margin of error in Prospect

Heights.

About 16 percent of the respondents said noise "concerns me," while about 55 percent said noise is "not an issue." Similarly, about 16 percent said noise is "worse" at the airport than in the past, compared to about 61 percent who said noise is "no worse."

Robert Mark of Mark Communications and the coordinator of the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement program, said the results surprised airport officials.

"Considering what I've heard anecdotally, I thought more people would say noise is a problem," he said. "Sixteen percent is still too much, and it's not going to change what the airport is doing to help the problem."

Mark said it was also surprising to see no apparent correlation between

how close people live to the airport and their level of concern over noise. Most people surveyed live within 2 miles of the airport.

Warren Sunde of Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment said he believes the survey should have concentrated in the areas that are most heavily impacted by the airport noise to get a better understanding of the problem.

"All it proves is that there weren't many people that live in the impacted neighborhoods (questioned)," Sunde said.

Sunde also said the airport was quieter during the summer and fall than in the past, because Palwaukee's main runway was under construction during weekends. He also questioned why the survey was conducted in December, when residents keep their doors and

windows closed.

"(CASE) is going to conduct our own survey in May or June," Sunde said. "We're going to go door-to-door in the impacted neighborhoods and along the flight pattern."

Mark defended the results of his study, saying the survey shows a wide gap in the number of people who responded that noise is a concern and those who said it is not.

"(It's) hard to speculate with only this survey's-worth of data," Mark said. "But I'd have to say I don't think it would be that much different because the numbers are way far apart."

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said the survey is the first in what he plans to be a regular occurrence every two years.

(Continued on page 8)

\$19 million award upheld in lawsuit after plane crash

By SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-7-03

An Illinois Appellate Court Thursday signed off on a civil jury's \$18.9 million wrongful death award to the family of a St. Charles co-pilot who burned to death when a corporate jet crashed on takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The 1996 crash killed co-pilot Robert "Hamp" Whitener, 50, and three others. Federal investigators blamed the main pilot for losing control and the two companies that shared the plane for a lack of coordination when using pilots from different companies on a flight.

A Cook County jury awarded Whitener's widow, Teresa, and her two children \$18.9 million after a six-week trial in 2001. The same jury deadlocked on whether to award money to the family of the main pilot, Martin Larry Kopple, 53, of Elgin, and a mistrial was declared. The retrial in that portion of the case could begin this month.

The appellate court ruling Thursday upheld the Whitener portion of the case, clearing what could be the last hurdle for the family. The co-owner of the plane, Aon Corp., has three weeks to decide whether to appeal the ruling.

Jerry Latherow, who represented Teresa Whitener, said the case focused attention on the perils of corporate jets. "There is always pressure to get the boss to his or her meeting on time," he said. "If the pilots don't do that, their jobs can be at stake."

The crash of the Gulfstream G-IV, which was co-owned by Alberto Culver, happened on Oct. 30, 1996. The jet veered off Palwaukee's main runway in high winds, jumped over Hintz Road and crashed in a fireball into a nearby drainage ditch.

Aon executive Arthur Quern of Evanston and flight attendant Catherine Mio-Anderson of Prospect Heights were also killed. Mio-Anderson's husband settled a separate lawsuit for \$5.25 million.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

New headquarters

HLS, a Chicagoland health-care service provider, has completed its move from Chicago to its new Wheeling headquarters.

Over the past 30 years, HLS has continuously expanded its linen and management-related programs to service 40 Chicago-area hospitals, more than a dozen long-term care facilities and in excess of 400 outpatient health-care facilities.

The company built a new 310,000-square-foot facility in Wheeling to meet growing demand. HLS provides linen rental services, processing of customer owned linens, sterile surgical packs, management services and linen sales. The company employs about 600 people.

Anniversary 3-13-03

The Wheeling-based John Remke Company opened its doors in 1963 in downtown Chicago as a manufacturer of die-cast connectors and indenter fittings. Today, corporate headquarters and production is located in Wheeling, with distributor locations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Tom O'Gara, president of Remke Industries, said that "in celebrating our 40th anniversary, we must first thank our customers for their loyalty and continued business. But it's just as important that we thank our employees for their hard work and unwavering commitment to quality and customer service."

"We'll take it as a benchmark and try to keep the numbers down," he said. "The only thing it tells us is where we are right now."

Rouleau called the results a "pleasant surprise" and also said the airport is trying to keep noise levels down. He said the airport continues to work with its tenants and users to remind them to fly quiet during liftoff and landing. Those efforts include posting signs to fly quiet and putting reminders in airport documents given to pilots before taking off from Palwaukee.

"Each pilot knows how to

perform in his airplane to fly as quietly as possible," Rouleau said. "We're also trying to get them to turn out north over the (Cook County) Forest Preserve or the industrial park."

Although the survey shows a relatively small percentage of people concerned about noise, Rouleau said the airport's effort to reduce noise will increase.

"We're not going to abandon noise procedures or our concern for noise," he said. "Unfortunately, it only takes one loud jet to remind people Palwaukee is here."

Wheeling grants preliminary clearance to runway widening

By CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-11-03

Palwaukee airport has received a preliminary go-ahead from Wheeling for a runway project that could decrease jet noise over neighboring homes.

Wheeling trustees Monday agreed to let Palwaukee Municipal Airport scrap a plan to realign one of its runways in favor of widening the runway instead.

The runway, which runs northwest to southeast, focuses its air traffic over the industrial park and the Cook County forest preserve but is now used primarily by lighter planes.

Widening the runway from 50 feet to 100 feet should make it more attractive for heavier planes and jets that now use a runway with flight approaches and departures over residential areas, said Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau.

"This idea is thanks to Trustee (Trevor) Lehmann, who sits on the airport commission and had the idea of spreading the wealth of noise over the forest preserve and the industrial park," Rouleau told trustees.

Current efforts to develop a new 20-year layout plan for the airport led members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission to reconsider the realignment project,

Rouleau said.

The airport initially planned to realign its runway as part of an older layout plan last updated in 1983. The realignment would likely have cost \$10 million to \$12 million, compared to \$6 million for the widening.

"I can do this probably five years quicker than the 11-29 (runway alignment) project," Rouleau said, explaining that it will be easier to get federal funding for a less costly project.

"And hopefully it will make this runway more popular," Rouleau said. "We may be able to put training aircraft on this. It will be wider, it will be smoother for those that right now don't feel comfortable on the 50-foot runway."

Currently, aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds and less use the runway, but the airport hopes the widening project will attract jets weighing up to 20,000 pounds.

The runway itself is not going to attract new business," Rouleau said. "It's just going to give them another alternative at the airport."

Prospect Heights, which shares ownership of the airport with Wheeling, still has to sign off on the plan. Palwaukee hopes to begin seeking federal and state funding this summer to complete the project next year.

Airport officials up security

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

3-27-03

Without any specific federal guidelines to follow, officials at Palwaukee Municipal Airport are taking it day by day as they deal with an elevated terrorist alert.

Airport spokesman Robert Mark said airport management is "writing the rule book as we go along" without any mandated security guidelines to follow from federal or state authorities.

"The Transportation Security Administration has been focused on the airlines," Mark said. "There are some basic guidelines for charters, but they really have no clue when it comes to general aviation airports (like Palwaukee)."

Mark said Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau is working with local police and fire depart-

daily basis.

Mark recently returned from a conference in Denver where he said many general aviation airport officials were trying to grapple with heightened security concerns without any official guidelines. He said Palwaukee is ahead of other similar airports when it comes to stepping up security.

"From what I heard at the

ments to bolster security measures.

"(Our) idea was we can't just sit back and wait to be reactive (to threats)," Mark said. "So we put a security plan together."

Parts of that plan include placing two on-duty police officers, one from Wheeling and one from Prospect Heights, at the airport 24 hours a day, and making sure at least one airport employee is there around the clock. Mark also said those coming into the airport are being screened more carefully.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIssac said he talks with Rouleau by telephone each day now that the terrorist alert level has been elevated to orange. Mark said some of those conversations include talking about "what-if" situations, but he added that it is equally important for the agencies just to maintain contact on a

(Continued on page 12)

conference, we're taking a lot of sophisticated measures compared to the rest of the country," he said.

Mark credited the responsiveness of both Wheeling and Prospect Heights in the airport's ability to meet new security needs.

"We needed help, and the villages have stepped up," he said. "There was really not

much discussion, except to dig in and help." Mark said all the new security measures have not impeded airport traffic. But he added that airport management is learning about anti-terrorist measures as each day passes.

"We don't know what, exactly, we're deterring," he said. "This is new territory for everybody."

Kurt Walsh of Pro Ten Realty Group represented United in negotiations. Jeff Schomisch and Gail Sturm of Cushman & Wakefield's Rosemont office acted for the mortgage company.

3-15-03

replaces a similar business at that location, Second Vogue, whose owner retired.

Michael Kolodny of Hallmark & Johnson Property Management Ltd., Chicago, acted for Pot of Gold and Lynn Plaza in negotiations.

Wheeling retail lease: Pot of Gold leased 3,000 square feet at Lynn Plaza, a 100,000-square-foot shopping center at Dundee and Old McHenry roads in Wheeling. The consignment and resale boutique

Palwaukee's budget wins approval

By CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer

4-1-03

Palwaukee Municipal Airport lists improved security and completion of a project to direct some jets over forest preserves and away from homes as goals in its new budget.

In getting final approval for the \$7 million spending plan Monday night, airport manager Dennis Rouleau told Wheeling trustees that Palwaukee continues to improve without "relying on a dime" from Wheeling or Prospect Heights, which share ownership of the airport.

The Wheeling board unani-

mously voted to approve the budget for the 2003-04 year and praised the airport for its continued self-sufficiency in a year of decreased air traffic. Prospect Heights approved the airport's budget March 17.

"I just want to point out that Palwaukee Municipal Airport received its lowest amount of flight operations it's seen in probably 10 years," said Trustee Trevor Lehmann, Wheeling's representative on the commission that governs Palwaukee. "But in spite of that, it's been able to maintain responsible financial operations."

Palwaukee averages about

160,000 departures and landings a year, down from an about 180,000 the airport cited a year ago.

Still, the airport's budget expects to spend 5.5 percent more than last year.

The airport expects much of the money for infrastructure improvements such as a runway widening project that would send more jet traffic over forest preserves to come from state and federal funds.

Wheeling officials Monday night also passed a resolution recognizing the airport for meeting outreach and noise-reduction goals.

Wheeling passed the resolution after Rouleau told trustees that the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council has marked a year of working with Palwaukee neighbors to improve airport operations.

"I'm on the e-mail list for PACE and I think it's interesting the involvement you get from the town officials from either town (and) the residents in looking at issues," Wheeling Trustee Dean Argiris said. "It's truly amazing. You've gotten the interest of the community."

Prospect Heights officials have yet to vote on the resolution.

Claims Palwaukee study was skewed

To the editor: In regard to the Palwaukee propaganda study of community attitudes toward his airport, I believe their findings are not meaningful.

The validity of the airport study is skewed for the following reasons:

• Too small a sampling was taken.

• The study was conducted at a very abnormal time. This past year has been the quietest year in the past eight years because of construction work on major runway 16/34. Future attitude studies will be much more reliable.

• The survey locations were more than a mile from the airport. You will notice that the airport people didn't dare take their survey in the jet impacted areas of Wards 1, 2 and 5 of Prospect Heights, or Foxboro, Harmony Village, Meadowbrook East or West in Wheeling. Nor were attitude surveys taken in Palwaukee jet pattern locations reaching out into Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights where we continue to receive Palwaukee noise complaints. Many scientific attitude surveys have been taken around other airports with similar "noise footprints" as Palwaukee. These studies show that between 50 to 75 percent of the impacted population do express jet noise concern. If Palwaukee's study was conducted in a truly scientific controlled manner, it would have approximated unbiased surveys throughout the country. Palwaukee's no-nonsense just

Airport expects little Meigs' traffic

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

APRIL 10 2003

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials do not expect a dramatic increase in air traffic now that Meigs Field in Chicago is closed.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley unexpectedly sent crews to Meigs Field in the late hours March 30 to dig up areas of the runway at Meigs, effectively shutting the small airport down. Palwaukee and Meigs Field are both considered general aviation airports. But while Meigs catered mainly to corporate and state officials, Palwaukee has more of a combination of corporate and recreational users.

Palwaukee Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said Palwaukee saw a "hardly noticeable" increase in traffic the last time Meigs was closed in the late 1990s. He expects a similar situation this time, and he said the airport will welcome the few aircraft that may use the suburban facility.

"We're not going to turn anybody away," Rouleau said. "We'll welcome any traffic."

Palwaukee is a much busier airport than Meigs ever was.

In 2002, Meigs handled about 32,000 flights, compared to the 164,000 at Palwaukee. And Palwaukee is also home to seven flight schools, while Meigs had none. Also, no aircraft was permanently based at Meigs; 350 planes are based at Palwaukee.

Rouleau said more state officials may choose to use Palwaukee now that they cannot fly in and out of Meigs.

"(Meigs closure) makes Palwaukee a more important airport, that's for sure," Rouleau said. "State of Illinois officials who flew to Meigs will probably go to Midway or Palwaukee or Waukegan."

Steve Lee, chief financial officer of Signature Flight Support at Palwaukee, doesn't expect much more business because of Meigs' closing. He expects more traffic to head to Midway Airport.

"You have to figure most of the business people traveling (to Chicago) are going to the convention center, and Midway is a lot closer than Palwaukee," Lee said.

However, Lee said it is always possible that more traffic will head to Palwaukee.

"There is no way of know-



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Although Meigs Field is now closed, officials and operators at Palwaukee Municipal Airport aren't expecting more noise from additional planes.

ing," he said. "There is more traffic at Midway than Palwaukee. The additional traffic puts a burden on Midway. It's pretty busy and crowded over

there." Unlike previous closings at Meigs, this one looks permanent, according to operators and officials at Palwaukee,

which is disheartening to those involved in aviation.

"It's always a shame to lose an airport," Rouleau said.

Palwaukee mishap draws investigators

BY CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-18-03

Aviation officials want to know why a twin-engine plane hit power lines Thursday along Wolf Road while landing at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Neither of the two people on board was injured when the Piper Cheyenne propeller plane clipped the electrical wires just before 6 a.m. and then skidded off a runway.

However, the investigation into the incident continued late Thursday.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were trying to determine why the pilot was flying at such a low altitude, an

airport spokesman said.

"This is pretty unusual because those electrical poles are probably only 20 feet high and they're located pretty far off of the approach of the runway," spokesman Rob Mark said. "The airplane was not where it was supposed to be and we don't know why he was so extremely low."

No information was available about the plane's occupants, other than they were arriving from West Chicago's DuPage Airport.

The airplane was approaching Palwaukee from the southwest, when it clipped a power line at Wolf and Palatine roads, airport officials said. The plane landed and skidded into a grassy area.

The incident knocked out

power to surrounding homes for about three hours and kept ComEd crews on the scene repairing a damaged utility pole hours after that.

Emergency crews from Wheeling and Prospect Heights responded, keeping the airport closed until 9:30 a.m.

"We did about 75 takeoffs and landings in the first one and a half-hours after we opened, so there was a lot of pent-up traffic," Mark said, comparing the activity to a typical range of 100 operations in an entire day.

Incoming jet traffic was diverted to O'Hare International Airport and Waukegan Regional Airport while Palwaukee was closed, Mark said.

Crash question: Why was plane flying so low?

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

The Federal Aviation Administration continued its investigation Monday into why a private pilot was flying so low into Palwaukee Municipal Airport last week, causing the aircraft to hit a utility pole and skid off the runway.

Officials closed the airport for just over three hours April 17 after the low-flying plane clipped utility lines at the intersection of Wolf and Palatine roads while coming in for a landing.

The twin-engine Piper Cheyenne was landing at Palwaukee about 5:50 a.m. when it struck either the wires or the utility pole itself, said Palwaukee spokesman Robert Mark. Mark said the impact

to 18-foot pole and twisted the landing gear on the plane, leading him to believe that the aircraft struck the pole on its way in.

The pilot apparently lost control as the plane touched down on the runway, causing the plane to skid into the grass. None of the two occupants of the plane was injured.

Mark said the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the accident, trying to figure out why the plane was flying so low.

"There is really no reason to be flying that low," Mark said. "We really don't know why he was."

The plane was based at DuPage Airport.

Family of pilot seeks significant settlement

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Attorneys for the estate of a pilot killed in 1996 when a corporate jet crashed on takeoff from Palwaukee Municipal Airport asked a jury to award his family \$13.5 million Friday.

In closing arguments in the last of four wrongful death cases arising from the crash, attorneys for Larry Koppie's three adult children placed most of the blame on the airport for allowing a drainage ditch to run alongside the airport's main runway.

Evidence showed the Gulfstream IV jet veered off the runway in high winds, tore apart in the ditch and was launched into the air when it hit an embankment on Oct. 30, 1996.

Koppie, 53, of Elgin, and the three others aboard died after the plane skipped over Hintz Road and crashed into a different section of the same drainage ditch in Wheeling.

"When Larry Koppie and the airplane neared the

A few hundred teachers packed the board meeting Monday night, forcing officials to move the meeting down the hall to the Maine South library. The news from the district's administration office Tuesday shows officials listened.

For an hour and a half, teachers and a few students spoke against the proposal, saying it would subtract time from students' schedules and make it difficult to pursue elective courses to explore other interests.

Besides, the proposal for the

Man gets

BY DAVE ORRICK

Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

A former employee at a suburban charity was sentenced to

Jury awards family \$10.

Pilot, three others died in 1996 crash of corporate jet at

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer 5-7-03

A Cook County jury Tuesday found Palwaukee Municipal Airport largely responsible for a 1996 corporate jet crash that killed four people on takeoff, and awarded \$10.45 million to the family of the dead pilot.

It marked the fourth multimillion dollar settlement or verdict coming from the crash, which was the worst in decades at the Wheeling and Prospect Heights-owned airport.

After a two-month trial and only several hours of deliberations, jurors found the airport 90 percent responsible for the crash of the Gulfstream IV jet, which veered off the airport's

main runway in high winds. Jury forewoman Marcina Meekins, a credit card company employee from Chicago, said the most convincing argument against the airport was the presence of a drainage ditch running alongside the runway. The jet tore apart in the ditch, hit an embankment, jumped a fence and caught fire nearby.

"If you had done your part," Meekins said of the airport, "then probably a life would not have been lost... (Safety) should be your first priority."

Airport manager Dennis Rouleau disputed that safety isn't the top priority, and lamented the jury didn't hear about the airport's safety work. "We have constantly been working on improving things at the airport," he said. "Apparently that message didn't get through to the jury."

The verdict for the family of pilot Martin "Larry" Koppie, 53, comes despite the National Transportation Safety Board faulting him for not aborting the takeoff. But the NTSB also said the ditch was a factor.

Juror Ramona Austin of Chicago said she was swayed both by the presence of the ditch and the embankment. "If the embankment wasn't

there, they could have kept sliding," Austin said.

Palwaukee attorney Raymond L. Mariani said a decision about appealing hasn't been made. The airport has liability insurance that would cover the verdict, said Rouleau, who noted legal and insurance costs at the airport.

In a separate decision Tuesday, the same jury ruled Ac Aviation and Alberto-Culver, two companies using the \$4-million jet, shared in the corporate responsibility for the crash. But Acn was found slightly less responsible than Alberto, which

Palwaukee found liable in crash suit

A Cook County jury found Palwaukee Municipal Airport liable in a civil lawsuit filed after a crash at the airport killed four people in October 1996.

The jury awarded \$10.45 million to the estate of Larry Koppie, the pilot of the Gulfstream IV jet that crashed. The jet crashed during takeoff after it veered off the runway and hit a drainage ditch that ran the entire length of the airport's main runway. The jet's landing gear, wing flap and aileron control cable were damaged after the plane hit the ditch. The jet went airborne after hitting the ditch and ended up landing across Hintz Road near an apartment complex.

The jury found the airport and its owners, the municipalities of Wheeling and Prospect Heights, 90 percent liable in the suit. The jet's owner, Alberto-Culver Company, was found 5 percent liable, and Koppie himself was found 5 percent liable for the crash.

"We're very gratified that the jury recognized that the airport owners and operators had substantial responsibility for this tragic occurrence," said attorney Richard Burke Jr., a partner of Clifford Law Offices who tried the case.

Palwaukee Spokesman Robert Mark said airport officials were disappointed with the verdict. Mark said the airport had a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration for the location of the ditch. He also pointed to results from other lawsuits that found the pilot and the jet's owner liable for the crash.

The ditch was filled in when the airport widened the main runway last summer, Mark said. Filling in the ditch was not related to the crash, he said.

Mark said a decision to appeal has not been made, but airport officials are discussing that possibility with officials from both municipalities and the airport's insurance company, AIG.



remained and one-of-a-kind and scuffed one-of-a-kind by Woodard, Winston, Homecrest, Tropicone & many others.

Palwaukee mishap draws investigators

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-18-03

Aviation officials want to know why a twin-engine plane hit power lines Thursday along Wolf Road while landing at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

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However, the investigation into the incident continued late Thursday.

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airport spokesman said.

"This is pretty unusual because those electrical poles are probably only 20 feet high and they're located pretty far off of the approach of the runway," spokesman Rob Mark said. "The airplane was not where it was supposed to be and we don't know why he was so extremely low."

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The airplane was approaching Palwaukee from the southwest, when it clipped a power line at Wolf and Pal-

waukee, power to surrounding homes for about three hours and kept ComEd crews on the scene repairing a damaged utility pole hours after that.

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Incoming jet traffic was diverted to O'Hare Interna-

Crash question: Why was plane flying so low?

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

4-24-03

The Federal Aviation Administration continued its investigation Monday into why a private pilot was flying so low into Palwaukee Municipal Airport last week, causing the aircraft to hit a utility pole and

skid off the runway. Officials closed the airport just over three hours April 17 after the low-flying plane clipped utility lines at the intersection of Wolf and Palwaukee roads while coming in for landing.

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to 18-foot pole and twisted the landing gear on the plane, leading him to believe that the aircraft struck the pole on its way in.

The pilot apparently lost control as the plane touched down on the runway, causing the plane to skid into the grass. None of the two occupants of the plane was injured.

Mark said the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the accident, trying to figure out why the plane was flying so low.

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The plane was based at DuPage Airport.

Family of pilot seeks significant settlement

5-3-03

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

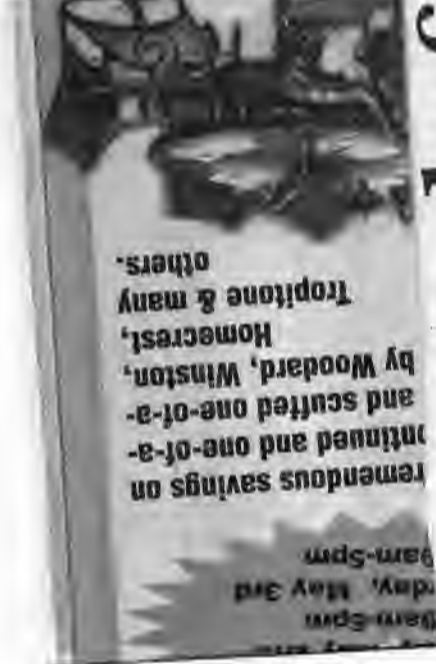
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Evidence showed the Gulfstream IV jet veered off the runway in high winds, tore apart in the ditch and was launched into the air when it hit an embankment on Oct. 30, 1996.

Koppie, 53, of Elgin, and the three others aboard died after the plane skipped over Hintz Road and crashed into a different section of the same drainage ditch in Wheeling. "When Larry Koppie and the airplane were in the ditch, they could have kept sliding," Austin said.



Jury awards family \$10.45 million

Pilot, three others died in 1996 crash of corporate jet at Palwaukee Airport

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer 5-7-03

A Cook County jury Tuesday found Palwaukee Municipal Airport largely responsible for a 1996 corporate jet crash that killed four people on takeoff, and awarded \$10.45 million to the family of the dead pilot. It marked the fourth multimillion dollar settlement or verdict coming from the crash, which was the worst in decades at the Wheeling and Prospect Heights-owned airport.

After a two-month trial and only several hours of deliberations, jurors found the airport 90 percent responsible for the crash of the Gulfstream IV jet, which veered off the airport's main runway in high winds. Jury forewoman Marcina Meekins, a credit card company employee from Chicago, said the most convincing argument against the airport was the presence of a drainage ditch running alongside the runway. The jet tore apart in the ditch, hit an embankment, jumped a fence and caught fire nearby.

"If you had done your part," Meekins said of the airport, "then probably a life would not have been lost... (Safety) should be your first priority." Airport manager Dennis Rouleau disputed that safety isn't the top priority, and

lamented the jury didn't hear about the airport's safety work. "We have constantly been working on improving things at the airport," he said. "Apparently that message didn't get through to the jury." The verdict for the family of pilot Martin "Larry" Koppie, 53, comes despite the National Transportation Safety Board faulting him for not aborting the takeoff. But the NTSB also said the ditch was a factor.

Juror Ramona Austin of Chicago said she was swayed both by the presence of the ditch and the embankment. "If the embankment wasn't there, they could have kept sliding," Austin said.

That decision will affect how the companies pay two 2001 settlements reached with the families of an Aon executive and a flight attendant killed in the crash. The estate of executive Arthur Quern, 54, of Evanston settled for \$12 million. The husband of Catherine Mio-Ander-son, 33, of Wheeling, settled for \$5.25 million. Palwaukee was not involved in those settlements.

Aon Aviation attorney Alan Brinkmeier embraced the verdict, including Aon being found less responsible than Alberto.

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two companies using the \$28 million jet, shared in the corporate responsibility for the crash. But Aon was found slightly less responsible than Alberto, which

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Palwaukee found liable in crash suit

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"We're very gratified that the jury recognized that the airport owners and operators had substantial responsibility for this tragic occurrence," said attorney Richard Burke Jr., a partner of Clifford Law Offices who tried the case.

Palwaukee Spokesman Robert Mark said airport officials were disappointed with the verdict. Mark said the airport had a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration for the location of the ditch. He also pointed to results from other lawsuits that found the pilot and the jet's owner liable for the crash.

The ditch was filled in when the airport widened the main runway last summer, Mark said. Filling in the ditch was not related to the crash, he said.

Mark said a decision to appeal has not been made, but airport officials are discussing that possibility with officials from both municipalities and the airport's insurance company, AIG.



Tribune file photo by Jim Prisching

CRASH: Family feels vindicated, lawyer says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family's attorney, Richard Burke Jr. of Chicago, said Tuesday. "I think the family feels very vindicated," Burke said. "I think the evidence shows that their father was actually doing everything humanly possible to get this plane in the air."
The plane crashed while taking off in windy conditions on Oct. 30, 1996.

In a 1996 report, the National Transportation Safety Board faulted Koppie for not aborting the takeoff and co-pilot Whitener for not taking "sufficient remedial action."
In 2001, a Cook County jury awarded \$18.9 million to Whiten-er's family, who had argued that Koppie caused the crash and Chicago-based Aon Corp. was responsible as his employer.

Alberto-Culver and Aon both had executive jets at the airport and had an agreement to share crews on long flights.
Dennis Rouleau, manager of the airport, said Tuesday that the "slight depression" near the runway was not responsible for the

An investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board inspects remnants of a plane after it crashed on takeoff in 1996 at Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Four people were killed.

were not in response to the law-
crash.
"You're a pilot. You're supposed to stay on the runway," Rouleau said.

"Unfortunately, there were a lot of things that went wrong that day."
The drainage area was eliminated when changes were made to the runway last year, Rouleau said. He said the changes were planned before the crash and

Wheeling; and Arthur Quern, 54, an Aon executive from Evanston who also chaired the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
The families of the victims filed lawsuits. Initially, a trial judge ruled that the municipalities and the airport were immune from suit under Illinois law.
An appeals court reversed that decision in 2000.

\$10 million award in '96 plane crash

By Michael Higgins
Tribune staff reporter

A Cook County jury awarded \$10.45 million to the family of a pilot killed in 1996 when the executive jet he was at the controls of slid off the runway and burned at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The pilot, Martin Koppie, 53, had been accused in earlier lawsuits of causing the crash that killed three other people. But lawyers for the Koppie family blamed the crash largely on a drainage ditch that they argued was too close to the runway.

The verdict, reached late

Monday, calls for Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own and operate the airport, to pay at least \$8.9 million, lawyers said.

The jury also found Alberto-Culver Co., which owned the plane and employed co-pilot Robert Whitener, to be 5 percent responsible for the accident and Koppie to be 5 percent responsible.

"We're gratified that the jury recognized that the airport owners and operators had substantial responsibility," the family's attorney, Richard

PLEASE SEE CRASH, PAGE 8

Palwaukee receives grant

The Federal Aviation Administration announced it has approved funding to close a taxiway gap at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The \$3.4 million grant will be administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation to fund projects at Palwaukee, Waukegan Regional Airport and St. Louis Regional Airport in Bethalto, near Alton.

Palwaukee spokesman Robert Mark said the airport plans to use the funds to close a gap along the west-side taxiway of the main runway. Currently, the taxiway follows the runway about two-thirds of the way from the runway's northern end. The taxiway will follow the entire length of the runway when the project is finished.

Mark said the extension will reduce the number of airplanes crossing runways while they taxi to hangars or other areas of the airport. Mark said he was not sure exactly how much funding the airport will receive for the project.

Mark said plans are also in the works to close a taxiway gap on the east side of the main runway.

Palwaukee traffic increase brings back noise concerns

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With the completion of a major runway reconstruction project at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the number of jets rumbling into the Wheeling strip is expected to return to 2001 levels.

The leader of a resident watchdog group says the return to an estimated 180,000 annual takeoffs and landings will be a true test of how the community feels about noise at Palwaukee. The airport in February touted a survey that indicated noise was not a major concern for the airport's neighbors in Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

However, Warren Sunde, chairman of the watchdog group Citizens for Airport Safety and Environment, said the survey was done while construction closed Palwaukee's major jet runway on weekends.

Airport operations in 2002 dropped to an estimated 164,000 flights while Palwaukee

"It's always a concern that people will say last year was a lot quieter."

Dennis Rouleau,
Palwaukee Airport Manager

completed its largest building project since 1986.

The project raised the airport's primary jet runway out of its hazardous flood plane. The runway was widened from 100 feet to 150 feet, lighting was updated and plane guidance equipment was improved.

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said he expects an initial increase in noise complaints with the reopening, but added the airport is committed to decreasing noise.

"It's always a concern that people will say last year was a lot quieter," Rouleau said. "But we'll continue our efforts with the PACE council and come up

with recommendations for decreasing noise," he added, referring to the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement council that helped push a plan that has sent more air traffic over the nearby forest preserve.

Sunde says for now, the return to full airport operation is going to create "a lot of unhappy campers."

"It will encourage the larger jets to use Palwaukee and therefore we'll get more noise," Sunde said. "There will be more air pollution and more of an economic burden to the people in the impacted areas, as far as property values and air pollution."

Rouleau insisted that the completed construction won't draw jets that haven't already found it convenient to use Palwaukee. Improved technology and "hush kits" are designed to decrease noise, he added.

The airport plans another noise survey in 2005 to see if views on airport noise match those in this year's survey.

The briefs

7-20-03

WWII plane makes rare appearance

The Wings of Freedom Tour showcasing a historic World War II plane at Palwaukee Municipal Airport wraps up today.

The Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress and Consolidated B-24J Liberator flew into Palwaukee Thursday for their only appearance in the Chicago area this year.

Walk-through tours of both planes are available for a donation of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children younger than 12. Flight experiences of 30 minutes are also available for a tax-deductible donation of \$400 per person. Call (386) 451-9508 for reservations.

The planes are on display from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Leaders stress importance of Palwaukee at ceremony

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 6-17-03

Palwaukee is more than "just that little airport" at the end of a back road in Wheeling, federal officials said Monday.

The completion of a major runway project at Palwaukee Municipal Airport has helped it become a job engine and a true economic force for the community.

"The average person may say,

'I don't care about that airport,' " U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin said. "But they may also say, 'I do care about my husband's job. I care if my son or daughter can get a job out of college.'"

Durbin said the \$9.5 million widening of Palwaukee's primary jet runway, including the addition of improved lighting and safety measures, will create and safeguard thousands of corporate jobs in the Northwest suburbs. The Springfield Demo-

crat spoke at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for federally funded improvements on the 5,000-foot jet runway at Palwaukee.

"Corporations look at: What are the aviation facilities in the area?" Durbin said. "Will we have to go all the way to O'Hare when we have to visit a plant or set up a new office? Palwaukee is part of what makes this area attractive to business."

Allstate and Phillip Morris are among the owners of the 343

corporate and private aircraft based at Palwaukee.

Klein Tools, Priester Aviation charters, North American Jet charters and the Flight for Life medical service are among the airport users that contributed to an estimated 165,000 takeoffs and landings last year.

Palwaukee's overall economic impact on the area is about \$37.5 million a year, officials

See AIRPORT on PAGE 5

Airport: Corporate jets use facility

Continued from Page 1

said. The airport employs 400 people and is the state's fourth busiest airport.

"And with Mayor Daley's abrupt closure of Meigs, we are going to take a lot of jobs from the city of Chicago and put them at Palwaukee," said U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, a Highland Park Republican.

Kirk could not attend the Palwaukee ceremony but spoke in an interview afterward of the closing of Chicago's municipal airport this year.

Palwaukee was put on a federal priority list for funding years ago because "that one runway fuels jobs and economic growth all out of proportion to its cost," Kirk said. "And that means higher incomes and good news for the Northwest suburbs."

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau stressed that the project was taxpayer friendly.

A grant from the Federal Avia-



MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

A jet takes off Monday at Palwaukee Municipal Airport's newly rebuilt main runway. The project will help spur the area's economy, officials said at a reopening ceremony.

tion Administration paid 90 percent of the cost of the biggest project Palwaukee has undertaken since Wheeling and Prospect Heights took over ownership in 1986.

About 5 percent of the \$9.5 million cost came from the state, and the remaining 5 percent from the airport's self-sustaining budget.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klutecki and Prospect Heights Mayor Rodney Pace thanked state legislators for helping with the project.

"The first time I realized how important Palwaukee is to our area was during the Arlington Millon, when I saw how many corporate jets flew in here," said state Rep. Sidney Mathias, a

Buffalo Grove Republican.

Mathias referred to the international horse racing festival held every year at Arlington Park racetrack.

"As much as O'Hare is an economic engine for this entire area, I believe Palwaukee is an economic engine for the surrounding towns," Mathias said.

Palwaukee's improvements helped make its longest jet runway one of the best and safest of its kind, Durbin said, helping secure the airport's position for the next 20 years.

"So that when people say, 'What does that little airport down the road have to do with me?' — it has a lot to do with them," Durbin said.

June 25, 2003

Flying safer: The Feds weren't the only ones who had something good to say last week about the reopening of Palwaukee Municipal Airport's main jet runway.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony June 16, private pilot Mark Turek of Winnetka pointed out that the widening and improvements of the 5,001-foot runway will make life safer for pilots.

"There's been so much economic growth that you used to not be able to find the runway coming in at night because of all the other lights," Turek said.

"Now, with the new lights, you can find the runway and it

Cliatt: Improvements to runway are praised

Continued from Page 1

June 25, 2003 means you won't run out of fuel," Turek said.

If you missed it, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk each lauded the improved jet runway June 16 for its appeal to corporate clients that employ suburbanites.

Turek and Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau pointed out the added benefit to people in emergency medical situations. They get help from pilot volunteers who transport organs out of Palwaukee as part of the Lifeline program. Turek is one of the volunteers.

"This airport is also used for the Flight for Life," Rouleau said of the emergency medical service that transports victims from accident scenes and patients between hospitals.

The other side of the story, of course, is that Palwaukee's

neighbors still have concerns about increased noise.

Federal officials say the airport's runway improvements should make Palwaukee more attractive to corporations that might move their aviation business to Palwaukee because of new safety measures. The closing of Chicago's municipal airport, Meigs Field, could also divert aviation traffic.

However, Palwaukee management insists the runway improvements were about maintaining operation levels, not increasing them.

"If we hadn't made the improvements, many (jets) may have considered leaving," Rouleau said. "But now, they'll continue operating and the pavement life has another 20 years."

• Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Cliatt at (847) 427-4486, or e-mail ccliatt@dailyherald.com.

Air controllers warn about privatization

7-30-03

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Air traffic controllers warned Tuesday that the White House is pushing to privatize more smaller airports nationwide, including those in Chicago's suburbs — a move they say would compromise safety.

U.S. House and Senate negotiators have agreed on language that would allow about 70 smaller airports nationwide — including DuPage, Palwaukee and Aurora — to hire private air traffic controllers. Controllers now are federal employees under the oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association has been sounding the alarm for years over federal efforts to let private companies direct airplanes.

Earlier this year, the FAA announced it has no plans to privatize controllers, but recently a spokesman said the agency wants flexibility to operate efficiently at smaller airports that don't have their own radar.

At least one local airport official warned against privatization but downplayed the chances of that happening.

Rob Mark, spokesman for Palwaukee Municipal Airport in Prospect Heights and Wheeling, said the airfield opposes privatizing control towers.

Though statistics don't show a higher accident rate at privatized airports, Mark noted that two airport towers that were privatized — Waukegan and the now-closed Meigs airports — both had mid-air collisions in recent years.

"The cost savings come in the form of reduced staffing," he said. "The way you're going to find out it doesn't work is if there's an accident."

At DuPage Airport in West Chicago, spokesman Brian Kulpin said officials would have to study the issue if lawmakers approved the proposal, but said, "We don't have any plans right now for privatization of the tower."

Aurora Municipal Airport Director Bob Rieser praised his federal air traffic controllers and said he "vehemently" opposes privatization.



PHOTOS BY MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD
A family walks among the private planes housed at Palwaukee Municipal Airport after landing at the state's fourth-busiest airport.

Palwaukee open house will let kids test wings

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-13-03

Free airplane rides for children will return to Palwaukee Municipal Airport next week as part of its annual open house.

The airplane rides from the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program are reserved for children 7 to 17 years old, and parents have to reserve seats early.

Families arriving for the Palwaukee open house Aug. 23 will also be able to see such classic planes as the T-6 Texan and Stearman biplane, inquire about flight school opportunities, and look over an extensive display of radio-controlled aircraft, among other highlights.

The annual opening of the Palwaukee flight line remains a cornerstone of airport efforts to improve communication with neighbors — efforts that have grown this month to include a bimonthly newsletter.

The airport, co-owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, wants to keep residents informed about what's going on beyond Palwaukee's fence, officials said.

"Palwaukee has taken great strides over the past two years to build better relationships with its neighbors and the surrounding communities," Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said. "With the addition of 'The Hangar,' I believe Palwaukee has strengthened its commitment toward this effort," Rouleau said of the new newsletter.

Residents who participated in a survey last winter said they wanted more news from the airport. The newsletter is one result, officials said.

The focus of the first issue is next week's open house, as it gives visitors a chance at a comprehensive introduction to the airport.

Residents can walk the flight line from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and visit displays and food tents on the airport's east side, along Milwaukee Avenue, north of Palatine Road.

An estimated 15 aircraft will be on display, including the T-6 Texan that was used to train pilots in the 1930s and 1940s.

There will also be the North American P-51 fighter, which made its name in World War II over Europe and the Pacific.

The Flight for Life helicopter's crew will explain how their aircraft saves lives, and personnel from O'Hare International Airport's Noise Van will answer questions. Local firefighters will also show off their equipment and talk about capabilities.

For those interested in following in the footsteps of the Wright brothers, there will be \$49 introductory flight lessons from representatives of the airport's flight schools.

Parents interested in offering kids their first flying experience should call the Young Eagles coordinator to reserve a free seat, (847) 883-8388. For more information about the open house, visit www.palwaukee.org.

Ready for takeoff

Palwaukee makes strides in growth, technology

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee, you've come a long way, baby.

The popular advertising slogan was borrowed this month by airport enthusiasts who reflected on new developments and growth at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"When we look at the technology alone, for the first time in my life, we have planes that can leave Palwaukee and go overseas to Europe," said Charles Priester, president of Priester Aviation.

Priester is the son of George Priester, who bought the airport in 1953, when it was only 7 years old.

The Priester family ran the airport until 1986, when Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought it. Flight operations are expected to top 180,000 next year.

Priester said he is proud that today Palwaukee is one of more than 5,000 general aviation airports in the United States that make up the National Airport System Plan.

At a ceremony earlier this month to dedicate runway improvements, U.S. Sen. Dick



Palwaukee air traffic controller Larry Rider monitors the runway as a Learjet comes in for a landing. Below, a World War II vintage plane does a fly-by of Palwaukee Municipal Airport earlier this month to celebrate its runway improvements.



Durbin praised the strides Palwaukee has made in improving safety. New guidance equipment,

lighting and drainage improvements are among recent reforms.

"The sad reality is that if

your airport doesn't have the safest standards, you're not considered in the highest class of airports," Durbin said.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials have published their first newsletter designed to inform the communities of Wheeling and Prospect Heights about the activities at the facility.

Residents of both communities told Palwaukee officials they would like to see a newsletter from the airport during a survey conducted last winter. The newsletter, called 'The Hangar,' will be published every other month.

Airport Manager Dennis Rouleau said the newsletter is part of the airport's ongoing strategy to build better relationships with its neighbors and the two communities.

Each issue will include an update from Rouleau in 'The Manager's Corner,' as well as a column that will answer questions submitted by local residents and a column from the Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council. Future issues will include guest writers, opinion essays, profiles and historical information.

The Hangar can be found in the airport manager's office at 1020 Plant Road, businesses located at the airport, the Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling Village Hall or Prospect Heights City Hall. The newsletter is also available on the Community Relations page of the airport's Web site at www.palwaukee.org.

The Republicans of Wheeling Township are sponsoring a breakfast meeting with Illinois State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka at Market Square Restaurant at 10 a.m. June 28.

The meeting is part of a special series of outreach missions to the voters of Wheeling Township. The goal is to allow voters to meet and directly speak to elected officials.

Topinka is expected to speak about the upcoming U.S. Senate primary in Illinois, President George W. Bush's chances for re-election, the state's budget woes and the revival of the Illinois Republican Party.

The visit is open to all residents and is free of charge. Complimentary coffee, juice and rolls will be served.

Market Square Restaurant is located at 600 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling.



A family walks among the private planes housed at Palwaukee Municipal Airport after landing at the state's fourth-busiest airport.

PHOTOS BY MARK WELSH/DAILY HERALD

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Ready for takeoff

100TH ANNIVERSARY SAVINGS



...date was set for July 15 in
...office, 225 Buffalo Grove Road,
Waukegan.
• Brian M. Singer, 18, 1055
Courtland Drive, Buffalo Grove,
and Daniel B. Bednyak, 18, 2767
Sandatwood Road, Buffalo Grove,
were arrested Thursday and
charged with discharge of an air
rifle after officers were called to
the 1000 block of Courtland
Drive and found them with the
guns, police said. Their court
date was set for July 9 in Rolling
Meadows.
• Francisco D. DeLeon, 19,
2238A Baldwin Way, Palatine, was
arrested June 6 and charged with
burglary out of a motor vehicle
after he admitted taking CDs,
garage door opener, vacuum and
jumper cables out of a 2002
Ford Focus.
• Vandalism was reported at
100 block of Steeple Drive, police
said. Value was estimated at \$480.
• Vandals poured a liquid into
two door locks between 4:30 p.m.
Monday and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday
and pried a door on construction
trailers parked at Hidden Lake
Drive and Winding Oak Lane, police
said. Damage was estimated at \$150.
• Vandals hurled a bottle
between 11 p.m. Monday and
Tuesday at 225 Buffalo Grove Road,
Waukegan. Damage was estimated at \$700.



Airport hosts open house

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is hosting its annual open house Saturday, inviting the public to take a peek at the airport's operations.

Displays will be set up around the base of the control tower along Milwaukee Avenue. Additional viewing areas will be arranged at the Signature Flight Support ramp at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

Other displays will be set up on the west side of the airport at North American Jet's buildings and Signature Flight Support's hangars. Free trolley busses will drive in a continuous loop around the airport to bring people to both sides.

About 15 different aircraft will be on display, including an antique Stearman biplane, a North American P-51 Mustang and a T-6 Texan, which was used to train pilots in the 1930s and 1940s. They will sit next to modern business jets and single-engine aircraft.

The Flight for Life helicopter will also be on display, and the Northwest Radio Club will show a variety of radio-controlled planes.

Admission is free. The open house is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and conclude around 2 p.m.

Kids can try flying at Palwaukee event

Palwaukee Airport will be the site of a Young Eagles event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Children ages 7 to 17 are invited to sign up to take a free flight. Registration is required. The program hopes to reach its goal of giving 1 million children the chance to fly by the December anniversary of the centennial of flight. The event will be at the North American Jet facility, 1011 S. Wolf Road, Wheeling. To participate, call (847) 883-8388 and leave a message.

The briefs

State legislator plans Wheeling meeting

State Rep. Kathy Ryg, a Vernon Hills Democrat, will hold a town hall meeting with Wheeling residents at 6:45 p.m. July 28 at the Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Ryg will discuss the impact of recently passed legislation. Residents will have a chance to discuss their concerns and local problems.

In addition, residents can learn about state programs and services available to them.

For details, call Ryg's office at (847) 680-5909.

Township Republicans host Topinka visit

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The meeting is part of a special series of outreach missions to the voters of Wheeling Township. The goal is to allow voters to meet and directly speak to elected officials.

Topinka is expected to speak about the upcoming U.S. Senate primary in Illinois, President George W. Bush's chances for re-election, the state's budget woes and the revival of the Illinois Republican Party.

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Palwaukee publishes newsletter

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Claims for hail damages could to

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7/7/03

Links

dailyherald.com/ez
Bookmark our Web page for hyperlinks to more information

Tips for filing storm claims
Attorney general's storm-repair fraud alert

decades.
Golf ball-sized hail measuring up

to two inches shot holes th roofing, knocked the siding homes, dented cars and sl through trees and landscapi machetes.

The damage across the area reach up to \$90 million, in estimated.

"It sounded like somebody a sledgehammer to the h Vitaioli said of his home on V ing's north side. "My truc

For only 10 minutes on Sunday, it sounded like the sky opened up and hurled hammers onto Mike Vitaioli's home.

Vitaioli and other residents across northern Cook County and Lake County were still cleaning up Tuesday from the aftermath of one of the area's worst hail storms in

Hail: Car dealer's entire stock sustained damaged

Continued from Page 1

employee Scott Jorgensen. Insurers said the severity of the hail storm might be second only to the Lake Zurich area storm in 2000. That damage totaled more than \$100 million.

State Farm Insurance and Allstate were among insurance companies sending catastrophe teams this week to process claims.

"On the automobile side the early estimates call for 8,000 claims at a total of \$16 million," State Farm spokesman Joe Johnson said. Claims for homeowners and a handful of small businesses could reach the 7,000 level for a total of \$20.4 million.

The National Association of Independent Insurers estimates that State Farm has about a 30 percent share of the insurance market. So, similar damage projections from other insurers could hike the cost of the storm above \$90 million.

"Clearly this is a multimillion-dollar situation," said Joseph Annotti, spokesman for the national insurers association. "All claims aren't in yet, but to be categorized as a disaster or catastrophic loss, insured damage has to reach \$25 million."

Allstate had processed about 2,000 Illinois claims as of Tuesday for the weekend storms.

"We won't be able to assess

the full damage of this storm for awhile," Allstate spokesman Mike Siemienas said. "We'll get to (customers) as soon as possible, but we have people who have homes that are literally uninhabitable."

Dan Vojacek of US Restorations based in Mount Prospect, said his surveys of the area have revealed individual roof damage alone up to \$12,000.

Local families are keeping their fingers crossed that insurance will pay for their losses.

"If you need a new roof, you're talking \$5,000," Patricia Steilen of Wheeling said. "A lot of us are wondering if it's enough damage to cover our deductible, and that's why we're calling our insurance."

Insurance adjusters were particularly busy Tuesday at unprotected areas such as Wheeling's Bill Stasek Chevrolet, where every car in the lot sustained damage, officials there said.

In Buffalo Grove, 36 police vehicles were pelted by hail.

"It was those cars parked unused in our parking lot, as well as cars that were on patrol," police Commander Mike Soucy said.

Wheeling must repair 53 municipal vehicles that suffered heavy damage and fix some rooftop heating units. The money will come from village insurance and a liability insur-



MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD
Mary Vitaioli assesses the damage after hail shot holes through the corrugated plastic roof of her deck.

ance fund, not taxpayers, officials said.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued a warning Tuesday, telling residents to guard against scam artists preying on people who suffer from storm damage.

All contractors should furnish written contracts, and residents should not pay cash, Madigan said in a statement.

Stormy weather continued Tuesday. Flights at O'Hare International Airport were delayed throughout the day, said Monique Bond, spokeswoman for Chicago's aviation department.

• Daily Herald staff writer Matt Arado contributed to this report.

Now Open!

Conant band member mentioned how big our school was. About being treated badly, every band and sports team goes through it. There's no need to whine about it. You just have to deal with it or you are not cut out to be in a sport or band. It's a part of the job; get over it. We personally went through it at a playoff game, but we didn't complain about it. You have to be able to take it; it happens at all sporting events. P.S. As my father said, if our principal didn't apologize, it's because we did nothing wrong. Ashley Fernandez Buffalo Grove

band members and congratulated them. Later, one of our drum majors and I went over to their side and talked to them. Once again, their band received compliments. Our band treated them with respect the whole game. Conant's band may have been booed, not as much as they claim, but we got more grief for only playing percussion instruments (due to the cold, harsh weather). It was probably more toward us anyway, for sitting up in the stands. From what I recall, I did not see any "chaperoning" to the bathroom. However, one

Complaints unfair over fans' behavior
To the editor: I am a Stevenson High School band member and I disagree with what Debbie Irwin and Lynn Osuchowski said. Not only was our band at the Conant game, we all played percussion. We also watched Conant's band and cheered for it. We know what a big deal it is to perform a show, especially if it is at a different school. The band supported them and gave them credit for performing. As we went to get hot chocolate, I personally went up to the

See FENCEPOST on PAGE 3

SeniorNet reaching out from cyberspace

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-9-03

The Pavilion Senior Center is inviting people over the age of 50 to learn how to use computers in its new SeniorNet program.

The Pavilion will be starting its second SeniorNet term this month, with classes beginning on Jan. 27 and running until March 22. The Pavilion is offering four different classes that will accommodate computer rookies to those who are looking to learn more about specific programs.

Pavilion Director Nancy Janssen said the program is specifically designed to help older people learn to use computers.

"SeniorNet has spent a significant amount of time and resources to develop workbooks and a training program to teach the adult population," she said. "It's an experience that's going to be successful and

not frustrating. We'll never see these people again if they leave frustrated."

John Dickmann, a Northbrook resident and one of the volunteer teachers in the program, said he is impressed with the outline of training program.

"This is one of the best-planned programs I've seen," he said, speaking as a former college math and physics teacher. "You only need to know how to read and follow along. It's outlined to be very easy."

The classes are small, with a maximum of six people in each one. With one trained teacher and one coach in each class, students get a lot of individual attention during each session.

"We all know individual attention is really important for this population," Janssen said. "Patience is a big part of the program. There is a lot of anxiety attached to this population to use this technology, and the instructors understand that."

Dickmann said two main aspects of the program

make it so successful.

"The students get a lot of help and individual attention," he said. "Plus, it's so well-written."

SeniorNet began at the Pavilion last September. Janssen said the students indicated on surveys that they got a lot out of it.

"We saw a lot of the same kind of things (on the survey)," she said. "(Students) felt they got a lot of attention, the (open) lab times were helpful and the teachers were well-qualified, prepared and patient."

This term, the Pavilion will be offering four different SeniorNet classes. Computer fundamentals, a four-week course, is designed to teach people who have never used a computer before. Introduction to Computers, an eight-week course, is for people who know the basics of computers and introduces students to a few programs. The Pavilion also will be offering eight-week courses in Microsoft Word and going online with America Online.

(Continued on page 6)

SeniorNet Continued from page 5 1-9-03

Students must pay a \$40 annual fee to SeniorNet, which will allow them to sign up for classes during all four terms of the year. The fee for each class is \$45, or \$25 for the Computer Fundamentals class.

Registration for the second term will be held Jan. 18 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Pavilion, 199 First St.,

Wheeling. Janssen said it will be possible to register after that date, but she cautioned that many of the classes will be filled during the formal registration date.

Classes are held at the Pavilion once a week during the day and evening. Anyone over 50 can register. Call (847) 459-2670 for more information.

Learn candidates' views at a variety of forums

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's seniors might have different concerns for the village's future than local business owners.

As the April 1 election approaches, older residents might question candidates' views on tax increases that would affect seniors on fixed incomes, while businesses cast

an eye toward redevelopment and parents look toward schools and parks to improve programs for kids.

Residents from diverse groups across Wheeling will have their chance to learn about candidates' views first-hand in a variety of forums scheduled in coming weeks:

• Wheeling Township Forum: 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Wheeling Township Building, 1616 N.

Arlington Heights Road. Wheeling candidates will speak at 8 p.m.

• Tahoe Village Condominium Association: Doors will open at 7 p.m. March 18 for the fourth biannual forum in the Tahoe Village Clubhouse, 1771 Tahoe Circle Drive, Wheeling.

"We are inviting candidates for park district and school board to attend," said Steven Boime of the Tahoe Village asso-

ciation. "There will be time after the trustee candidates' Q&A for people to ask questions one-on-one to the other candidates."

• Wheeling-Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry "Meet the Candidates" Luncheon: March 18, but registration is required by Friday to get the \$20 ticket price. Otherwise, tickets are \$25, including for the 11:30 a.m. registration at the event. The forum and lun-

cheon begin at noon at Traditions of Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. RSVP with payment to the WPH Chamber, 395 E. Dundee Road, Unit 300, Wheeling, IL 60090. Call (847) 541-0170.

• AARP Forum: 1 p.m. March 24 at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Call Dolly Hein at (847) 342-9752.

Medical office building proposed in Wheeling

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents on Wheeling's east side soon could live next door to a new office building.

The good news is that village planners think the building would fit well into the neighborhood.

The Wheeling Plan Commission this month praised a proposal to build a 3,400-square-

foot medical office building at 600 E. Jeffrey Ave., saying the plans for the site are creative.

Architect Hernando Moreno of Chicago Workshop Architects told commissioners the single-story building would have a sloped, residential-style roof and gaps in trellises that would allow trees to grow upward through the roof.

"We'd like to be able to sit in the offices and enjoy the green

space," Moreno said, also highlighting the big windows in the design.

Wheeling fire officials expressed concerns about achieving sufficient ventilation around the trees in the event of a fire, but commissioners said the design would be a welcome addition if the developer could find a safe way to accomplish it.

"I think you're doing a nice transition between business

and residential," Commissioner David Cantwell said. "And if you do significant berming, you would be a good neighbor."

Commissioner Steven Boime said Moreno would be an even better neighbor if he was able to shift the design, putting the office building next to homes instead of the parking lot.

However, Moreno said the location of the building just west of Milwaukee Avenue

would give it needed visibility to alert clients to its location.

The plan commission's workshop for the building proposal was a preliminary meeting to give the architect assurances the village would consider a finalized plan for the site.

The developer must reappear before the plan commission to receive a formal recommendation before presenting the project to Wheeling trustees.

New modest dress code will ease pressure on girls

To the editor: The public school system seems to function with a huge banner atop each building that screams: "Criticize Us!"

So for once, it's a pleasure to say Buffalo Grove High has been caught doing something right, thanks to columnist Erin Holmes.

The decision to insist on modesty in the classroom deserves a standing ovation. My daughter spent five years in a Christian school where girls dressed like a scene from "Little House On The Prairie." At the time, they seemed extreme and a little ridiculous.

Then she transferred to Fremd to finish her last three years. The first parents' night convinced me we weren't in Kansas anymore.

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580
or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

Suddenly, the "extreme" modesty of the Christian school looked pretty good.

The new ban on "brief, revealing, and skimpy" outfits has to result in higher academic output as teachers and boys are far less distracted.

And, though they won't admit it, many girls will be glad the peer pressure is off to try to be as bare as they dare. Sounds like a successful formula for stress and tension reduction. Bravo!

David S. Swift
Rolling Meadows

Not easy, but she'll back District 21 hike

To the editor: Residents of Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will vote on a tax increase in April. I, like some many other taxpayers, are a little overwhelmed with this prospect. But what are we to do?

As a parent, I know the cost of everything has gone up. Why would this not be the same for the school district? I know I pay more for books at Borders, so I would expect that schools pay more for their books. My salary has gone up in the last couple of years. I would think teachers' salaries and benefits would also increase.

Do I really think teachers go

into their careers with the idea of getting rich? I think not.

As much as I do not want my taxes to go up, I know that this is one of the only ways that the schools can offer programs that benefit our kids. Whatever happened to the Lotto being the answer to all the financial woes of the school? The state is giving less and less money to the schools every year.

With the money trouble of the state, I would expect this not to change any time soon. It is time to realize that it is property taxes that pay for the schools.

As a homeowner, I know that to keep my property values high I need to make some investments. What better investment than the children of District 21?

This is a new and challenging

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Wheeling

Continued from Page 1

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Robert M. Gerhold
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Firstly, Boime says Wheeling should adopt the state's code and alleged violations should be handled by the state's board. If one takes the time to look, one cannot help but be appalled at the state's dismal record when it comes to investigating and prosecuting government corruption at all levels. Most of the past investigations and prosecutions were undertaken by the federal government.

Claims for hail damages could top \$90 million

By CASS CLIAFF 7/7/03
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For only 10 minutes on Sunday, it sounded like the sky opened up and hurled hammers onto Mike Vitaioli's home.

Vitaioli and other residents across northern Cook County and Lake County were still cleaning up Tuesday from the aftermath of one of the area's worst hail storms in



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Tips for filing storm claims
Attorney general's storm-repair fraud alert

decades.
Golf ball-sized hail measuring up

to two inches shot holes through roofing, knocked the siding off of homes, dented cars and slashed through trees and landscaping like machetes.

The damage across the area could reach up to \$90 million, insurers estimated.

"It sounded like somebody taking a sledgehammer to the house," Vitaioli said of his home on Wheeling's north side. "My truck got

damaged and my car, and there are other cars in the neighborhood that are like Swiss cheese."

Shoppers in far northern Arlington Heights had to scurry for cover when the hail began to fall around 2 p.m. Sunday.

"You could hear it hitting the pavement, like cracking the cement," said White Hen Pantry

See HAIL on PAGE 12



PHOTO COURTESY THE VITAIOLI FAMILY
Hail collected by Mike Vitaioli of Wheeling that pummeled the region Sunday measured as big as golf balls.

Hail: Car dealer's entire stock sustained damaged

Continued from Page 1

employee Scott Jorgensen.

Insurers said the severity of the hail storm might be second only to the Lake Zurich area storm in 2000. That damage totaled more than \$100 million.

State Farm Insurance and Allstate were among insurance companies sending catastrophe teams this week to process claims.

"On the automobile side the early estimates call for 8,000 claims at a total of \$16 million," State Farm spokesman Joe Johnson said. Claims for homeowners and a handful of small businesses could reach the 7,000 level for a total of \$20.4 million.

The National Association of Independent Insurers estimates that State Farm has about a 30 percent share of the insurance market. So, similar damage projections from other insurers could hike the cost of the storm above \$90 million.

"Clearly this is a multimillion-dollar situation," said Joseph Annotti, spokesman for the national insurers association. "All claims aren't in yet, but to be categorized as a disaster or catastrophic loss, insured damage has to reach \$25 million."

Allstate had processed about 2,000 Illinois claims as of Tuesday for the weekend storms.

"We won't be able to assess

the full damage of this storm for awhile," Allstate spokesman Mike Siemienas said. "We'll get to (customers) as soon as possible, but we have people who have homes that are literally uninhabitable."

Dan Vojacek of US Restorations based in Mount Prospect, said his surveys of the area have revealed individual roof damage alone up to \$12,000.

Local families are keeping their fingers crossed that insurance will pay for their losses.

"If you need a new roof, you're talking \$5,000," Patricia Steilen of Wheeling said. "A lot of us are wondering if it's enough damage to cover our deductible, and that's why we're calling our insurance."

Insurance adjusters were particularly busy Tuesday at unprotected areas such as Wheeling's Bill Stasck Chevrolet, where every car in the lot sustained damage, officials there said.

In Buffalo Grove, 36 police vehicles were pelted by hail.

"It was those cars parked unused in our parking lot, as well as cars that were on patrol," police Commander Mike Soucy said.

Wheeling must repair 53 municipal vehicles that suffered heavy damage and fix some rooftop heating units. The money will come from village insurance and a liability insur-



MARR BLACK/DAILY HERALD
Mary Vitaioli assesses the damage after hail shot holes through the corrugated plastic roof of her deck.

ance fund, not taxpayers, officials said.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued a warning Tuesday, telling residents to guard against scam artists preying on people who suffer from storm damage.

All contractors should furnish written contracts, and residents should not pay cash, Madigan said in a statement.

Stormy weather continued Tuesday. Flights at O'Hare International Airport were delayed throughout the day, said Monique Bond, spokeswoman for Chicago's aviation department.

* Daily Herald staff writer Matt Arado contributed to this report.

Conant band member mentioned how big our school was. About being treated badly, every band and sports team goes through it. There's no need to whine about it. You just have to deal with it or you are not cut out to be in a sport or band. It's a part of the job, get over it. We personally went through it at a playoff game, but we didn't complain about it. You have to be able to take it; it happens at all sporting events. P.S. As my father said, if our principal didn't apologize, it's because we did nothing wrong. Ashley Fernandez Buffalo Grove

See FENCEPOST on PAGE 3

band members and congratulated them. Later, one of our drum majors and I went over to their side and talked to them. Once again, their band received compliments. Our band treated them with respect the whole game. Conant's band may have been booed, not as much as they claim, but we got more grief for only playing percussion instruments (due to the cold, harsh weather). It was probably more toward us anyway, for sitting up in the stands. From what I recall, I did not see any "chaperoning" to the bathroom. However, one

Complaints unfair over fans' behavior

To the editor: I am a Stevenson High School band member, and I disagree with what Debbie Irwin and Lynn Osuchowski said. Not only was our band at the Conant game, we all played percussion. We also watched Conant's band and cheered for it. We know what a big deal it is to perform a show, especially if it is at a different school. The band supported them and gave them credit for performing. As we went to get hot chocolate, I personally went up to the

SeniorNet reaching out from cyberspace

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

1-9-03

The Pavilion Senior Center is inviting people over the age of 50 to learn how to use computers in its new SeniorNet program.

The Pavilion will be starting its second SeniorNet term this month, with classes beginning on Jan. 27 and running until March 22. The Pavilion is offering four different classes that will accommodate computer rookies to those who are looking to learn more about specific programs.

Pavilion Director Nancy Janssen said the program specifically designed to help older people learn to use computers.

"SeniorNet has spent a significant amount of time and resources to develop workbooks and a training program to teach the adult population," she said. "It's an experience that's going to be successful and

not frustrating. We'll never see these people again if they leave frustrated."

John Dickmann, a Northbrook resident and one of the volunteer teachers in the program, said he is impressed with the outline of training program.

"This is one of the best-planned programs I've seen," he said, speaking as a former college math and physics teacher. "You only need to know how to read and follow along. It's outlined to be very easy."

The classes are small, with a maximum of six people in each one. With one trained teacher and one coach in each class, students get a lot of individual attention during each session.

"We all know individual attention is really important for this population," Janssen said. "Patience is a big part of the program. There is a lot of anxiety attached to this population to use this technology, and the instructors understand that."

Dickmann said two main aspects of the program

make it so successful.

"The students get a lot of help and individual attention," he said. "Plus, it's so well-written."

SeniorNet began at the Pavilion last September. Janssen said the students indicated on surveys that they got a lot out of it.

"We saw a lot of the same kind of things (on the survey)," she said. "(Students) felt they got a lot of attention, the (open) lab times were helpful and the teachers were well-qualified, prepared and patient."

This term, the Pavilion will be offering four different SeniorNet classes. Computer fundamentals, a four-week course, is designed to teach people who have never used a computer before. Introduction to Computers, an eight-week course, is for people who know the basics of computers and introduces students to a few programs. The Pavilion also will be offering eight-week courses in Microsoft Word and going online with America Online.

(Continued on page 6)

SeniorNet Continued from page 5 1-9-03

Students must pay a \$40 annual fee to SeniorNet, which will allow them to sign up for classes during all four terms of the year. The fee for each class is \$45, or \$25 for the Computer Fundamentals class.

Registration for the second term will be held Jan. 18 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the Pavilion, 199 First St.,

Wheeling. Janssen said it will be possible to register after that date, but she cautioned that many of the classes will be filled during the formal registration date.

Classes are held at the Pavilion once a week during the day and evening. Anyone over 50 can register. Call (847) 459-2670 for more information.

Learn candidates' views at a variety of forums

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's seniors might have different concerns for the village's future than local business owners.

As the April 1 election approaches, older residents might question candidates' views on tax increases that would affect seniors on fixed incomes, while businesses cast

an eye toward redevelopment and parents look toward schools and parks to improve programs for kids.

Residents from diverse groups across Wheeling will have their chance to learn about candidates' views first-hand in a variety of forums scheduled in coming weeks:

• Wheeling Township Forum: 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Wheeling Township Building, 1616 N.

Arlington Heights Road. Wheeling candidates will speak at 8 p.m.

• Tahoe Village Condominium Association: Doors will open at 7 p.m. March 18 for the fourth biannual forum in the Tahoe Village Clubhouse, 1771 Tahoe Circle Drive, Wheeling.

"We are inviting candidates for park district and school board to attend," said Steven Boime of the Tahoe Village asso-

ciation. "There will be time after the trustee candidates' Q&A for people to ask questions one-on-one to the other candidates."

• Wheeling-Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry "Meet the Candidates" Luncheon: March 18, but registration is required by Friday to get the \$20 ticket price. Otherwise, tickets are \$25, including for the 11:30 a.m. registration at the event. The forum and lun-

cheon begin at noon at Traditions of Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. RSVP with payment to the WPH Chamber, 395 E. Dundee Road, Unit 300, Wheeling, IL 60090. Call (847) 541-0170.

• AARP Forum: 1 p.m. March 24 at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Call Dolly Hein at (847) 342-9752.

Medical office building proposed in Wheeling

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents on Wheeling's east side soon could live next door to a new office building.

The good news is that village planners think the building would fit well into the neighborhood.

The Wheeling Plan Commission this month praised a proposal to build a 3,400-square-

foot medical office building at 600 E. Jeffrey Ave., saying the plans for the site are creative.

Architect Hernando Moreno of Chicago Workshop Architects told commissioners the single-story building would have a sloped, residential-style roof and gaps in trellises that would allow trees to grow upward through the roof.

"We'd like to be able to sit in the offices and enjoy the green

space," Moreno said, also highlighting the big windows in the design.

Wheeling fire officials expressed concerns about achieving sufficient ventilation around the trees in the event of a fire, but commissioners said the design would be a welcome addition if the developer could find a safe way to accomplish it.

"I think you're doing a nice transition between business

and residential," Commissioner David Cantwell said. "And if you do significant berming, you would be a good neighbor."

Commissioner Steven Boime said Moreno would be an even better neighbor if he was able to shift the design, putting the office building next to homes instead of the parking lot.

However, Moreno said the location of the building just west of Milwaukee Avenue

would give it needed visibility to alert clients to its location.

The plan commission's workshop for the building proposal was a preliminary meeting to give the architect assurances the village would consider a finalized plan for the site.

The developer must reappear before the plan commission to receive a formal recommendation before presenting the project to Wheeling trustees.

New modest dress code will ease pressure on girls

To the editor: The public school system seems to function with a huge banner atop each building that screams: "Criticize Us!"

So for once, it's a pleasure to say Buffalo Grove High has been caught doing something right, thanks to columnist Erin Holmes.

The decision to insist on modesty in the classroom deserves a standing ovation. My daughter spent five years in a Christian school where girls dressed like a scene from "Little House On The Prairie." At the time, they seemed extreme and a little ridiculous.

Then she transferred to Fremd to finish her last three years. The first parents' night convinced me we weren't in Kansas anymore.

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580
or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

Suddenly, the "extreme" modesty of the Christian school looked pretty good.

The new ban on "brief, revealing, and skimpy" outfits has to result in higher academic output as teachers and boys are far less distracted.

And, though they won't admit it, many girls will be glad the peer pressure is off to try to be as bare as they dare. Sounds like a successful formula for stress and tension reduction. Bravo!

David S. Swift
Rolling Meadows

Not easy, but she'll back District 21 hike

To the editor: Residents of Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will vote on a tax increase in April. I, like some many other taxpayers, are a little overwhelmed with this prospect. But what are we to do?

As a parent, I know the cost of everything has gone up. Why would this not be the same for the school district? I know I pay more for books at Borders, so I would expect that schools pay more for their books. My salary has gone up in the last couple of years. I would think teachers' salaries and benefits would also increase.

Do I really think teachers go

into their careers with the idea of getting rich? I think not.

As much as I do not want my taxes to go up, I know that this is one of the only ways that the schools can offer programs that benefit our kids. Whatever happened to the Lotto being the answer to all the financial woes of the school? The state is giving less and less money to the schools every year.

With the money trouble of the state, I would expect this not to change any time soon. It is time to realize that it is property taxes that pay for the schools.

As a homeowner, I know that to keep my property values high I need to make some investments. What better investment than the children of District 21?

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world, the students are doing and learning things in middle school that I learned in high school. There are more tech classes than ever before. These types of classes are not going to come cheaply.

The students of District 21 are going to have to go out into the world and compete with other students who have had more opportunities. We need to support them and give them the tools they will need.

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Continued from Page 1

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Dist. 21 could cut dozens of jobs

By JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-4-03

It was a violin swan song Monday night as Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 decided to slash dozens of teaching positions and silence major portions of its music program if its April tax increase bid fails.

Nearly 48 teachers would vanish from district classrooms next year if that happens. Ten of those are special education, English as a Second Language and gym teachers. The rest would all come from regular classrooms, increasing class sizes to an average of 25 to 27 students.

The gouge came with the majority of the board, meeting as a finance committee, approving a \$4.3 million spending reduction plan coupled with a \$200,000 income boost. The measures would help solve a deficit projected at \$9 million if residents this spring reject a property tax increase of 50 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation.

Monday's swan song is the only thing violins would play in the dis-

trict, with the orchestra and jazz ensemble programs disappearing next year if the tax increase isn't passed.

The instrumental music program would see a 50 percent cut in funding.

The cut was one of the most difficult for the committee to support.

"I think this is one of those items where you have to close your eyes, swallow hard and have to go forward with," said board President Phil Pritzker.

Teachers would also receive less money for supplies. The Metropolitan test would also be eliminated, and intercession program fees will rise by \$5.

Hawthorne school escaped the ax and will remain open. The Reading Corps program was also spared.

"This was probably the toughest meeting I've ever had to attend," said board member Arlen Gould at the end of the decisions on cuts. "These are all devastating."

The plan will move to the full board for the formality of final approval on Feb. 20.

Now, the winners: America's Car Wash in Wheeling wrapped up its six-month, 20th anniversary celebration by announcing winners for its grand-prize drawing.

The family-run America's Car Wash is owned by Al and Mae Schwab, and they held monthly drawings to encourage customers to join them in celebrating two decades in business.

The car wash at 400 N. Milwaukee recently invited Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki to draw the three winning names at a grand prize ceremony.

The car wash sent us this list of winners: Tony Feraara of Palatine won a VIP Club membership good for a year's worth of car washes; Margo Ramtin of Deerfield won a weekend stay for two at Chicago's Le Meridien Hotel; and Lionel S. Friedman of Chicago won a 27-inch Sylvania color TV.

• Have news, tips, ideas? Call Cass Clatt at (847) 427-4486 or e-mail cclatt@dailyherald.com.

Wheeling's tax district plan angers local officials

2-3-03

While officials with the Indian Trails Public Library District decry Wheeling's plans to form a new tax increment financing district, the village's finance manager says there's no way to verify the library's projected losses.

Almost the entire library board showed up at a public hearing last week to protest the tax district Wheeling wants to form along Lake-Cook Road.

Forming the district would allow the village to freeze the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years, using tax increases generated by appreciation in property value to pay for improving the properties within the district.

Two developers already are in line to take advantage of the tax help by building condos in the district.

"The library will have to give up \$1,645,000 if this TIF goes through, while servicing 500 families for 18 years for free," said library board Treasurer Larry Cahall of the new library patrons the condos could bring.

"We simply can't do it," Cahall said.

Yet, Wheeling Finance Director Michael Mondschain said he doesn't know where the library got its figures.

There's no way to determine how much an area will appreciate in property value until the village knows what retailers and other developers will locate there, Mondschain told Wheeling trustees during the hearing.

The village also doesn't know what types of improvements current businesses in the district will make.

Businesses in the proposed tax increment financing area are afraid that forming the TIF would give Wheeling more power to condemn their properties.

But the city attorney assured business owners the village would have no more condemnation powers than it has now.

Wheeling trustees said they will consider options that include shortening the duration of the TIF and using tax surpluses from the district to reimburse taxing bodies negatively affected before making a decision about forming the TIF.

The village board cannot vote on the tax district any sooner than 14 days after the Jan. 27 hearing or any later than 90 days after it, meaning a decision must come by the last week in April.



Cass Clatt
Wheeling

Astor Place greets first

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

2-6-03

Construction of the Astor Place development on the former Wheeling Nursery has been moving along quickly enough to let the first residents move in this past weekend.

Builders hired by Kimball Hill Homes are currently working to complete two of the four condominium buildings and about 25 of the proposed 122 town homes at the site, said Tom Tylutki of Kimball Hill Homes.

Tylutki said sales have been good.

"We've sold about 30 of each (condos and town homes)," he said. "They're good products. There's also a lot of ancillary support around the development with the airport, easy access to the tollway and Restaurant Row. We're very happy."

This past weekend was a big one for Kimball Hill, Tylutki said. Not only did the first residents move into one of the town homes, but models of unfurnished units were opened, too. Tylutki said he expects residents will be able to start moving into condominiums sometime in July.

Condominiums that are currently for sale have a listing price between \$250,900 and \$255,990. Town homes that are available are listed between \$314,990 and \$347,990.

Tylutki said although sales have been good so far, Kim-

(Continued on page 9)

Astor

Continued from page 5

ball Hill is not sure when construction will start on the other two condominium buildings.

"We'll have about six months of selling," he said. "When we get more sales in the next building, we'll start (construction). We're not projecting a timetable. It depends on how quickly (units) go."

Construction on the development began in late July. Crews were able to get the buildings closed up before winter, allowing for work to be done inside.

Kimball Hill was able to begin construction of the development on the 25-acre site after wrangling with an adjacent landowner for an easement for a sewer line. The Wheeling Village Board gave Kimball Hill site-plan approval on the development in August 2001. It took Kimball Hill nearly a year to acquire the easement.

Correction

2-6-03

A story appearing in the Jan. 30 issue of the *Countryside* should have stated that a Wheeling Elementary School District 21 taxpayer living in a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 would pay an additional \$242.95 in property taxes next year if voters approve a tax-rate referendum April 1 and if the School Board agrees to phase in the total tax increase. We regret the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

Agency ups Wheeling's bond rating

2-4-03

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

It may not seem like much to most Wheeling residents, but village officials think an upgrade in Wheeling's bond rating is a big deal.

Fitch Ratings announced last week it raised the rating for Wheeling's general obligation debt from AA to AA+.

It basically means Wheeling can save on interest when issuing bonds — which means lower taxes levied against residents to pay back loan debt — because investors see less risk in investing in Wheeling.

"These upgrades are rather unusual," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said. "It's fairly difficult to get an upgrade from any of the rating agencies. Most suburbs around here have a AA rating."

Because of the rating upgrade, Wheeling was able to save in the range of \$80,000 to \$100,000 more than expected last week while refinancing \$4.6 million in bonds. Wheeling sold the bonds in 1995 and 1996 to pay for street and other capital improvements.

"Strong tax base growth and spending controls have enabled village administrators to meet increased service demand while developing

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Your Guide to Craft Shows: lzurawski@dailyherald.com Luke Zurawski, 427-4484;
Community news coordinator: akukec@dailyherald.com
Editor: Anna Marie Kukec, 427-4477;

Teacher's computer savvy earns her place in 'Heart'

By **KIMBERLY FORNEK**
STAFF WRITER

program that combines images, text, sound and video in a multimedia presentation.

2-6-03

In recognition of her accomplishments, a computer teacher at St. Mary School received an award from the Archdiocese of Chicago last week and two dozen peach roses from the school staff.

Joyce Campobasso was one of 14 Catholic elementary and high school teachers to receive the Heart of the School Award for Teacher Recognition for the way she has improved computer classes at St. Mary.

"I'm very excited to be getting an award for something I love to do," said Campobasso, who is in her eighth year of teaching at the Buffalo Grove school.

"When she first started, the primary grade students used the computers primarily to play enrichment games. Campobasso saw the opportunity to teach them computer skills with practical applications.

"I showed them it's a really unique way to present information," she said.

Instead of navigating the Oregon Trail, her students in kindergarten through fourth grade now navigate through Excel, Microsoft Word and Power Point programs.

"It gives them a great start as they move toward the future," said Campobasso, a Wheeling resident who has been a member of St. Mary Parish since 1976.

By fourth grade, all the children know how to do a Power Point presentation, St. Mary Principal Gary Campione said. Power Point is a

"The second-graders do a little autobiography of themselves," Campobasso said. The third-graders demonstrate their knowledge of the rain forest via Power Point. And the children are urged to be as creative as possible.

"It's amazing what they are doing to make their (presentation) unique," she said.

Campobasso also oversees an accelerated reading program in which students independently take multiple-choice tests on the computer to test their comprehension of books they have read. The

points they earn with correct answers are redeemable for prizes that include gift certificates to area stores.

Campobasso instructs the staff, as well as the students, at St. Mary.

One of the school's goals is "to get our faculty computer literate," said Campione. Campobasso has the patience to document a new program and take novice computer users through it step by step, the principal said.

"I show them how to bring (software) into the classroom," Campobasso said.

And with her help, the teachers used Power Point presentations during open house at the school and parent-teacher nights.

Campobasso doesn't have a degree in computer science, but she has taken classes at Harper College through the school's professional development initiative. A lot of what she knows she taught herself.

(Continued on page 8)

It gives them a great start as they move toward the future.

Teacher Joyce Campobasso



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

St. Mary School teacher Joyce Campobasso helps student Emily Brown with a computer-based painting program.

"I'm a hands-on type person," she said. "And I do a lot of reading."

Campobasso is surprised at how much she has learned. She and a fellow teacher set up a new computer lab at St. Mary with 30 personal computers. She connected the computers in each classroom to the network. She knows basic computer maintenance and recognizes which problems she can fix and which require outside expertise to solve. And Campobasso

knows how lucky she is to work with a group of very supportive teachers, administrators and staff, who presented her with the roses Friday in front of the entire student body.

"It wouldn't have happened for me without them," Campobasso.

The Heart of the School Award includes a pin, a plaque issued by Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, and a \$500 cash prize.

Businesses wonder if future includes them

By **CASEY MOFFITT**
STAFF WRITER

Feb 6, 2003

Business owners and elected officials are pondering their professional and financial fate as village officials move toward redeveloping the northern part of town.

About a dozen people spoke out at a public hearing before the Wheeling Village Board last week, asking questions about how a new tax increment financing district will affect their properties or their tax revenues.

Most who spoke own property in the proposed TIF district and were fearful the village was looking to take their property out from under them.

"I'm afraid, as a landowner, we're going to lose our land," said Charles De Lachapelle, owner of RSVP Direct on North Wolf Road.

Other landowners were concerned when they saw their properties described as "obsolete" or "blighted" in the redevelopment report that accompanies the TIF district layout. Mike Linderman, who owns condominiums and an insurance company on North Wolf Road, asked the Village Board to reconsider some of the labels used in the plan, fearing he also could lose his property.

"My building is not a blight; it is not a problem," Linderman said. "I've invested my hard-earned money in this village, and I'd like to stay."

Linderman said he has worked hard to maintain and landscape his 12-year-old building. Although trustees eased his mind, Linderman was still concerned that his property will still be listed as "obsolete" and that he could still lose it when new board members take over. He asked for a more complete redevelopment plan for the new TIF district.

"I want to see a redevelopment plan before a TIF plan, so we all know which way is up," he said.

Trustees said the TIF district is being established mainly to improve the area with updated infrastructure and to help businesses invest in their properties. Trustees want to establish the TIF district between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road. It will extend as far south as Mayer Avenue and stretch to Lake-Cook Road.

Trustees said their intent is not to throw landowners off their properties.

"It would be heartbreaking to think that we would throw people out," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "People wouldn't look at this favorably if we did."

Phil McKenna, of consultant Kane, McKenna and Associates, said the new TIF district will not give the village more power in condemning land. However, the fund will give the village more money to use for land acquisition. McKenna said all existing landowners in

(Continued on page 8)

Proposed TIF district

The Wheeling Village Board is expected to vote Monday on final approval of a proposed tax increment financing district that will pave the way for future development along Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The TIF district serves as a funding mechanism for land acquisition and utility improvements for new development.



Source: Village of Wheeling

Pioneer Press/LRK

the district eligible for TIF dollars to improve their properties.

"TIF used to improve an area that is underperforming overall," McKenna said. "That's not to say all are underperforming businesses, but the area is underperforming overall."

Trustee Patrick Horcher also said the TIF district will not be used to take people's

property away from them, but to help those owners improve their land.

"I don't want to see anybody put out," he said. "I would like people to come in and show us how they will improve their property."

Trustee Dean Argiris said he expects some of the TIF money to go toward environmental improvement.

"I see the Village Board

going after blighted areas and TIF money used to clean up contaminated areas," he said. "We need to have our ducks in order to get it done right."

Other taxing bodies typically are not excited to see new TIF districts established, because their portion of tax revenues is frozen for the duration of the district, which is usually 23 years. Property

(Continued on page 9)

Future

Continued from page 8

owners do not get a tax break in the district, but additional tax dollars, or the increment, that are generated after the first year the TIF is established are placed into a separate fund to pay for improvements.

The only taxing body to protest the new TIF was the Indian Trails Public Library District. Six board members spoke against the new district, saying it will take needed tax revenue away from the library.

"Our budget is limited," said board member Patricia Murray. "We have almost no fees. All of our money is from taxes."

Other board members argued that redevelopment, spurred by TIF incentives, could mean more residents moving in and seeking to use library services. Without any new funds coming for 23 years, board members asked how the village expected the library to serve new members.

"Who pays?" asked Library Board President Earl Sabes. "That money must come from somewhere."

Village trustees said redevelopment will increase property values in the area much more quickly than if it were left alone. They said taxing bodies will see a great windfall at the end of the TIF.

The ordinance to formally create the new TIF district is expected to be on the Village Board's Feb. 10 agenda.

Petersburg Plaza earns approval

"Everybody will be proud of this building," he said.

The plaza parking lot will abut many homes on Shadow Bend Drive. Trustees said they were pleased to see Moreno and Hein work with the residents to create a suitable buffer that is acceptable to the residents.

Hein also asked the board for \$625,000 from the tax increment financing fund to help pay for the development. Trustees were reluctant to give him the money, but they did ask village staff members to draft an agreement outlining any financial incentive.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said he recommended the money stay in the fund.

"In my experience, tax increment financing incentives are only given when without it, the project won't proceed," he

(Continued on page 8)

\$150,000 in sales taxes to the village each year.

"That's the kind of tenant we're looking at," Hein said. "We want to generate the type of tenant that will bring good business and good revenue to the village."

Other businesses Hein said he envisioned for the center are a florist, a specialized book shop or an ice cream parlor.

Trustees were skeptical of the business a strip mall would bring. They said they have heard such claims before from other developers, but such high-end businesses never came.

"Take your time and do it right," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "It's happened before when we got something other than what we heard."

Hein said with rent as high as \$22 per square foot, only high-end retailers will be able to afford it.

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
2-6-03

A new strip mall will be built on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of the Dundee Road intersection, that should include high-quality retailers.

The Wheeling Village Board approved the construction of Petersburg Plaza at its Jan. 27 meeting. The shopping center will include two buildings with an open plaza in the middle. William Hein, working as a consultant to developer Hermando Moreno, called the proposal an "urban-type center," since the building will sit near the street, with parking in the rear.

Hein said it will not be a typical strip mall, promising to bring high-end retailers into the center. He said he has a commitment from a downtown Chicago jeweler, who could generate as much

Petersburg Continued from page 5

said. "This one will."

Douthwaite did suggest, however, that the village have the authority to approve any tenants in the plaza if the building is granted TIF money. He also recommended that any funds be based on the percentage of square feet that is leased, as opposed to an up-front lump sum.

Hein was agreeable to allowing the village approve tenants, but he was less agreeable to tying the funds to the amount of square feet leased. Some trustees said granting the funds would mean the vil-

lage can get exactly what Hein promises.

"The assurances are worth the investment," Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

Some trustees, however, said it would set a peculiar precedent, since the village has never given TIF money with conditions of approving tenants.

"I think it's too risky to get into property management," Trustee Robert Heer said.

The TIF money would be used to defray land acquisition, planning, legal, engineering and demolition costs

associated with the project. If the money is not granted, Hein said the plan would most likely be altered.

"We will not be able to build with the same quality," he said. "We'll probably have to go to redraw (the plan)."

Hein estimated the project would generate a tax increment of about \$880,000 over the next four years, when the TIF is set to expire. That money would be deposited into the TIF fund, more than making up the sum that would come out of it.

Village considers tax break for mall

Consultant predicts return on investment

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is considering a \$625,000 gamble on a chance to bring a high-end retail center to town.

Trustees are leery of a developer's request to receive tax help to build a 12-store mall at 119-145 N. Milwaukee Ave., but they're even more concerned about what the village could end up with if they oppose the request.

Development consultant William Hein told trustees this week he needs \$625,000 in tax incentives to build a plaza nice enough to attract a specialty bookstore, an upscale ice-cream shop and a jeweler, among other retailers.

The village board agreed that Wheeling's attorney should try to negotiate a development agreement that would ensure the proposed Petersburg Place would host the high-end tenants promised.

Earlier this month, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite recommended against granting incentives, saying the village should give tax help only if the project wouldn't survive without it.

"And it is not my understanding that that's the case here," Douthwaite said Monday.

However, trustees said they preferred to be more proactive in ensuring Wheeling won't get "just another strip mall."

Hein told trustees he would have to redraw his plans if he doesn't get tax help.

"And if you had to do a redraw, we wouldn't have as much control, and it could be a cigarette store, or a hair dresser, or whatever else," Trustee Judy Abrusca-to said.

She favored Douthwaite's suggestion that the village give the money on the condition trustees could approve all tenants.

Trustee Bob Heer argued it was too risky for the village "to get into property management." Also, despite Hein's assurance that a \$1.2 million appreciation in property value would give the village a return on its investment, Heer said there were too many "what ifs" surrounding the tenants.

After Trustee Dean Argiris said it would be unfair to use Petersburg Place to establish a quid pro quo for tax incentives, the board agreed to direct the village attorney to try to reach a compromise.

Dist. 21 likely to make bad finances list

BY JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-7-03

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 will likely make the state's list of most financially troubled school districts come this spring, district officials report.

As the state moves to a new financial assessment system this spring, District 21 will be one of an estimated 250 Illinois school districts falling onto the financial watch and warning lists created by the Illinois State Board of Education. Under the current system only 11 of Illinois' 893 school districts make that list.

That growth is the result of a more in-depth look at school district finances under the new system. Where the state had only considered a district's fund balance to revenue ratio, four new components will now factor in. Income versus spending, cash on hand and short- and long-term debts are all included in the new system.

Making the list subjects a district to various levels of state oversight, including more in-depth examination and reporting of a district's debts and coffers.

The news is bad for District 21, but could be worse. On a 1.00 to 4.00 scale, with 4.00 being the best possible score, District 21 earns a 3.00 for its 2001 Annual Financial Report, just low enough to make the Financial Watch list.

But those are old numbers.

Come spring, the state will issue the district a new score based on its

2002 annual financial report. The district expects its score to fall below 3.00 at that point, firmly entrenching it on the financial watch list.

Should the score slip to 2.61 or lower, the district moves to the financial warning list, the final frontier before destitution. All districts on that list have the potential for a full takeover by the state.

How did it get this bad?

It's a simple story of stagnant income, but more and higher bills to pay. When savings run out a deficit is left. In this case, a projected \$9 million shortfall over the next two years. The district cites the tax cap, increasing teacher salaries, enrollment growth and skyrocketing insurance costs as the source of its woes.

Making the list, then, is not a surprise to Superintendent Gary Mical, but also not a welcome development. "But I think we're doing the things we need to do right now," Mical said.

Those include the formation of a finance committee to work on a deficit reduction plan that will steer the books back on course. That could mean trimming dozens of teachers and their salaries, by far the largest portion of the budget, if voters don't improve a tax increase in April.

The district seeks a 50 cent per \$100 of equalized assessed property valuation to avoid the slash-and-burn task of balancing the budget without new income.

The school board will continue discussions at its Feb. 20 meeting,

Wheeling wants to help districts hurt by tax zone

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-11-03

Wheeling wants to help the local library and other taxing bodies that stand to lose out on revenue from the village's new tax-funded redevelopment area.

Trustees just don't know how to go about it.

So, despite requests from Indian Trails Library board officials to delay the vote, the village board Monday approved a new tax increment financing district for the North Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road area. Library officials complain that current taxpayers in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove will have to support library services for up to 500 new families that could move into the new TIF district.

In a TIF district, the village freezes the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years, using tax increases generated by appreciation in property value to pay for sewer, road and property improvements within the district.

Trustees insisted the need for infrastructure improvements along North Milwaukee are too dire to delay action. However, they agreed to negotiate an agreement in coming

weeks that would seek to ease financial hardship for all affected taxing bodies.

"My concern would be making a deal, for lack of a better term, with one taxing body," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

Before trustees voted, the library board had presented them with two amendments to the TIF ordinance that would have reimbursed Indian Trails alone for lost tax revenue.

One amendment would have reimbursed the library based on how many new library card holders the TIF district generated. The alternative would have bound Wheeling to incorporate any future reimbursement rules that might come about as a result of the library's lobbying efforts to change state TIF laws.

"I proposed the two different amendments because I didn't know an intergovernmental agreement was the right direction to go," library board Treasurer Larry Cahall said.

Cahall and other library officials said they support the village's decision to negotiate agreements to find relief for the library, park district and other taxing bodies.

"We're going to make every effort to get invited to work with village staff to resolve this," Cahall said.

Ex-priest gets five more years

BY SHAMUS TOOMEY

Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-7-03

A federal judge on Thursday tacked five more years onto the child pornography prison sentence of a former Roman Catholic priest from a Wheeling church, raising the admitted child molester's total punishment to 20 years.

The overall sentence imposed on Vincent McCaffrey, 50, is believed to be the longest ever given to someone convicted of possessing lewd images of children, prosecutors said.

U.S. District Judge John Darrah had sentenced the disgraced former priest to 15 years last week but corrected himself Thursday by ruling a related five-year prison sentence for receiving child pornography must be stacked atop the longer term.

Darrah had ruled last week the two sentences should be served at the same time. But, at the urging of prosecutors, he decided he was legally obligated to stack the sentences because of his own previous rulings that McCaffrey's sordid criminal past demanded a longer prison term.

A visibly upset Thomas J. Royce, McCaffrey's attorney, said he was disappointed but declined to publicly criticize the ruling. Royce had previously argued in court papers that federal law allows a judge to correct a sentence only if there was an "arithmetical, technical or other clear error." Royce argued a judge can't correct a sentence based on a change of heart. He also claimed prosecutors were taking "a second bite of the apple."

McCaffrey, who has been in custody since last June, showed no emotion when the extra five years were added. With good behavior, his earliest chance of release will come when he's 67 years old.

The former priest was arrested after authorities busted a New Zealand-based child porn Internet site last year. McCaffrey's name was found on a subscribers list, and U.S. Customs agents raided his Chicago condo. They found thousands of images of children in sex acts, with some photos found tucked under McCaffrey's mattress and some found in a cupboard. McCaffrey immediately told agents he was a

former priest and was in therapy to treat an addiction to young boys. He claimed viewing the photos was his way of avoiding molesting children.

Assistant U.S. Attorney T. Markus Funk, who prosecuted the case, dug into McCaffrey's past and found dozens of victims who claimed McCaffrey had either fondled or raped them when they were children and he was their parish priest. The abuse happened in the 1970s and 1980s at churches around the area, including at St. Joseph the Worker in Wheeling between 1982 to 1987.

Five of McCaffrey's victims, including two from St. Joseph, angrily testified against him during a sentencing hearing last month. Some were telling their stories publicly for the first time. Others had reported the abuse and later complained that the Archdiocese of Chicago allowed McCaffrey to change parishes after undergoing therapy. Church officials say they followed the church protocol of the time and later forced McCaffrey to resign when that protocol changed in the early 1990s.

On the witness stand last month, McCaffrey admitted molesting at least 14 young boys when he was a priest. He said he couldn't pinpoint the exact number because he had molested so many. He also testified he didn't force himself on anyone. Darrah later ruled that was untrue and slapped an obstruction of justice enhancement to the sentence.

McCaffrey was never prosecuted for the abuse, and the statute of limitations has expired on the cases. But prosecutors, under federal sentencing laws, were able to introduce the uncharged crimes as a reason to hike McCaffrey's pornography sentence. Had McCaffrey been charged with child porn under state laws, he would have faced a far lighter punishment.

McCaffrey's victims have praised Funk for delivering justice that McCaffrey escaped for years. Funk said the government was pleased with the sentence.

"This is an extraordinary case involving dozens of victims who were sexually abused on hundreds of occasions over decades," Funk said. "This is the first time McCaffrey has ever been held accountable for these acts in any courthouse in America."

Wheeling trustees to decide on TIF

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-10-03

Wheeling officials see no reason to hold off on a vote that could establish a new tax financing district in the area of Lake-Cook Road and North Milwaukee Avenue.

The village could have studied the matter further and held off on a vote until late April.

However, trustees plan to vote tonight on three measures that would spur redevelopment in the area for 23 years by funneling any appreciation in property tax revenue generated by the district back into the district. The report shows the State later, Mexico lacks full compliance, abduction cases. Nearly 25 years

improvements to Milwaukee Avenue.

Representatives from the Indian Trails Public Library District complained last month that forming the district would deprive the library of tax revenue and make it hard to stock library shelves.

"Two projects propose to add 500 new residential units to the library district," library board Treasurer Larry Cahall said of condos proposed for the tax financing area. "Unless we can get relief from the village, the library will have to take the cost of providing service to these new 500 families from the taxes of the families who already support obligations."

Gallardo had visitation with child today of the boys in Vernon Hills. By 1999, Anderson had sole custody of the boys.

Both the mediator and a conciliation recommended Anderson receive sole custody of the children because of Cahall's behavior problems and lack of parenting skills.

Buffalo Grove Police Department (847) 459-2560
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: (877) 446-2632

Wheeling trustees require fence at day-care center

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees decided this week they want the fences high, wide and thick for a resident planning to open a new home day-care center.

Concerned about dogs with a history of biting next door to the proposed day care at 24 Redwood Trail, the village board last month delayed a vote on approving it until they

could learn more about neighborhood safety.

A review of plan commission testimony helped trustees decide to allow Lolita Kadukov to care for up to eight children at her home, but only on the condition that she and her husband build a solid, 6-foot fence on all sides of her property as soon as the ground thaws.

"In the spring, you need to have protection for your chil-

dren and also for yourself because that's a high liability," Trustee Judy Abruscato said of the dog situation.

A neighbor on one side of Kadukov's property had told plan commissioners in December he was concerned that kids could reach through his chain-link fence and touch his three dogs on Willow Trail.

However, Wheeling police submitted a memo this month

outlining a history of dog complaints from a neighboring address directly next door at 20 Redwood Trail.

There were 10 dog-related calls from July 2000 to September 2002, "three involving a pit-bull-type animal," police said.

The new information — coupled with concerns first roused by two mauling attacks in early January on Chicago's South Side that left one woman dead — prompted trustees to demand

fencing on more than one side of Kadukov's property.

Trustees voted 4-2 to approve the home day care. Trustees Trevor Lehmann and Dean Argiris voted against it after Argiris questioned Kadukov's ability to care for eight children without an assistant.

"I might get an assistant, but I don't know yet because I am not allowed to start," Kadukov said.

Wheeling ready to retire its ethics commission

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

One of the state's first ethics boards is on its way to extinction.

After postponing a vote in December, Wheeling again is poised to get rid of the groundbreaking ethics commission formed in 1975 in the aftermath of federal prosecution of Wheeling corruption.

Wheeling says retiring its 27-year-old dinosaur is a step in the village's evolution, even as Illinois prepares to set up a new inspector general's office to safeguard ethics in state government.

A revised Wheeling ethics law, which trustees expect to vote on by late March, would do away with the ethics board but strengthen enforcement, trustees said. It would send ethics complaints directly to the state via the village attorney.

Under the current system, the village board sends ethics complaints filed against elected and appointed officials to five community members appointed by the village president.

Also, every employee must file forms with the village outlining business and property interests, which could be used against them if a complaint were filed.

"It was like having a kangaroo court," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "If you were on someone's hit list, you were subject to all kinds of charges. We had our citizens being judge and jury."

Wheeling's new law would require only elected and appointed officials to file disclosure documents they already submit to the state, officials said. Trustees would play no role in the process, and the village would rely on the state's knowledge of ethics laws and legal procedures to decide cases.

"It's pretty difficult to find people who are knowledgeable in law to sit on an ethics commission," Village President Greg Klatecki said.

Some residents have protested the dissolution, saying the board is a symbol of the commitment village leaders made to upright governance.

"Why are some of you members of the board so anxious and determined to weaken the ordinance and eliminate public involvement in the process?" said former Village President Sheila Schultz.

Speaking at one of two workshops held to review proposed changes, Schultz reminded trustees of a federal crackdown on extortion and corruption that sent former Wheeling officials to prison in 1974.

"We update our building codes every couple of years, we look at our sprinkler codes, and yet we have an ethics code that not even our ethics commissioners can agree what means what," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said of the timing of the changes.

"We've made this incredibly strong, where before it had the appearance that it could be manipulated," Lehmann added.

Trustees pointed out that the only violation of Wheeling's ethics law in 27 years was removed from the ethics commission's authority and handled internally by village staff.

A former village board decided it was a personnel matter when the former village attorney was criticized for operating a private practice out of his village office. The commission reviewed two other cases involving real estate conflict-of-interest complaints against a trustee but found there was no basis to them. The ethics board hasn't met in two years.

"I had no problem with keeping the ethics board," Trustee Judy Abruscato said, "but I don't know that we're losing that sense of commitment to ethics. The state has ethics laws now, and we're showing that we're moving on with the wave of the future."

have no choice but to propose the cuts.

"We don't have the money to do what we want to do," Krulwich said. "These are not things we want to eliminate. These are things we don't want to cut. These are things we have to do because we don't have the money any..." (Continued on page 8)

three District 21 schools using the year-round calendar.

Painful decisions

The committee isn't pleased about the cost-cutting proposals. Could called the meeting the "toughest meeting I've had to attend." All the committee members said they

schools using the year-round calendar.

Gary Mical, District 21 superintendent, said the principals at Whitman Elementary, Frost Elementary and Holmes Middle schools are working on a proposal to keep offering the intercession courses without any district funds. Whitman, Frost and Holmes are the only

Budget ax Continued from page 5

program, which would eliminate the orchestra, jazz band and percussion ensemble programs. The cut will save the district \$341,000.

Other cuts include a \$250,000 reduction in summer school programs, a \$75,000 cut in technology spending and cutting the \$200,000 cost for intercession courses in

Budget ax poised

Many school programs will be targeted should voters reject tax increase in April

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board will review a dramatic cost-cutting plan Feb. 20 that would be implemented if voters do not approve a tax-rate increase in the April election.

The cuts are being recommended by the Board Finance Committee, made up of School Board members Phil Pritzker, Ellen Clark, Arlen Gould and Larry Krulwich.

The committee met Feb. 3 to decide on specific cuts designed to balance the education fund in the next two years. The committee's recommendations for next school year trim the deficit by about \$4.5 million. In order to balance the education fund, a total of \$9.5 million of the \$52.7 million fund must be cut in two years if voters reject a 50-cent tax-rate increase for the education fund April 1, committee

members said.

Cuts in the teaching staff will make up the majority of the cost reductions. The district will save about \$2.8 million annually if 48 teaching positions are eliminated. The district anticipates 28 teachers retiring at the end of the year, and those positions will not be filled under the plan.

The district will then cut another 11 teaching positions, plus four bilingual/English as a Second Language teachers, one special education teacher and about three other teachers from music, art or physical education.

Teachers could also expect to see a 30 percent reduction in staff development and a 30 percent reduction in extra duty and extra-curricular expenses, saving the district another \$400,000 each year.

The committee also will recommend a 50 percent cut in the district's instrumental music (Continued on page 7)

Budget ax Continued from page 7

more."

The plan also calls for increasing revenue. However, only \$208,000 in new revenue could be found by increasing summer school fees, student material fees and building use fees and receiving new state grant money.

Cuts proposed by district administrators that avoided the committee's ax include freezing teacher and administrator salaries, eliminating Reading Corps and closing the Hawthorne School building.

Although freezing salaries would have cut more than \$2 million from the budget, the committee agreed it did not have the time to negotiate the freeze with the teachers union. Reading Corps, a program to help first- and second-graders who need assistance

in reading, costs the district \$192,000, but committee members said the program is too valuable to cut because it helps students stay out of expensive special education programs.

Tax increase proposal

The committee is also prepared to recommend the District 21 Board phase in its 50-cent tax-rate increase if voters approve it in April.

An owner of a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 will be asked to pay District 21 an additional \$242.95 next year and an additional \$104.12 three years from now if the increase is phased in. That same homeowner will pay an additional \$97.87 next year if the tax rate increase is defeated.

Village likes getting legal help from outside firm

BY GASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A little more than a year ago, Wheeling leaders were at odds over how to get legal help the village needed for its aggressive improvement plans.

Efforts to annex unincorporated areas and establish redevelopment areas to diminish blight required legal expertise that was missing after the unexpected retirement of Village Attorney James Rhodes.

Now, months after Rhodes' departure, the problem worked itself out, village officials said this week.

Wheeling contracted last year with the Chicago firm Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins as a trial, but liked the result.

"We've gotten more done in six months than we've gotten done in the last three years," Trustee Dean Argiris said.

The village acquired properties on Milwaukee Avenue, approved a new North Milwaukee tax increment financing area for redevelopment, taken over the lease of the vacated Kmart on Dundee Road and updated ordinances.

Trustee Michael Horcher was among those who said he doesn't foresee Wheeling going back to an in-house attorney system because a contract with a larger firm offers the village exposure to more expertise.

"The attorneys we have now, they get the man (who) is educated in each special problem we have," Horcher said.

After Rhodes left, the majority of the village board voted to approve a contract with an outside law firm. Village President Greg Klatecki, however, refused to sign the contract with the Chicago firm Holland & Knight, joining trustees who wanted to hire a new in-house attorney.

Klatecki and Trustee Judy Abruscato now say they're pleased with Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, but Abruscato said the test will come at budget time.

"I would like to review it again to see if inside council was more fiscally responsible," Abruscato said. "Inside, you have to buy the law books, insurance and pay the salary. Outside, you pay by the hour, but you also have top attorneys."

Orchestra students at London have let the district know they won't let the programs disappear without a fight. At the least, students plan to show up in full-orchestra garb at the school board meeting Thursday to speak out. At most, a student walk-

out could occur that day. District Superintendent Gary Mical said he's aware of the potential protests and hopes they are done constructively, if at all.

There are no indications of protests from orchestra students in other district schools. Still, those students are not silent on the issue.

The school board will take a final vote on its deficit spending cuts, including orchestra and jazz band, Thursday.

The school board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Administration Center adjacent to London.

Before that, at 5:30 p.m., a majority of school board members will meet as the finance committee. The finance committee is where planned cuts will originate.

"What I really don't understand is why they are punishing us because they handle money badly," reads a letter from Angie Kalayowitz, a seventh-grader in the orchestra at London Middle School.

"It's just not right. We feel that this was a really bad decision. I almost started crying when I heard the news."

Mical said he'll let Parker handle any walkout situation if it occurs at his building. That could mean disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, if Parker sees fit.

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BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Students in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 are determined to prevent the day the music died from ever coming.

Orchestra and jazz band students have been playing the blues ever since they learned the school board voted to slash the two programs if a tax increase proposal fails at the polls in April.

Whether London Middle School Principal James Parker is upset will be the key to any walkout.

Mical said he'll let Parker handle any walkout situation if it occurs at his building. That could mean disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion, if Parker sees fit.

Wheeling students plan protest to possible music program cuts

Keep the music playing for students in District 21

Feb. 17, 2003

To the editor: My name is Lauren Medrano and I am a sixth-grader at Jack London Middle School in Wheeling. I am in orchestra and I play the viola. I don't understand why the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 board is cutting the instrumental music program if the April tax referendum fails. I am asking you to keep the entire music program in District 21.

The music program gives all of the students a chance to learn how to play any instrument they want to learn. Music is very important in everyone's lives. It is very entertaining and it is fun to listen to.

The London orchestra teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth MacGeachy, has taught me

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580
or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

many things about music and the importance of it — even things like being a team player and a leader for the viola section because I am first chair.

She has inspired me to try my hardest to reach for my goal, which is to be a professional violist. Without her support and knowledge of music, I don't think I can ever reach it.

On Feb. 8, there was a contest at Cooper Middle School called the Solo and Ensemble Contest. I was there to perform a solo. My goal for that day was to get a

1-plus, which is the best score you can get. Before it was my time to perform, I was listening to all of the students who were participating and I was thinking of how talented they were. I don't think they could have gotten so well at playing their instruments without their teacher's help.

When it was my turn to perform, lots of people wished me good luck. I was so nervous I started to get butterflies in my stomach. Mrs. MacGeachy said I would do fine. I messed up once on my performance and I became very upset. I told Mrs. MacGeachy what I did wrong and she told me that one mistake won't affect my score that much. After I heard that, I started to believe in myself. A few

minutes later, I went to the cafeteria to see my score.

I found my name and next to it was my score, a 1-plus. I became so excited that my heart started to beat faster and faster. I was so thankful for everyone who helped me that day. It was one of the best days of my life.

Without my parents, my friends and Mrs. MacGeachy's help and support, I don't think I would have gotten that score. I'm very grateful to have a teacher like her. She is one of the most important people in my life.

I am hoping to continue doing the Solo and Ensemble Contest in the future. It gives a lot of people the opportunity to show off their talent. I hope you understand how much music

means to me and how much help I get from other people to be musically talented. Without music, I can never reach my goal. Please, don't take my dream away.

Lauren Medrano
Wheeling

Foreign-born teens need better training

To the editor: I was saddened to read that 27 percent of Wheeling High School students are foreign-born and most of them can't speak English.

It amazes me that a student can reach high school without speaking English. What does the

See FENCEPOST on PAGE 3

Fencepost: Casi

our tax buck at Wheeling High. Oh well, at least they can learn to swim — if they can find the pool following English signage.

Continued from Page 1
student expect to learn in an English-speaking nation, how will they graduate and where do they expect to work after graduation?

How do these students watch television or movies, read books, operate a PC, talk to teachers or learn anything worthwhile like job skills? Minimum-wage jobs will produce a minimum lifestyle for them, probably involving grass and dirty dishes.

A member of Wheeling's student newspaper staff said that foreign students will have a voice if the school newspaper becomes bilingual. They may have a voice, but most people won't understand them.

It's maddening that our highly touted District 214 can't make school admission, even if the student is held back a year to learn the language. An extra year of school for a teenager is less damaging than a lifetime without English.

We don't get much bang for

Safety first

Parents and grandparents with questions about children's car safety seats have two chances to meet with Wheeling police officers to get some answers.

The Wheeling Police Department will be hosting two free workshops to talk about different safety seats and how to properly install them. The first will be held in Council Chambers in Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, at 2 p.m. Saturday. The second will be held Sunday at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 181 W. Dundee Road, immediately following the noon service.

Study: Dist. 21 enrollment boom over

Demographer says increases in next five years will be small compared to '90s

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Elementary School District 21 can expect small increases in student enrollment over the next five years, according to a demographic study commissioned by the School Board.

George Ambruster, of demographer K-12 Analytics Group, reported the findings of the study at a recent board meeting. He said enrollment in the district has leveled off in the last few years since the explosion during the mid-1990s.

District enrollment was at 6,126 students in the 1992-93 school year. Enrollment increased to 6,911 in the 1996-97 school year, an increase of 12.8 percent.

Since then, growth has slowed. In the 1997-98 school year, enrollment to-

taled 7,073. This year, enrollment is at 7,193, or an increase of only 1.7 percent.

Ambruster estimates enrollment throughout the district to grow by .5 percent each year over the next five years, compared to an annual average growth rate of 1.45 percent over the last 12 years. He based his projections on an examination of population growth over the last 12 years and comparing it with the number of residential building permits that have been issued throughout the district.

Ambruster speculated that the economic slowdown contributed to the decrease in building permits being issued. However, if economic conditions improve, then enrollment could increase, he said. And so could his projections in enrollment increases.

"I've never been in a situation where there have been lots of dips (in

enrollment) during an economic boom," he said. "I expect, if the economy has a rapid turnaround, (enrollment) will come back."

School numbers

Ambruster also presented forecasts of future enrollment in each school. Schools on the east side of the district are expected to grow more quickly over the next five years, but even that growth is smaller than expected, said Board President Phil Pritzker.

Field Elementary School's population is expected to grow about 6 percent, from 570 students this year to 605 in the 2007-08 school year. Frost is expected to grow by about 6 percent, from 559 students this year to 593 in 2007-08. Twain is expected to grow 8 percent, from 489 students this year to 529 in 2007-08. Whitman is expected to

grow by about 6 percent, from 838 this year to 890 in 2007-08.

Kilmer Elementary School is expected to decrease in size by about 47 percent, from 395 this year to 386 in 2007-08. It is the only school projected to see a decrease in enrollment.

Longfellow is expected to see a 2 percent increase in enrollment, from 409 this year to 421 in 2007-08. Poe is expected to see a 2 percent increase from 451 this year to 460 in 2007-08. Riley's increase should be a negligible .26 percent, growing from 586 students this year to 610 in 2007-08. Tarkington should see an increase of about 2 percent, from 473 this year to 483 in 2007-08.

Middle school enrollments are expected to see similar increases. Cooper should see a .26 percent increase, from 705 this year to 714 in 2007-08. London
(Continued on page 7)

should grow from 782 this year to 792 in 2007-08, or a .25 percent increase. Holmes is expected to see enrollment climb by about 6 percent, from 930 this year to 997 in 2007-08.

A pleasant surprise?

Board President Phil Pritzker said the only surprising element of the study was Ambruster's estimate of overall enrollment growth over the next five years, which Pritzker said he expected to be higher.

"They're not nearly as high as we anticipated," Pritzker said. "It doesn't create an extreme urgency that says we need to find space because we have large numbers coming through the door."

Although Ambruster's projections do not show large increases, Pritzker said

the space problem is not going away, and something must be done to fix it.

"We still have an uneven distribution of students," he said. "We're still concerned about space. We're now in a position to look at a short-term solution instead of one quick resolution that was going to hold us over because the numbers were coming."

The Superintendent's Advisory Council, made up of more than 60 parents and residents, is expected to give the District 21 School Board a recommendation to solve the space issue at the board's Feb. 20 meeting. Pritzker said he does not expect the board to take any action at that meeting.

Pritzker did say it is now unlikely, given Ambruster's projections, that the district will plan to add classrooms, either permanent or temporary, to solve the problem.

Ambruster was hired to conduct the study in August at a cost of about \$12,000. The District 21 Board promised to hire a demographer last May, after the board could not produce a long-term solution to overcrowding in east-side schools. District 21 administrators had a difficult time pinning down the effects of proposed boundary changes, which would have drastically altered ethnic populations in some school buildings.

To alleviate overcrowding in Whitman Elementary School this year, Whitman kindergartners were sent to the Hawthorne School building. However, that does not address issues of overcrowding in Whitman's playground, lunchroom or assembly areas, which kindergartners do not typically use. The plan has given Whitman more classroom space, as well as an art and music room.

Networking women

Expo helps home-based business owners connect

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

2-19-2004
A Wheeling retailer knows how tough it is in the competitive times to run her own shop. So she invited a group of like-minded businesswomen to an event designed to help ease the burden.

Traci Grassmuck, owner of The Second Chance resale shop, hosted Ya-Ya Night at her McHenry Road store Feb. 12. She invited home-based, entrepreneurial businesswomen to show their wares and make new connections.

"I'm trying to help women in the community, because it's hard for them right now," Grassmuck said. "Hopefully they'll buy from each other, meet each other and help each other out."

About a dozen women brought their jewelry, gift baskets, candles, pastry mixes and cosmetics to the resale shop. Most who arrived had only a chance encounter with Grassmuck before the event.

Caroline Kennedy brought a sample of gift

baskets from her business, Designs by Caroline. Kennedy said she ran into Grassmuck while shopping at Nordstrom's Rack in Schaumburg.

"We struck up a conversation, and she told me about (the event)," Kennedy said. "We really have to rely on ourselves to keep our businesses going."

Laura Schutz-Hancko ran into Grassmuck at a local restaurant. She was immediately interested in the expo and brought jewelry from her business, Jewels by Park Lane.

"It's a chance to connect with others and meet like-minded people," she said. "This is about women helping women."

Many of Grassmuck's regular customers stopped by, talked with the women and made a few purchases, too. Grassmuck said the event is an extension of her business philosophy — helping the community.

"It is a different kind of marketing," she said. "We'll never get rich, but I guess it all depends on the way you look at your riches."

Five businesses fined for liquor violations

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission fined five restaurants for serving alcohol to minors during a police sting conducted in November.

Representatives from each of the five restaurants pleaded guilty to the charge at the Feb. 3 Liquor Control Commission meeting and said they will reinforce and improve employee training.

Hackney's, Hangouts, PS Pub and ...

Village buys Kmart lease

The Wheeling Village Board voted Monday to purchase the lease of the former Kmart building at 780 W. Dundee Road, effectively paving the way for the possible redevelopment of the property and others nearby.

The village will buy the building leasing rights for \$810,000 from the Kimco real estate trust, which currently owns the building. The village also will pay about \$26,000 in monthly rent on the 107,000-square-foot building, or about 24 cents per square foot.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the initial \$810,000 to buy the lease will come from the village's reserve fund. He said closing on the lease agreement should follow Kmart's Feb. 28 hearing in bankruptcy court.

Trustees said buying the lease will give the village more control as to who will move into the building and will make it easier to purchase the building for redevelopment in the future. Trustees feared a new tenant for the building would sign a long-term lease, similar to the Kmart lease, making it more difficult to acquire the building for redevelopment.

Kmart signed its lease in 1967, and there were still 48 years left on the agreement. If the village wanted to purchase the building after a new tenant had signed a long-term lease, the village would have had to buy out the lease and then buy the building. Trustees said buying the lease now will save the village millions of dollars if officials wanted to buy the building in the future.

In the meantime, trustees say the village will be looking for a tenant to sign a short-term lease for the building. Since monthly rents on commercial spaces can be as high as \$8 per square foot, trustees say they believe it's possible to recover the village's cost associated with purchasing the lease and renting the building from Kimco.

The Wheeling store was one of 284 Kmart closed when it filed for bankruptcy last March.

Hopefuls zeroing in on village's vitality

Ongoing economic revitalization a common thread among all Village Board candidates

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Feb 20, 2003

All of the candidates running for election to

derdeveloped property in the Crossroads TIF. He believes putting smaller parcels together will entice developers to build in the area.

"There are a lot of little parcels there," he

■ Hopefuls

Continued from page 8

south. There is a combined 30 acres near the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road intersection that would be ideal for a casino, Telow argues.

"I'm not saying we're going to get it, but we should make an attempt," he said. "There are a lot of people (in neighboring towns) with a lot of money to dispose of."

Telow also said the village should improve on its industrial base to create more jobs.

"We're not Lake Forest, and we're not Long Grove," Telow said. "We're a blue collar community. We need businesses (in town) to make money and businesses that know how to make it."

Board hopefuls question Telow's idea of casino

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

2-20-03

One candidate running for the Wheeling Village Board

"We have a lot of industry and other opportunities for revenue," he said. "There are other opportunities we need to build on."

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The village can post bonds or the work and then pay them off with money generated in the TIF fund. That means the village would not have to dip into its annual budget or raise taxes to pay off the bonds.

Readers

2-24-03

Editor's note: Letters about Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 were written and received before the school board decision late last week to save orchestra program.

To the editor: Like most communities in the area, over the past decade District 21 has experienced growth in enrollment and the corresponding increase in costs to meet that growth.

The last time the school district asked for an increase in education fund tax rate was 1989. Voters had the foresight responsibly approve a 70-cent increase in the rate. The district had not yet implemented the full increase when the state mandated tax cap was imposed.

E-mail photos in JPEG format or send original photographs along with an SASE; laser prints will not be accepted due to poor reproduction quality.

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Wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements.

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emergency situation. The training Red Cross in partnership with the program and The Volunteer Center of and focused on the knowledge and a disaster relief operation. Red Cross stressed the need for disaster preparation relating to setting up and Those in attendance included: Pri Peggy Lowry of Elk Grove Village; Schirmer, Vern Risty and Ruth Rap Eiseman and Marlene Greenberg of der of Niles; LaVerne LaRocca of Robert Brown and Mary Waigand Pauline Lahman and Barbara Stee of Park Ridge; and Paul and Evelyn Center and the Retired and Senior information and placement for posted in meaningful volunteer assistance (847) 228-1006 or the Volunteer Center the Web site at www.tvcrsyp.org.

Here's how to check on Dist. 21 closings

Parents and students in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 can check the impact of snowfall and local school closings in a number of different ways. On the radio, tune to WGN 720-AM or WBBM 780-AM. The major networks, CBS-2, NBC-5, ABC-7 and WGN-9, FOX-32 and CLTV on cable will also list school closings. Still, the most direct route to check District 21 is on the district's Web site at: www.d21.k12.il.us. If school is closed, classes will resume the next day unless the Web site indicates otherwise.

Hopefuls zeroing in on village's vitality

Ongoing economic revitalization a common thread among all Village Board candidates

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

Feb 20, 2003

All of the candidates running for election to the Wheeling Village Board say they want to be a part of the changes that continue to propel the village in a new direction.

CASINO NIGHTS?

Page 12

The six people seeking one of three seats on the board, incumbents Judy Abruscato, Robert Heer and Patrick Horcher, and challengers Ken Brady, Pam Dorband and Steven Telow, each has ideas about how the village should continue its already aggressive path of economic revitalization.

With new residential and commercial developments rising up along Milwaukee Avenue and with village officials plotting a new course for future development, the candidates know that the landscape is changing and that they will have to play a role in moving the village along if they are elected April 1.

The incumbents

Abruscato is serving her fourth term. She has seen how things have transformed over the past 16 years, and she said she still has the desire to be a part of shaping even more change.

"We're cleaning up Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road," she said. "We've seen a lot of exciting times, and we have a lot to make us proud. I've helped a lot to do that, and I want to continue."

But Abruscato cautions that redevelopment initiatives must benefit the village over the long run. Officials can't approve new developments just to fill empty space, she said.

"My motivation is to maintain a high quality of life now and for the next generation," she said. "We have to prepare for the future and not just today."

Heer, who is seeking a third term on the board, has a similar motivation. Heer's son recently turned 18 and will be able to vote for the first time in April. Heer said his desire to build a strong Wheeling is rooted in his son's future and the that of people who are now entering adulthood.

"Hopefully my children will want to stay in Wheeling," Heer said. "What I do today is going to impact their future. That's why I'm doing this."

Heer said his conversations with people not living in Wheeling are convincing evidence that the village is moving in the right direction.

"I think people are seeing a change in how (other) people perceive Wheeling," he said. "The image is changing to a more positive one."

Horcher, who is also running for a third term, also wants to focus on ongoing and future redevelopment, especially in the Crossroads tax increment financing district around Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. The challenge, Horcher said, is finding a way to acquire and develop the many small pieces of un-

derdeveloped property in the Crossroads TIF. He believes putting smaller parcels together will entice developers to build in the area.

"There are a lot of little parcels there," he said. "We're trying to compile those parcels."

Horcher said his entrepreneurial experience as a small businessman will help the board when working with other small business owners, especially in areas of issuing permits and licenses and issues dealing with annexation.

"I'm aware of the frustration of people when they come to the board," he said. "I know what they're going through."

The challengers

Brady has been on the Plan Commission for seven years and has served as its chairman for the past two. He ran for trustee in 1975, when even then he tried to outline a vision for the future. His political aspirations waned through the 1980s, and he became involved again when he joined the Plan Commission.

Brady said the village's vision can be realized by sticking to the new comprehensive land-use plan the village is updating now.

"If we can't get a vision of where we want the village to go, we'll never be able to tell developers what we would like them to build," he said. "We can't let this vision of the community die. We've got some young blood on the Village Board who want to get this done."

Brady said the village is going to have to stay ahead of the curve since development trends move quickly. He said he believes his career as a contractor, from which he will retire this year, could give him insight to new trends in development.

"The village is at the starting gate," he said. "I want to join this group."

Dorband has been on the Plan Commission the last three years. She ran unsuccessfully for trustee in 2001. She said she was pleased with her results in the election two years ago and hopes to have enough success this time around to win a seat on the board. Dorband garnered 902 votes, falling 157 short of winning the third available seat in 2001.

"It told me that a lot of people, obviously, believed in me and my direction is one that they liked," she said.

Dorband said it is critical the board accept the new comprehensive plan the Plan Commission has worked on over the past year and put it into action, unlike so many other studies she said the village has conducted over the years and then put on the shelf.

"We've been working so hard to improve everything around the village," she said. "We need to utilize that plan. We need to follow that road map that's been set."

Telow is the only candidate who is not currently involved in village government. He does have 40 years' experience as a precinct captain and is a fixture at Village Board meetings.

Telow has a distinctly different view of redeveloping Wheeling than the other candidates, and it begins with a casino.

Village officials have been trying to find a suitable way to redevelop the Wedgewood Riding Center and the neighboring parcels to the

(Continued on page 11)

Hopefuls

Continued from page 8

south. There is a combined 30 acres near the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road intersection that would be ideal for a casino. Telow argues.

"I'm not saying we're going to get it, but we should make an attempt," he said. "There are a lot of people (in neighboring towns) with a lot of money to dispose of."

Telow also said the village should improve on its industrial base to create more jobs.

"We're not Lake Forest, and we're not Long Grove," Telow said. "We're a blue collar community. We need businesses (in town) to make money and businesses that know how to make it."

Board hopefuls question Telow's idea of casino

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

2-20-03

One candidate running for the Wheeling Village Board said gambling could play a big part in the village's approach to economic redevelopment.

Steven Telow, one of six people running for three trustee positions, said Wheeling is an ideal location to build a casino, especially near the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"It's a desirable spot," he said. "We've got transportation there with Lake-Cook Road, Milwaukee Avenue and (Interstate) 294 there. And if you look at the outer rim, there are towns like Riverwoods, Lake Forest, Deerfield, Barrington — towns with people with a lot of money."

With Palwaukee Municipal Airport down the road, Telow, who personally opposes gambling, even suggested that the financially elite from across the country might fly into Wheeling to try their luck at a casino.

He said village officials could acquire the nearly 30 acres on the southeast corner of Milwaukee and Lake-Cook and build "an elegant" casino and hotel. A casino, he added, could also generate plenty of revenue for the village to help "bail out" Wheeling Elementary School District 21, which is facing financial difficulty.

"It would be an attraction that brings people in from hundreds of miles away," he said. "If we had some push behind it, I think our chances would be good."

The other candidates are not as keen on the idea of gambling in Wheeling.

Ken Brady, the chairman of the Plan Commission who is seeking a spot on the Village Board, said a casino does not fit into his vision of Wheeling's future.

"We're trying to make Wheeling a place where people want to live," he said. "A casino would do nothing for that image. In fact, it might hurt it a little."

Brady said casinos are the only major revenue source for many of the Illinois cities and towns with them. Wheeling is not financially reliant on any one segment of its economy, he said, and he would rather see the village improve upon existing resources than rely on casino revenues.

"We have a lot of industry and other opportunities for revenue," he said. "There are other opportunities we need to build on."

Pam Dorband, another plan commissioner who is running for the Village Board, said a casino could put an undue strain on the village's Police Department, Fire Department, roads and residents.

"Is that what we really want for our town?" she said. "I think there are more negatives than positives."

Dorband also said it is "ridiculous" to talk about bringing a casino into Wheeling when there is only one gaming license available and so many municipalities are after it.

"It'll probably go to a village or town that is deprived," she said. "There's not a hope in the world that we'd get it."

Incumbent Trustee Patrick Horcher, who is seeking re-election, called Telow's idea an "interesting diversion," but he also thinks it is unlikely Wheeling would be able to get its hands on the gaming license.

"There are other towns that are too far along (in the process) and more financially distressed than we are trying to get it," he said. "I think it would be a waste of resources."

Horcher said he is not terribly opposed to a casino in town, if it were managed properly and the police were able to keep it safe.

"It's fun to think about," he said. "I just think we'd have difficulty getting the license."

Trustee Robert Heer also is seeking re-election, and he said the village would have to do a lot of research before embarking on an endeavor like building a casino. He said the village would have to find a "top-notch" organization to build it and operate it so it doesn't bring in any "undesirable" people.

"Anytime you look at something like a casino, you have to be careful, because with the big money can come big problems," he said. "You would have to keep it as a place where people have fun, but not a place where riffraff hang out."

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is seeking her fifth term, had only one comment concerning a Wheeling casino: "I have no desire to bring a casino into town. Period."

School finance watch list

PRE-FINISHED

TEHRAN, Iran — A military plane carrying 302 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran on Wednesday, killing all on board in the country's worst plane crash ever, state-run media reported.

The plane was en route from Zahedan, on the Pakistan border, to Kerman, about 500 miles southeast of Tehran, state-run reports. It crashed from its destination on Wednesday, killing all on board in the country's worst plane crash ever, state-run media reported.

Plane crash kills 302

American dream, I announce my candidacy for the president of the United States."

Residents wary of Wheeling

Shiite cleric OKs vote delay: BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's top Shiite cleric, who has insisted elections are necessary for a transfer of power on June 30, suggested he would accept a delay in voting but demanded that there will

War on terrorism

NASA's top space flight official, Bill Readdy, said Friday that through extensive testing, the agency has learned that air or liquefied nitrogen almost certainly seeped into a crack or void in the insulation foam. The trapped air or nitrogen expanded as the shuttle rose, and blew off a chunk of foam the size of a suitcase which shot the left wing rammed into it, resulting in a large fatal gash.

spoon

MZZO said CIA was not certain a bomb, and that the FBI questioned the family. His account could not be immediately confirmed.

List: Healthy

Area school districts and



How and receive:

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very.

Wheeling opposes horn blowing: Wheeling officials signed on to a resolution Monday night to press the Federal Railroad Administration to revise a proposal requiring trains to sound their horns while approaching all at-grade railroad crossings. Led by the Northwest Municipal Conference, local towns are letting the administration know they prefer an Automated Wayside Horn System. That system focuses warning alerts directly on the rail crossing, projecting less noise than comotive horns. The automated

Northwest suburbs in 60 seconds

horns also cost less than installing barriers, medians and surveillance, which the Federal Railroad Administration recommended as alternatives. The administration is expected to release its final proposed regulations for horn blowing in July.

Shop: Village can regulate only development's initial occupants

Continued from Page 1

has applied for a liquor license yet.

The village board is supporting its plans to keep the retail development upscale by making \$350,000 in tax increment financing incentives available.

Douthwaite added that the owner of North Star Plaza has promised the retail shops would be high end.

The village board granted TIF assistance on the condition the shops would not violate the board's non-approved uses such as tattoo parlors, pawn shops and similar ventures.

As well, Douthwaite said the

village board can regulate only the initial occupant of a shop.

"Let's say the wine and spirits shop goes under or decides to move, then that space could be leased for a non-approved use like a currency exchange. Once we've given out the TIF assistance, we can't take it back," Douthwaite said.

Only three businesses have submitted copies of their leases to the village, which Douthwaite said was essential to getting TIF money.

Of those businesses two are jewelry shops and the other is the wine and spirit shop.

The plan commission will revisit the wine shop issue March 25.

Top town leaders

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

2-24-03

Wheeling's aggressive moves to upgrade the village and Prospect Heights' continuing efforts to build an arena for its town could change two suburban landscapes.

It could be important for residents and businesses to know how municipal plans will affect their communities, so the chamber of commerce is giving people

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School finance watch list expands

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

2-20-03

The number of school districts labeled financially troubled will increase exponentially this spring and bring more state oversight than ever before.

The State Board of Education expects to tag about 250 of the state's 893 school districts financially troubled. Only a total of 11 districts now get that designation.

Four districts from the relatively affluent Northwest suburbs will make the list, joining poorer districts across the state.

Barrington Unit District 220, Stevenson High School District 125, Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 and Palatine Township Elementary District 15 all place in the two poorest financial categories based on their 2001 Annual Financial Report. They all face the possibility of being taken over by the state if they continue to slip.

The districts aren't doing anything different today than last year — the state is just shining a brighter light on the numbers.

Northwest suburban school officials say that light won't reveal anything new to them. The state board's new financial assessment system will begin this spring. More indicators, including outstanding debt, will serve districts as an early warning system for fiscal disaster.

Northwest suburban districts say they already know their financial situation: bad. They want to know how to improve it.

Des Plaines Elementary District 62 may slip onto the new list of troubled districts after running a deficit in eight of the past 11 years.

"If it serves no other purpose than to drive home to the legislature that there's a problem in Illinois education, then it's worth it," said Deputy Superintendent Ray Gunn.

Educators recently received a peek at how they'll rank in the new system. The news is bad, but not surprising, for several districts.

How did they get there? Barrington District 220 has teetered on the brink of financial disaster for several years after wrongly projecting future revenues and botching tax extensions in

Residents along Shadow Bend Drive, a townhouse development of 270 homes, fear the wine and spirit store could attract the wrong kind of customers to the area.

Denise Kennedy, president of the Shadow Bend Homeowners Association, said residents are concerned about the area's image.

"Our concerns are about the clientele that will come to the store," she said. "We're concerned they ... would drink behind the units or in the parking lots, and cut through the property to the forest preserve and near the fountain to drink."

Bruce Neumann, who lives directly adjacent to where the wine shop would be, is more worried about the future.

"No one goes into business to be unsuccessful, but if along the line they don't do so well and they start selling cheap liquor and beer to make a profit, then that brings a lot of unwanted things to the community," he said. "There are children in this community and they don't need to be exposed to those elements."

William Hein, the development consultant for the project, spoke to the Wheeling plan commission this week.

Hein said the business would cater to more upscale clients, and that it was very unlikely that wine costing \$40 a bottle and up would attract anything but an

List: Healthy districts worry about their futures

Continued from Page 1

the early 1990s.

Several failed attempts to raise taxes preceded a successful bid last year. Because reserve funds are so low, the district will linger on the list of poor districts until tax increase money trickles in.

Stevenson's District 125 is in the same boat — waiting to reap the benefits of its recent tax increase. Throughout the 1990s, the district's enrollment grew more than twice as fast as its income. Tax cap law prevented it from raising more than \$40 million it would have otherwise. The tax increase was the final part of a 10-year plan to spend down savings and delay a further burden on local taxpayers as long as possible.

Wheeling Township District 21 makes the list facing a \$9 million deficit over the next two years. A decade of enrollment growth and 20 percent increases in employee benefit costs help explain why the district seeks a tax increase at the polls on April 1.

Palatine Township District 15 has fought enrollment growth, tax objections and tax cap constraints with only small increases in revenue, a familiar path to financial difficulty.

Many of the 16 Northwest suburban school districts in Cook County score well in the system. Eight districts place in the most financially sound category.

Don't be fooled.

"While this puts us clearly into the top category, it doesn't necessarily mean everything is fine," said Associate Superintendent David Torres of Palatine Township High School District 211.

"There are many things that are really out of the control of school districts that could change my score," he said. "What if I get notification from the state that they may delay one of the general state aid payments? From a cash standpoint, that may lower my rating. So what does the fact that you're giving me a label do?"

Three more districts place in the category just below District 211, necessitating a three-year financial projection. Districts in this category are in good shape, but starting to slip.

Most districts expect to gradually slip down in the ratings until forced to pitch another tax increase to voters.

Such is the case for Mount Prospect Elementary District 57. There, according to Fiscal Director Gregory Kurr, deficit spending will lead to financial oblivion unless something intervenes.

"That's just the way the economics of our business go," Kurr said. "The

Area school districts and the new system

Best Shape (Financial Recognition)

- Prospect Heights Elementary District 23
- Arlington Heights Elementary District 25
- Schaumburg Township Elementary District 54
- Mount Prospect Elementary District 57
- Buffalo Grove-Long Grove Elementary District 96
- Aptakisic-Tripp Elementary District 102
- Maine Township High School District 207
- Palatine Township High School District 211
- Northwest Suburban High School District 214

Could be better (Financial Review)

- River Trails Elementary District 26
- Des Plaines Elementary District 62

Worst shape (Financial Watch or Review)

- Palatine Township Elementary District 15
- Wheeling Township Elementary District 21
- Stevenson High School District 125
- Barrington Unit District 220

Complete data not available

- Elk Grove Township Elementary District 59

*Based on 2001 Annual Financial Report and new state classifications

Northwest suburbs in 60 seconds

Wheeling opposes horn blowing: Wheeling officials signed on to a resolution Monday night to press the Federal Railroad Administration to revise a proposal requiring trains to sound their horns while approaching all at-grade railroad

horns also cost less than installing barriers, medians and surveillance, which the Federal Railroad Administration recommended as alternatives. The administration is expected to release its final pro-

real corrective action to maintain the quality of education is to go to referendum and you're going to see more and more referendum requests."

When those fail, deficit spending becomes the new way of life in school finance. Buffalo Grove-Long Grove Elementary District 96 spends \$1.02 for every \$1 it takes in, yet it will receive a rating of good financial health. District 57 will also seek voter approval of a \$5 million debt service extension to help it pay off a \$37 million debt this April. It, too, is in good shape according to the state.

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 has a near-perfect rating and expects to keep it that way.

"We're in a unique kind of situation here," said Associate Superintendent Jim Popernik. "We're near the airport. We have a lot of light industry in an area which supports a solid residential base with high property values."

The important thing for the state and legislators to realize is that making the watch or warning list is only a designation, not a solution, said District 57's Kurr.

"Remember, not only does the state have to oversee that district, they have to find a way to fix it."

See LIST on PA-E 10

Top town leaders to take a look at state of

By CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's aggressive moves to upgrade the village and Prospect Heights' continuing efforts to build an arena for its town could change two suburban landscapes.

It could be important for residents and businesses to know how municipal plans will affect their communities, so the chamber of commerce is giving people

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Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce

a chance to get an update straight from the top.

The Wheeling-Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tuesday will

host a presentation of the state of the city and state of the village addresses given by the town's top elected officials.

The hope is that Prospect Heights Mayor Edward P. Rotchford and Wheeling Village President Greg Klatchek will prepare businesses and residents for coming changes, chamber President Jim Lederer said.

"Wheeling's started to change neighborhoods, they've picked up new parcels of land, there's a

new TIF district and they're really looking at transforming a community," Lederer said. "Prospect Heights too, they've got a lot of business issues with questions about the arena."

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"In Wheeling, large industrial waukee Avenue Row," Klatchek

The districts aren't doing anything differently than last year — the state is just shining a brighter light on the numbers.

Northwest suburban school officials say that light won't reveal anything new to them.

The state board's new financial assessment system will begin this spring. More indicators, including outstanding debt, will serve districts as an early warning system for fiscal disaster.

Northwest suburban districts say they already know their financial situation: bad. They want to know how to improve it.

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Hein said the business would cater to more upscale clients, and that it was very unlikely that wine costing \$40 a bottle and up would attract anything but an upscale clientele.

Hein also denied a poor economic showing would prompt owners to cheapen their stock or to add beer and cheap liquor.

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said that once the village grants a liquor license there is nothing the village can do to regulate what type of alcohol is sold. He doesn't think the shop

See SHOP on PAGE 8

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By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

2-24-03

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nomie growth out of our businesses, I have to give them something positive," Rotchford said.

Wheeling's top official thinks it's important to give local businesses a reason to feel secure, he said. A stable economic base means the village can rely less on property taxes paid by residents.

"In Wheeling, we have a very large industrial base with Milwaukee Avenue and Restaurant Row," Klatecki said. "I think if

they look at us being a partner with them, they tend to stay here as opposed to leaving the community."

The chamber hosts the state of the village and state of the city as part of its monthly business luncheon. The public is invited. The lunch is at 11:30 a.m. at Weber Grill Restaurant, 920 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. Tickets are \$18 for chamber members and \$22 for nonmembers. Call (847) 541-0170.

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BY ERIC I
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French war position causes grocery chain to boycott products

BY RUSSELL LISSAU
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Call it an anti-French revolution. Angry with France's opposition of President Bush's efforts to fight terrorism in Iraq, Garden Fresh Market stores in Mundelein, Wheeling and Chicago are pulling French-manufactured products from their shelves. More than a dozen items — including Evian water, Marquis de Champagne and Cantaloupe choco-

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Outlook ro; French war position



BY CASS CLAYT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-26-03

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The picture is not as rosy across the border in Prospect Heights, though Mayor Edward P. Kochford said there is still hope for a beleaguered plan to bring an arena to the city.

Kochford and Kiatecki each delivered snapshots of life in their towns

Prosecutors seeking death in gem killing

Whether Stanley, who has been indicted, will get to collect his pension if he pleads guilty or is convicted at a trial is unclear. Under state law, a state pension can be revoked if a person is convicted of prosecution, about the wrongdoing they committed or witnessed while working for Ryan. They've then gone back to their state jobs, where some make more than \$100,000.

Blagojevich said he was exploring his legal options.

"We have had directors of human resources go out as a consultant-type person and a controller go out as a data entry person," Cibelli said.

Also in the current job market, people are more willing to travel farther to work.

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Many unemployed people are opting for part-time and temporary jobs, either to augment existing unemployment income or as a stopgap when their benefits have run out, said Rosemary Cibelli, special accounts manager for AAA Employment of Mount Prospect. The company is a staffing company, which places people in secretarial, banking, mortgage and light-industrial work.

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Northwest suburbs al

By ANDREA L. BROWN
STAFF WRITER
2-27-03

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Recent unemployment numbers indicate that residents in the northwest suburbs are holding their own, but may have made concessions to ride out the current recession.

Preliminary numbers for 2002 indicate that more workers in northwest suburbs have managed to stay employed in these difficult times, class if this average unemployment rate is 6.3 percent. Out of 30 selected northwest suburban communities, only three had rates higher than the state average: Des Plaines, Lake in the Hills and Palatine. Northwest suburbs are still at the "natural rate of unemployment," Begashaw said, which runs between 4 and 6 percent.

Quantifying why more people in the northwest suburbs have managed to stay employed is difficult, Begashaw said, but the nature of the work force in the area has something to do with it. Industrial and manufacturing sectors have been the hardest-hit in this most recent recession, and those jobs tend to be more prevalent in areas farther south. The northwest suburbs have more corporate offices and company headquarters than most other Chicago and areas.

"The white-collar jobs are more concentrated in this area," Begashaw said.

In addition to affording more opportunities for professionals, northwest suburban communities have many service jobs available, both full- and part-time.

District 21 tax hike necessary for pupils

To the editor: As a teacher in District 21, I encourage residents of this district to vote yes on the April 1 referendum. If the referendum does not pass, class sizes will increase significantly and some excellent programs will be reduced. Larger classes would mean less individual attention per student and less opportunity for each child to participate orally. Since oral language development is the foundation for reading and writing in all subject areas, smaller classes are essential. Some of the programs which would be cut include special education, art, music and technology. Special education teaches students strategies to read, write, compute and communicate more effectively. Art and music enable all children to express themselves in a creative way and to appreciate beauty more fully. A knowledge of technology is critical in today's world, which relies so heavily on the Internet and e-mail.

In order for our students to communicate with others, feel confident about their skills, the beauty that surrounds them, and eventually compete in the job market, please put our children first April 1 by voting yes.

Anne Ellis
Palatine

Tax increase not as high as Dist. 21 projections

BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

2-24-03

How to submit materials: Call 427-4484; e-mail to lzurawski@dailymail.com or mail to Your Page, c/o Luke Zurawski, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

Share: How to submit materials: Call 427-4484; e-mail to lzurawski@dailymail.com or mail to Your Page, c/o Luke Zurawski, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

Send us your photos, your poems, short essays, a report from your vacation, pictures of your grandchildren, your sports teams, anything you want to share.

Why, or for what purpose? Explain the nature of the event. Where is it happening? Give the address.

E-mail community news releases to news@dailymail.com or any of the specific addresses listed here.

Mail news releases to P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.

Fax news releases to 427-1301.

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Outlook for French war position causes grocery chain to boycott products

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-26-03



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Northwest Continued from page 8

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Northwest suburbs also hit, but blow is falling softer

By ANDREA L. BROWN
STAFF WRITER

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Preliminary numbers for 2002 indicate that more workers in northwest suburbs have managed to stay employed in these difficult times. The annual statewide average unemployment rate is 6.3 percent. Out of 30 selected northwest suburban communities, only three had rates higher than the state average: Des Plaines, Lake in the Hills and Palatine. Northwest suburban rates are still at the "natural rate of unemployment," Begashaw said, which runs between 4 and 6 percent.

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"The white-collar jobs are more concentrated in this area," Begashaw said.

In addition to affording more opportunities for professionals, northwest suburban communities have many service jobs available, both full- and part-time.

"If you are working part-time, you won't be called unemployed, and you won't go in those statistics," Begashaw said. "This would show the difference in this unemployment."

Nationally, the gross domestic product rose slightly last year, but production is not increasing in tandem with the population growth, Begashaw explained.

"When that happens the lower level of the middle class will be pushed down," Begashaw said.

Rising resource costs can also affect people on the lower edge of an economic group because that diminishes their purchasing power. Begashaw noticed that the recent oil price increase is one such example.

"People would be relatively poorer now in terms of real goods and service," Begashaw said. "You will see a shrinking of the middle class if this economy performance continues."

But he also noted the economy has not reached the depths it was at in the early 1980s, which was a severe recession that lasted two years. The rate of inflation was much higher than it is today. Unemployment in 1982 among residents in the northwest suburbs was at 7.6 percent.

What the area's unemployment numbers don't show is how many people may have settled for a job they would not have considered in a different economic climate.

"People might have been much more willing to take whatever they can get and stay, rather than not have (a job) in the future," Begashaw said. That kind of thinking won't stop until the long-term outlook of the economy is more certain, he added. Some of that uncertainty is tied into international politics, which affects decisions related to business investments.

"People are not seeing a brighter horizon," Begashaw said. "They would rather choose to take whatever comes their way rather than hoping for something better that might come later."

Our unemployment rates

Listed below are the 2001 and preliminary 2002 annual average unemployment rates, the percentage of the potential workforce without a job, for selected northwest suburbs. As shown, an increase in the unemployment rate spared no municipality, though most stayed below state averages of 6.3 in 2002 and 5.4 in 2001. With the exception of Wheeling, the number of unemployed rose by around a quarter to a third last year.

Municipality	2002	2001	Rate change	% of state rate
Algonquin	3.7	2.9	+0.8	27.6%
Arlington Heights	4.6	3.5	+1.1	31.4%
Barrington	3.1	2.5	+0.6	24.0%
Barrington Hills	6.2	5.0	+1.2	24.0%
Buffalo Grove	4.4	3.3	+1.1	30.4%
Cary	4.4	3.5	+0.9	25.7%
Deer Park	3.5	2.7	+0.8	29.6%
Des Plaines	7.5	6.3	+1.2	19.0%
Elk Grove Village	5.3	4.0	+1.3	32.5%
Fox River Grove	2.6	2.0	+0.6	30.0%
Fox River Valley Gardens	5.8	4.6	+1.2	26.1%
Hawthorn Woods	3.2	2.5	+0.7	28.0%
Hoffman Estates	5.2	4.2	+1.0	23.8%
Inverness	3.9	3.1	+0.8	25.8%
Island Lake	5.0	3.9	+1.1	28.2%
Kildeer	5.4	4.2	+1.2	27.8%
Lake Barrington	4.6	3.6	+1.0	27.8%
Lake in the Hills	8.4	6.7	+1.7	25.3%
Lake Zurich	3.7	2.9	+0.8	27.6%
Long Grove	3.7	2.9	+0.8	27.6%
Mount Prospect	4.8	3.9	+0.9	23.1%
North Barrington	3.6	2.8	+0.8	28.6%
Palatine	6.6	5.1	+1.5	29.4%
Prospect Heights	4.6	3.7	+0.9	24.3%
Rolling Meadows	3.7	2.9	+0.8	27.6%
Schaumburg	5.1	3.9	+1.2	30.8%
South Barrington	2.8	2.3	+0.5	21.7%
Tower Lakes	4.2	3.3	+0.9	27.3%
Wauconda	3.8	3.0	+0.8	26.7%
Wheeling	6.2	3.8	+2.4	63.6%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security
Pioneer Press/LRH

Tax increase not as high as Dist. 21 projections

BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

New projections for the impact of Wheeling Township Elementary District 21's April tax increase request show tax bills wouldn't be quite as high as previously thought.

The request entails an increase of 50 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to the education portion of local tax bills.

The district would phase in the increase over three years. District officials had projected a \$347 increase to the tax bill of a \$200,000 home over those three years. New projections unveiled Thursday project the impact at \$333.57.

The biggest impact would occur in the first year. On a \$200,000 home, the first year increase is \$208. The original projection had that number at \$243. The \$208 would be in addition to the \$100 increase that same homeowner will see for the levy amount already approved by the school board in December.

That same homeowner would see a \$63 increase in the following two years. The previous projection saw no increase in the second year and a \$104 impact in the final year of the phase-in.

The revised projections come after an outside consultant's review.

That review also lowered the overall benefit of the tax increase by about \$5.3 million. The district had projected an education fund balance of nearly \$43 million by 2012 if the tax increase passes. The consultant, Tammie Beckwith of LaSalle Capital Markets, projected the actual benefit to be about \$38.6 million.

The difference, she said, lies in a number used by Cook County to determine the assessed valuation of a home. The number is 6 percent lower than what the district believed.

Despite the difference, Beckwith said \$38.6 million would still be a fund balance of which to be proud.

"I don't think the differences are anything to be concerned with," she said.

Outlook rosier for Wheeling than Prospect Heights

BY GASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 2-26-03

Despite a sour economy, Wheeling can boast an increase in business interest in the village.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki told a crowd of Wheeling and Prospect Heights community leaders Tuesday that housing developments are booming, residents are active in village programs and Wheeling has been on the receiving end of \$350,000 in grants in the past year.

The picture is not as rosy across the border in Prospect Heights, though Mayor Edward P. Rotchford said there is still hope for a beleaguered plan to bring an arena to the city.

Rotchford and Klatecki each delivered snapshots of life in their towns



Greg Klatecki



Edward P. Rotchford

Tuesday to a packed audience during their respective state of the village and state of the city addresses.

The Wheeling-Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted the addresses at a chamber luncheon.

The second annual event drew an unexpectedly large crowd of almost

100 business leaders, state, local and township representatives and residents interested in hearing about the changing landscape of their towns.

"What's interesting is that, even with the downturn in our economy, we had a 51 percent increase in businesses expressing an interest in Wheeling, compared to last year," Klatecki said.

He detailed a long list of such businesses as FedEx, Argus Plastics and Segerdahl Graphics that have broken ground on new facilities, purchased buildings in the village or moved into larger quarters in the past year.

"In a stagnant economy, we were able to fill over 1 million square feet of business buildings in this village," Klatecki said.

Improving local housing opportunities, the Addolorata Villa senior provider opened a new facility in town, Kimball Hill began a project to build 240 homes after two years of delays, and the upscale Park Point condominium development will be finished.

"I don't have as good of a story as President Klatecki," Rotchford told the crowd.

Whereas Wheeling can boast that it resurfaced seven miles of roads and replaced 40,000 feet of sidewalk in 2002, Rotchford said Prospect Heights had to cut spending.

"Prospect Heights does not have a property tax, and we are short of income," the mayor said. "The income from the state continues to lag. Instead of a 45-day lag in getting

the sales tax, we're experiencing a 90-day lag."

A plan to bring a revenue-generating arena to the city has experienced "delay after delay after delay," the mayor said.

Yet Rotchford said he received a letter last week telling him problems securing bond insurance have been resolved and a bond sale to get funding for the \$76 million arena is "forthcoming."

Rotchford said the bright points of the past year have been the hiring of City Administrator Matthew Zimmerman, the opening of a new Metra train station funded by grants, and that the city will turn the valve Monday to bring Lake Michigan water to the city.

"This project has been 12 years in

the making," Rotchford said. "This project was also totally funded through grant money, at no cost to the residents."

Leonard Digate, a financial consultant in Prospect Heights, said he focused on the positive aspects of the mayor's message.

"It was nice to get an update on the arena, because we've been waiting a long time," he said. "I'm not reliant on local traffic in my business, so as long as I can get out of my driveway when it snows, I'm OK with the financial (news)."

Allan Rodin, owner of Minuteman Press in Wheeling, put a premium on the village's news because what's good for business "is good for the community at large to have a tax base to support services," he said.

Northwest Continued from page 8

Many unemployed people are opting for part-time and temporary jobs, either to augment existing unemployment income or as a stopgap when their benefits have run out, said Rosemary Cibelli, special accounts manager for AAA Employment of Mount Prospect. The company is a staffing company, which places people in secretarial, banking, mortgage and light-industrial positions.

In the current job market, people are willing to take jobs, even if they are overqualified, Cibelli said.

"An administrative assistant might come in, and if we don't have anything available and we have a data entry position, (this person) would accept something like that," she said.

Often those types of workers will accept a position even if they know it's temporary because it may offer an entry into a company in which a better position may open up.

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"We have had directors of human resources go out as a clerical-type person and a controller go out as a data entry person," Cibelli said.

Also in the current job market, people are more willing to travel farther to work.

"Now things have changed — no holds barred — people will go anywhere," Cibelli said. "Distance makes no difference any more to a lot of people."

"They'll work for less money," she added. "You have to do what you have to do to survive."

And some of the employment agency's clients are doing well despite the recession. One is a large, independent bank that is growing fast and has taken over other banks. And many mortgage companies are hiring temporary workers because of a surge in refinancing.

"Yes there are jobs," Cibelli said.

Nationally, the gross domestic product rose slightly last year, but production is not increasing in tandem with the population growth, Begashaw explained.

"When that happens the lower level of the middle class will be pushed down," Begashaw said.

Rising resource costs can also affect people on the lower edge of an economic group because that diminishes their purchasing power. Begashaw noticed that the recent oil price increase is one such example.

"People would be relatively poorer now in terms of real goods and service," Begashaw said. "You will see a shrinking of the middle class if this economy performance continues."

But he also noted the economy has not reached the depths it was at in the early 1980s, which was a severe recession that lasted two years. The rate of inflation was much higher

Prosecutors seeking death in gem killing

Feb 27, 2003

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

In a sign that suburban prosecutors won't back off seeking the death penalty in the wake of former Gov. George Ryan's clearing of death row, a man accused of gunning down a Wheeling gem salesman in 2000 has been targeted for execution.

Cook County prosecutor Elizabeth Hantzos announced Wednesday that prosecutors had filed their intentions to seek capital punishment for Manuel Murillo, a 48-year-old California resident charged with killing Vinod Mehta, 58, in a jewel heist that turned deadly.



Manuel Murillo

Murillo is eligible for the death penalty because the alleged murder happened during the commission of another felony, armed robbery, according to prosecutors' filing,

which was made Feb. 13.

Murillo, a Colombian citizen with an international criminal record, was arrested in Los Angeles in August. He's being held in Cook County jail.

At the time of his arrest, he was out on bond on charges of stealing

Unemployment is falling softer



Our unemployment rates

Listed below are the 2001 and preliminary 2002 annual average unemployment rates, the percentage of the potential workforce without a job, for selected northwest suburbs. As shown, an increase in the unemployment rate spared no municipality, though most stayed below state averages of 6.3 in 2002 and 5.4 in 2001. With the exception of Wheeling, the number of unemployed rose by around a quarter to a third last year.

Municipality	2002	2001	Rate change	State rate
Algonquin	3.7	2.9	+0.8	27.6%
Arlington Heights	4.6	3.5	+1.1	31.4%
Barrington	3.1	2.5	+0.6	24.0%
Barrington Hills	6.2	5.0	+1.2	24.0%
Buffalo Grove	4.6	3.3	+1.3	39.4%
Cary	4.4	3.5	+0.9	25.7%
Deer Park	3.5	2.7	+0.8	29.6%
Des Plaines	7.5	6.3	+1.2	19.0%
Elk Grove Village	5.3	4.0	+1.3	32.5%
Fox River Grove	2.6	2.0	+0.6	30.0%
Fox River Valley Gardens	5.8	4.6	+1.2	26.1%
Hawthorn Woods	3.2	2.5	+0.7	28.0%
Hoffman Estates	5.2	4.2	+1.0	23.8%

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Board scales back cuts to music program

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

2-27-03

Music lovers and music students sang praises to the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board for reducing a drastic cut in the instrumental music program that will keep most bands intact.

The board elected to reduce the 50 percent program cut of \$341,000 to a 20 percent cut of \$135,000, with half of the cut being returned to the program through fees charged to participants. The reduction is part of the district's \$4.5 million deficit-reduction plan to get the education fund out of debt. The plan will be implemented if voters do not approve a 50-cent tax-rate increase referendum April 1.

The public was invited to comment on the plan after the board announced its final cost-cutting proposal at the meeting. Most who spoke talked about the reduced cuts in the music program. Most of the thanks came from 16 students who attended the meeting in full performance uniform with instruments in tow.

Many of those students just wanted to say "thanks" to the

board. Others, like Shannon Stittsworth, talked about what the program means to them.

"When I first heard about the cuts, I wanted to cry," said Stittsworth, a London Middle School eighth-grader who plays violin in the orchestra. "You don't know how much it's helped me in teamwork and to be a better person."

Many students said the program has helped them make friends, meet new people and learn valuable traits such as discipline and responsibility.

Some parents talked about the academic benefits of the program. Kathy Carter, a parent of a music student, said one-third of the top 10 percent of high school students in Illinois participate in band and orchestra programs.

One District 21 alumnus, Riley Broach, told the board about how he became involved in the district's music program when he attended Field Elementary School. Broach now teaches orchestra at a Lake Zurich middle school and said he credits District 21 for introducing him to the world of music.

Board members said they are all very aware of the aca-

demical and social benefits of the music program. Most of their children had been or are currently involved in it. However, trying to cut \$9 million from the budget over two years means all programs will be negatively impacted, they said.

Board members said a fee of about \$70 will be required to participate in the program next year.

"There is no other alternative for these kids (to play), and they say they are willing to pay for it if it's available here," board member Larry Krulwich said. "I always thought public education should be free, but I think a fee is a reasonable way to support the program."

Most board members say they hope parents of music students can put together a booster program to help families who may not be able to afford the fee. Others said they were concerned about the fairness of imposing fees on some programs and not others.

"I feel very strongly for fees for sports and other extracurricular activities," board member Ellen Clark said.

Those fees may have to be



District 21 budget cuts

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board passed a \$4.5 million deficit-reduction plan at its Feb. 20 meeting. Here's where the cuts will be made if an April 1 referendum asking for a tax increase fails.

28 retired teachers	\$1.6 million
11.5 current teachers	\$690,000
1 Special Ed teacher	\$60,000
4 Bilingual/ESL teachers	\$240,000
3.2 music/phys. ed./art teachers	\$183,000
30% from staff development	\$106,000
Summer school reduction	\$250,000
CLC intersessions	\$148,000
Police liaison	\$138,000
Metropolitan test	\$75,000
30% from extra duty/curricular	\$296,000
Building allocation	\$76,000
Technology	\$75,000
1 Administrator	\$120,000
Instrumental music	\$135,000
2 Instructional specialists	\$120,000
Additional revenues from fees	\$208,155
Total reduction	\$4,520,155

Source: Wheeling Elementary School District 21

Pioneer Press/LRK

implemented in the second year of the deficit-reduction plan if the referendum fails. The first-year plan calls for a 30 percent cut in the stipend fund for all extracurricular activities.

Board members also warned that music will be cut in the second year if the referendum does not pass in April. None of the 10 district instrumental music teachers will

lose jobs in the current plan, but some will if a second year of cuts is necessary. That means fewer bands for students.

"Remember, if you dodge a bullet now, be very concerned next year," board member Arlen Gould said. "Quality of the program is not a question, but in order to balance the budget, there will be pain in all areas."

Support increases for tax hike in Wheeling District 21

3-3-03

To the editor: I teach and reside in District 21. On April 1, voters will be asked to support a tax increase for the school district.

I am in favor of this measure for several reasons. I see firsthand the changes that have occurred over the past few years.

Our bilingual population has increased, bringing new and exciting opportunities and challenges with it.

At the same time, as a result of the tax cap limitations, the district is operating in deficit spending, thus hindering our ability to respond to the needs of all students.

My children attended District 21 schools and received a good education in one of the premier

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580 or neighborlet@dailyherald.com

suburban areas. It is my hope that as an educator and a resident, this referendum will provide us with the resources to continue in like manner.

Our district has the desire and leadership to pursue improvements and innovations in meeting all the educational challenges that face us, but we must have the financial backing of the residents to do so.

Please put our children first on April 1.

Diane Pennel
Wheeling

Botterman deserves return to Harper

To the editor: I support Pat Botterman for re-election to the Harper College Board of Trustees. During his tenure, Pat has demonstrated a clear understanding for the complicated budget issues facing Harper in today's economic climate. Pat Botterman has been a taxpayer advocate while at the same time advocating the highest educational standards for the students who use Harper as a springboard to additional educational opportunities and better lives.

Elect someone who really understands local government to help guide Harper College. Elect someone who has been

dedicated to public service to help guide Harper College. Elect Pat Botterman.

Joy D. Fisher
Buffalo Grove

Doubeks appreciate the warm tribute

To the editor: On behalf of the entire Doubek family, I want to publicly thank all the police and firefighters who paid tribute to Rich "Digger" Doubek, who passed away Jan. 27.

I had never been so keenly aware of the bond between police and firefighters until Rich's wake and funeral.

Over those two days, I noticed men and women from the departments of Mount

Prospect, Palatine, Niles, Park Ridge, Chicago, Glenview and Highland Park just to name a few. During the funeral procession, we passed by on-duty police and firefighters from Mount Prospect and Park Ridge who stood, in full gear, out in the rain and snow saluting as the motorcade passed by.

You have reminded us that not only do you provide such valuable community services which are dangerous and life-threatening — which many take for granted — but you also provide comfort and reassurance to those affected by those same events. We are truly indebted to all of you for all of your care and concern.

Terry Doubek
Park Ridge

3-6-03

Police arrest one in shooting incident

Wheeling police arrested a man in connection with a shooting incident that occurred on the 200 block of North Wolf Road Feb. 21.

Police arrested Ramiro Arteaga, 20, 2374 Ballard Road, Des Plaines, and charged him with a single count of mob action. Police believe Arteaga was one of four people involved in the incident, said Cmdr. William Benson of the Wheeling Police Department. Benson said a 20-year-old Wheeling resident was beaten before the shots were fired. The shots injured no one and did not cause any property damage, Benson said.

Benson said police are still investigating the incident to determine who fired the shots. Benson said police do not know the relationship between the victim and his assailants.

Witnesses led investigators to Arteaga by providing a license plate number of a van in which the alleged assailants drove away. Arteaga also was identified by witnesses, Benson said.

Arteaga appeared at a bond hearing in Rolling Meadows Feb. 23, where bond was set at \$2,000. He is scheduled to appear in court again on March 13.

Village
works to fill

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in Neighbor every Monday.
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poems, short essays, a report
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Illustration by "LITTLE" CAROL ANN DICK

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Terry Doubek
Park Ridge

Village works to fill out staff in top spots

BY GASS CLIAATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-3-03

A year ago, Wheeling trustees tried to steer the village toward improvement, but with a shortage of hands to work the helm.

The vacancies in Wheeling's top village staff began to mount. Now, the village is about finished amassing the administrative muscle it needs to push toward upgrading Wheeling's image, with the latest hire of a new assistant village manager.

J. Mark Rooney, the city administrator of Highwood, has been named Wheeling's new assistant village manager.

"The volume of work here is such that we need two people to not only handle the day-to-day business, but also keep an eye on the bigger picture — being where the village is going long term," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

If the village manager has to focus on such things as reviewing liquor licensing fees, he'll be distracted from "what are we doing downtown, what are we doing with a Kmart lease, what are we doing with a transit study," Douthwaite said.

Rooney, 43, will coordinate Wheeling's three redevelopment districts, negotiate the renewal of Wheeling's waste contract and manage special projects. He served seven years as Highwood's administrator and will fill a position left vacant in February 2002 when former Assistant Village Manager James Grabowski temporarily stepped in to fill Wheeling's top executive position.

That job was left empty by the dismissal of former Village Manager Craig Anderson, which later added to vacancies at the top of Wheeling's public works, community development, airport management and village attorney divisions. All of those vacant positions are now full. Wheeling is interviewing to fill a newly created position of public relations coordinator to be more efficient in informing residents of village news, Douthwaite said.

The new staff member also will work with the Wheeling Special Events Commission on publicizing the annual Taste of Wheeling and other events.

Board hopefuls see challenges ahead

March 6, 2003

Five candidates have lined up for one of three seats on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board as it faces a growing debt and overcrowding in its east-side schools.

DISTRICT 21

Designlab Chicago and Pointe magazine. Tickets are available for Elmhurst Road, Wheeling, IL 60090. The March 15 show is scheduled at 7 p.m., and the March 16 show will begin at 5

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Continued from page 7

doors and balconies. They also asked for some changes in the building color schemes, landscaping and placement of sidewalks. The decision to table a final decision for another two weeks over such details did not please Developer Mark Smith of Smith Brothers Construction. "We're not working out mechanics here," he said. "We're talking about colors." Commissioners also said they want to prohibit people from buying condominiums and then renting them out as an investment. Smith resisted such a regulation and argued that the commission should chase by mailing a check, \$10 each and can be purchased at both benefit shows. They are available for Elmhurst Road, Wheeling, IL 60090. The March 15 show is scheduled at 7 p.m., and the March 16 show will begin at 5

whelming," she said. "It made me realize that kids need the best education they can get. I saw the tools I gave her, and I hope to be able to give those tools to others."

Edmonds described herself as a good listener, which she believes is an important asset for a board member.

"I like to digest things before making a deci-

It appears to be a significant decrease from the estimated \$52 million of this year, but only because conversion to a Jan. 1 fiscal year in 2004 calls for an eight-month budget from May to December. So, while Elk Grove Village is among towns that have raised sales taxes to plug anticipated budget holes — and Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights are drawing from reserves or making deep cuts to stay in the black — Wheeling officials say they have the luxury of considering a "hold the line" budget.



Local care at manageable rates.

Wheeling budget keeps beauty a high priority

By Cass Clatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-8-03

While a sagging economy is stretching many suburbs lean, Wheeling is preparing a budget for a year of continued projects to upgrade and beautify the village.

A proposed 2003 fiscal year budget that trustees continued to review Friday totals about \$36.6 million in spending.

It appears to be a significant decrease from the estimated \$52 million of this year, but only because conversion to a Jan. 1 fiscal year in 2004 calls for an eight-month budget from May to December.

So, while Elk Grove Village is among towns that have raised sales taxes to plug anticipated budget holes — and Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights are drawing from reserves or making deep cuts to stay in the black — Wheeling officials say they have the luxury of considering a "hold the line" budget.

Wheeling's draft includes more than \$7.1 million in capital improvements for bike paths, streetlight improvements, work on the Dundee Road pedestrian overpass and other items.

If approved, the spending would continue a three-year trend of aggressive beautification made possible, in part, because Wheeling collects a healthy sales tax from discount stores that remain strong performers in a weak economy.

"Relatively speaking, we're doing better than other municipalities," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

Wheeling's sales taxes dipped 2 percent this year, but the village is

projecting a 2 percent rebound increase in its annual sales tax for next year, village officials said.

"Our assumption is we're in relatively good shape because of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Target," Douthwaite said. "The folks in a weakened economy that wouldn't go to Nordstrom go to Sam's or Target or Wal-Mart instead."

Trustees in December approved a mere 0.36 percent increase in the property tax levy to bring in almost \$7.4 million to support the budget.

That compares to an unpopular 12 percent increase the previous year.

However, state income tax revenue remains flat, and Wheeling's budget proposal calls for improvements supported by an additional \$8.4 million in loans over the next two years.

"We'd have to issue a significant amount of bonds in coming years and that would contribute to a hike in the property tax," Douthwaite said.

Trustees didn't like that. Staff told the village board that a 10-year bond issue to pay off the debt would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$36 more in annual property taxes.

A resident using 12,000 gallons of water per month would have to pay about \$34 more monthly in coming years to pay for water and sewer improvements.

"We're going to take another look at our capital improvements and come back with a plan in a month," Douthwaite said.

Wheeling officials hope to have a budget proposal ready for a public hearing by April.

Police, fire responding to orange terror alert

By Casey Moffitt

Staff Writer

March 27, 2003

Local law enforcement and emergency personnel are implementing additional procedures and taking on more duties after the Department of Homeland Security issued an elevated terrorist threat last week.

The federal government issued an orange, or high alert, for terrorist activity in response to the commencement of war with Iraq. Both the Wheeling police and fire departments are following recommended procedures with the heightened alert.

Police Chief John Popadowski said residents can expect a higher visibility of police officers in the village while the orange alert is in effect. Popadowski said the department is increasing security in sensitive areas of the village, especially those tied to village utilities.

He also said the department has been working with schools, businesses and other organizations to address security needs.

Popadowski said having certain response guidelines from the federal and state government are helpful in enhancing security.

"It especially helps with consistency between departments," he said. "The recommendations still need to be individualized (between towns), because each town is different."

Popadowski said the new measures could mean spending more in overtime for police officers should situations warrant extra duty. He said the department has the money needed built into its budget.

"We'll use as much (overtime) as we need to keep the village safe," he said.

Fire Chief Keith MacIssac described the scene at the fire department as "controlled chaos" as new procedures in response to the orange alert are implemented.

MacIssac said the training room has been set up as an emergency operations center complete with additional telephone lines and hand radios. The center will remain open until the

(Continued on page 10)

threat level is reduced to yellow, or medium.

MacIssac said the department also is working closely with Wheeling businesses that use potentially dangerous chemicals to make sure they are accounted for and are notified if supplies come up missing or are stolen. Fire officials are reviewing operating procedures for incidents that may include biological and radioactive materials. MacIssac said the department has been

ready for such situations for years because of Wheeling's proximity to the Zion Nuclear Power Plant and the village's industrial base.

"What is new is the biohazards, and we've had to adapt a little to that," he said. "I think you'll find we're on par with our neighbors."

Other new procedures include restricting visitor access at the fire stations and making sure the stations are locked at all times.

"I never thought I'd see the day the Fire Department was a target for anybody," he said. "But clearly, that is the case these days."

Popadowski said the reality of war has allowed the Police Department to better prepare for the elevated terrorist threat.

"Before, (the elevated alert) was based on some innocuous intelligence, and we didn't know why it was elevated," he said. "Now, everyone knows."

Fla., police photo of Art Ken after his arrest. Wheeling village board

Whatever happens on election day, the direction of the village of Wheeling over the next few years is not likely to change dramatically. Even if all three trustees whose seats are up for election were ousted, two of the three challengers who would replace them are village planning commissioners whose positions on and approaches to issues are not dissimilar to those of the incumbents.

Considering that, it's hard to recommend against any of the incumbents. Each of them — Judy Abruscato, Patrick Horcher and Robert Heer —

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Board hopefuls see challenges ahead

March 6, 2003

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DISTRICT 21

All five candidates, including three incumbents, say they are ready to tackle those issues if they win the public's support in the April 1 election.

The five candidates running for a four-year term include incumbents Pamela Becker-Dean, Ellen Clark and Larry Krulewich. They are being challenged by Kathy Edmonds and Stacey Horcher.

Buffalo Grove resident Becker-Dean was appointed to the board in April 2002 after Cari Beecher resigned. She said she is looking for more time on the board to make more of an impact.

"I haven't had enough time to do that," she said. "I'm working part time now, so I have more time to dedicate (to the board)."

Before joining the board, Becker-Dean worked with the Longfellow Elementary School PTO as its District 21 Board liaison and attended board meetings for three years before being appointed. She said one of her priorities as a board member will be to inform parents about issues the district is facing.

"I want to help parents understand what's happening in the district while it's happening," she said. "There's lots of opportunities for that. Each school has an open house, for example. Anytime parents are together, we can do some educating."

Clark, a Wheeling resident, is running for a third term. She said her background in accounting and working as a math tutor at Deerfield High School is unique to the board. She also said continuity will be important for the district.

"We've had a change in superintendent after we've already had a huge change with (former District 21 Board President) Tim Hilgenberg and Cari Beecher leaving," she said. "That's a lot of turnover. It's a hard time for more turnover with a new superintendent and these major issues."

Clark has two children enrolled at Whitman Elementary School. She said she still enjoys working on the board.

"I've always had an interest in the field of education, an interest in children getting a good education and in the importance of making a difference in children's lives," she said. "I want to make decisions that have a positive impact on children."

Edmonds is the co-president of the Whitman Elementary School PTO and has one child in the district. She lives in Wheeling. Edmonds said seeing her 24-year-old daughter graduate from Roosevelt University inspired her to run for the School Board.

"Seeing her receive that diploma was over-ations to address security needs.

Threat level is reduced to yellow, or medium.

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"I started thinking about things facing the board. It energized me and made me realize that I wanted to stay and be a part of things."

Larry Krulewich

whelming," she said. "It made me realize that kids need the best education they can get. I saw the tools I gave her, and I hope to be able to give those tools to others."

Edmonds described herself as a good listener, which she believes is an important asset for a board member.

"I like to digest things before making a decision," she said. "I don't shoot from the hip. I try to figure out what's the most reasonable thing to do."

Horcher has two children at Field Elementary School. Her husband, Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher, considered making a run for the District 21 Board but decided to stay on the Village Board. Stacy Horcher believes it is her time to try to make a difference.

"Many are willing to complain and not do anything about it," the Wheeling resident said. "At least I can run and let people know that I am willing to do something."

Horcher said she is not pleased with the way the board has been running the district, and she also saw few others who were willing to challenge the incumbents. She decided to make the run after finding support from her husband and a group of parents called Concerned Parents of District 21.

"The process of problem-solving (on the board) has not been sufficient," she said. "Take the space issue. It's been a problem for 12 or 13 years now, and they still have not done anything about it. More attention needs to be paid to immediate problems."

Krulewich, a Buffalo Grove resident, is finishing his first term on the District 21 Board. He said he is looking forward to working with Gary Mical, the new superintendent, and that he believes Mical is capable of making positive changes in the district.

"It was really important to me to find a new superintendent who can work with the community," he said. "Gary is the guy I was looking for. I think we've seen the signs of what kind of superintendent he'll be."

Krulewich pointed to Mical's state-of-the-schools meetings in October and the formation of the Superintendent's Advisory Council as keys to the district gaining a better grasp on how the community views the school district.

Krulewich suffered two strokes in the summer of 2001. He said he is still not "100 percent," but he added that he is feeling better all the time. He said he believes continuing his work on the board will be helpful.

"I started thinking about things facing the board," he said. "It energized me and made me realize that I wanted to stay and be a part of things."

(Continued on page 10)

ready for such situations for years because of Wheeling's proximity to the Zion Nuclear Power Plant and the village's industrial base.

"What is new is the biohazards, and we've had to adapt a little to that," he said. "I think you'll find we're on par with our neighbors."

Other new procedures include restricting visitor access at the fire stations and making sure the stations are locked at all times.

"I never thought I'd see the day the Fire Department was a target for anybody," he said. "But clearly, that is the case these days."

Popadowski said the reality of war has allowed the Police Department to better prepare for the elevated terrorist threat.

"Before, (the elevated alert) was based on some innocuous intelligence, and we didn't know why it was elevated," he said. "Now, everyone knows."

Wheeling budget keeps beauty a high priority

By Cass Cliatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-8-03

While a sagging economy is stretching many suburbs lean, Wheeling is preparing a budget for a year of continued projects to upgrade and beautify the village.

A proposed 2003 fiscal year budget that trustees continued to review Friday totals about \$36.6 million in spending.

It appears to be a significant decrease from the estimated \$52 million of this year, but only because conversion to a Jan. 1 fiscal year in 2004 calls for an eight-month budget from May to December.

So, while Elk Grove Village is among towns that have raised sales taxes to plug anticipated budget holes — and Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights are drawing from reserves or making deep cuts to stay in the black — Wheeling officials say they have the luxury of considering a "hold the line" budget.

Wheeling's draft includes more than \$7.1 million in capital improvements for bike paths, streetlight improvements, work on the Dundee Road pedestrian overpass and other items.

If approved, the spending would continue a three-year trend of aggressive beautification made possible, in part, because Wheeling collects a healthy sales tax from discount stores that remain strong performers in a weak economy.

"Relatively speaking, we're doing better than other municipalities," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

Wheeling's sales taxes dipped 2 percent this year, but the village is

projecting a 2 percent rebound increase in its annual sales tax for next year, village officials said.

"Our assumption is we're in relatively good shape because of Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Target," Douthwaite said. "The folks in a weakened economy that wouldn't go to Nordstrom go to Sam's or Target or Wal-Mart instead."

Trustees in December approved a mere 0.36 percent increase in the property tax levy to bring in almost \$7.4 million to support the budget.

That compares to an unpopular 12 percent increase the previous year.

However, state income tax revenue remains flat, and Wheeling's budget proposal calls for improvements supported by an additional \$8.4 million in loans over the next two years.

"We'd have to issue a significant amount of bonds in coming years and that would contribute to a hike in the property tax," Douthwaite said.

Trustees didn't like that. Staff told the village board that a 10-year bond issue to pay off the debt would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$36 more in annual property taxes.

A resident using 12,000 gallons of water per month would have to pay about \$34 more monthly in coming years to pay for water and sewer improvements.

"We're going to take another look at our capital improvements and come back with a plan in a month," Douthwaite said.

Wheeling officials hope to have a budget proposal ready for a public hearing by April.



Ken after his arrest
Wheeling village board

Whatever happens on election day, the direction of the village of Wheeling over the next few years is not likely to change dramatically. Even if all three trustees whose seats are up for election were ousted, two of the three challengers who would replace them are village planning commissioners whose positions on and approaches to issues are not dissimilar to those of the incumbents.

Our choices

Vote April 1.

Each of them — Judy Abruscato, Patrick Horcher and Robert Heer —

represents, but that is not to say that the challengers represent either

But we don't see a strong argument for dismantling the existing makeup of the board. It is acting decisively to set the village on a course of improvement and economic growth, yet it considers the effects of its actions on all residents. That's an approach we applaud. To continue it, we endorse Patrick A.

bring individual strengths to the board, and all have been part of a board making measurable strides toward improving the image and quality of life in Wheeling. Horcher, in particular, has pressed in two terms for the village to move more assertively toward development and beautification. Heer, a Buffalo Grove police officer seeking his third term, may be a bit more deliberate in his approach, but he certainly has helped advance proposals that are moving the village forward, and Abruscato, the board's senior member with four terms, has tempered the process with concerns for senior citizens and other residents who have to foot the bills.

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Leadership styles differ with board candidates

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Most of the six people seeking election April 1 to the Wheeling village board agree the key to bringing far-ranging ideas about improved commercial centers and upscale housing to fruition will be their ability to reach compromises.

Yet, each of the four men and two women has a different approach to leadership, and all hope voters will decide their governance style is best to represent the people of Wheeling.

"My ability to resolve conflicts, that's been my whole life," said Kenneth Brady, a construction project manager who described a career of mending egos between architects, laborers and contractors.

"You can't go around hitting people in the head with sticks, otherwise you won't be in business very long," Brady said of the need for diplomacy and consensus. "And that goes just about anywhere."

Brady, 61, has served on the Wheeling Plan Commission for about 16 years, now as its chairman while the commission completes a major overhaul of a village-wide redevelopment plan.

He and Plan Commissioner Pamela Dorband say one of the primary reasons they're seeking election is to ensure there is leadership on the village board to fulfill the improvement goals of the comprehensive plan.

"I know everyone's going to have different ideas, but I believe that in serving the residents, if anyone has a personal agenda, that has to be set aside," Dorband said.

The 57-year-old works as an administrative assistant to the superintendent in Lincolnwood

See BOARD on PAGE 3

Board: Six in the running



Judy Abruscato



Kenneth Brady



Pamela Dorband



Bob Heer



Patrick Horcher



Steven Telow

Continued from Page 1

School District 74, a post Dorband said has shown her the importance of "doing the homework" to make decisions.

As for incumbent Trustee Patrick Horcher: "I sit back a lot and listen," he said.

A 39-year-old manager of a family owned greenhouse, Horcher said he prides himself on honing his ability to see through people's passion to read their true concerns over the two terms he has served as trustee.

"Like we had all these businesses come in all worried and concerned when we had the hearing on the TRF," Horcher said of a tax increment financing district recently approved on Wheeling's northeast side.

The area along Milwaukee Avenue is slated for redevelopment with help from tax dollars, and businesses feared they would be tossed from their properties.

"I asked the experts we had there leading questions, so the experts could explain to the businesses how this could help them," Horcher said. "That's how I like to do things."

Incumbent Trustee Judy Abruscato echoes her campaign literature when asked about her leadership style.

"Dedicated, responsive and qualified I believe I am for this job," she says. "My life has been dedicated to the village of Wheeling."

Abruscato, a 68-year-old bank branch manager, is the village board's longest serving trustee, now running for her fifth term. She said her job is to be responsive to the people and communicate their needs to other trustees.

"I can get along with anybody," Abruscato said. "I run a financial institution and get along with people everyday."

She hopes to persuade other members of the board to bring entertainment venues to the village and to develop new senior and cultural centers, but agreed with other candidates who said every initiative will require consensus.

The one exception is candidate Steven "The Owl" Telow, who said his "very conservative" thinking would make building consensus a big challenge for him.

"I'm very much to the right," Telow said. "I can tell you I don't work very well with people. I don't agree. That's my biggest problem. If I were to be on the board, it would be very interesting."

Telow, an 80-year-old member of the Wheeling Historical Society, described himself as a "different" kind of candidate whose main issue is to clean up Milwaukee Avenue with hopes of building a casino to the area south Lake-Cook Road.

On the other end of the spectrum is incumbent Trustee Heer, who said he considers himself a progressive thinker.

"I think you have to be an advocate to the residents of the community," Heer said, adding that he thinks he has succeeded in being just that in the past eight years.

A 46-year-old police officer seeking his third term, Heer said he is a strong believer in team work to find ways to clean up blighted areas in town and improve everyday life in Wheeling. "But what the decisions should be should be what's best for the community," Heer said.

Prairie Park hits bump

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-6-03

A developer is seeing red over the Wheeling Plan Commission's delay in approving a new residential project. The developer is frustrated about what he considers too much

attention to detail, such as colors, design and whether investors can buy units and then rent them out.

Commissioners voted Feb. 27 to table a decision on the final plans for Prairie Park, a 308-unit condominium development proposed near the intersection of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The commissioners focused their criticisms mainly on the color of the buildings and their appearance. They said they will not send a recommendation on the development to the Village Board until the changes are made.

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"We can't send this along without the I's being dotted and T's being crossed," Commission Chairman Ken Brady said.

Commissioners said they like the overall look of the buildings designed by architect Howard Hirsch. But they also saw room for improvement by redesigning the building entrances, garage doors and balconies. They also asked for some changes in the building color schemes, landscaping and placement of sidewalks.

The decision to table a final decision for another two weeks over such details did not please Developer Mark Smith of Smith Brothers Construction.

"We're not working out mechanics here," he said. "We're talking about colors."

Commissioners also said they want to prohibit people from buying condominiums and then renting them out as an investment. Smith resisted such a regulation and argued that the commission should

not base a recommendation on such an issue. He said it was never his intention to turn Prairie Park into a rental community.

"That's not fair," Smith said. "The government shouldn't mandate everything in our lives. If you want me to look at a reasonable percentage (of rentals), I'll do it. But to say 100 percent no rentals, I won't do it."

Smith argued the price of the units alone, at \$200 per square foot, would deter investors from buying units and renting them out. At that price, units could cost between \$190,000 to \$440,000.

The Prairie Park plan consists of five buildings around a large pond, with a clubhouse on one side of the pond. Two of the buildings will be five-stories tall, and the other three will be seven. An elaborate entrance to the development that includes waterfalls and a gazebo is planned for Wolf Court.

Smith is still seeking clearance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build the entire project. Most of the western area of the 17.7-acre site lies in a flood plain. Village Engineer Richard Glenz said he had a "good feeling" that FEMA will accept and approve the application, a process that could take six to nine months.

Klatecki highlights

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-6-03

Despite a recession that has deflated Wall Street, increased unemployment and hurt commerce, Wheeling is still growing.

That was Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki's message to area businesspeople during a state-of-the-village address hosted by the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Feb. 25 at the Weber Grill restaurant.

More than 90 chamber members and officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights gathered to hear Klatecki's remarks and that of Prospect Heights Mayor Ed Rotchford.

Klatecki had plenty of encouraging news to share. He pointed to the numerous businesses that have come to Wheeling over the past year, including FedEx Ground, which is building a new

How David 797-4
Rich 797-5

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LETTERS	
OBITUARIES	
OPINION	
PEEK AT THE V	

Klatecki highlights state of business

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
3-6-03

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Klatecki had plenty of encouraging news to share. He pointed to the numerous businesses that have come to Wheeling over the past year, including FedEx Ground, which is building a new

112,000-square-foot distribution center on Wolf Road. Other new businesses include Durable Packaging, which took over the Moen Faucet plant on Northgate Parkway. Argus Plastics and Bio Industries, two plastics companies, took over a vacant 127,000-square-foot plant on Allendale Drive.

"Despite the downturn, there have been 51 percent more inquiries to the Economic Development Commission than last year," Klatecki said. "Businesses want to move into Wheeling."

Klatecki reported that more than 1 million square feet of business property had been filled in Wheeling over the past year.

The village president also pointed to the expansion of other businesses as a positive sign. Addolorata Villa, a Wheeling nursing home, opened a new wing last year, and North American Jet built a new hangar at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Residential building also continued to be strong, Klatecki said. River Mill near Palwaukee Municipal Airport finished construction, and the Park Point development on



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki talks to chamber of commerce members after his state-of-the-village address at the Weber Grill restaurant.

state Route 83 will be done this year. Astor Place on Milwaukee Avenue began construction, and Klatecki predicted Prairie Park, a new development from Smith

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Leadership styles differ with board candidates

By CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-7-03

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Board: Six in the running



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Continued from Page 1

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Wheeling changes tack, kills condo proposal

BY CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-13-03

In an unexpected about-face this week, Wheeling trustees blocked plans to build a housing development on one of the village's last significant pieces of open land.

The village board was set to vote on a land-swap agreement that would have helped Tantillo Homes move forward with building condominiums on 10 of the estimated 20 acres at Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

The estimated \$70 million project would have brought the village three, 10-story buildings in a towering complex that developers said would be a hallmark for Wheeling.

However, trustees decided they would rather see a commercial development on the high-profile property, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said Wednesday.

Trustees scrapped the vote on a land-transfer and development agreement with Tantillo after meet-

ing in closed session Monday.

"It's too important a property," Douthwaite said. "It's prime location on the corner of Lake-Cook and Milwaukee Road and when you have something that's of that kind of value and location, I think it behooves us to work to make the best of it."

Wheeling wants to find a development that will use the entire 20 acres, rather than dividing the property, Douthwaite said.

He pointed out that, other than the Horcher Farm on Wheeling's far north side, the parcel is the last significant property to be developed in the village.

William Hein, the consultant for Tantillo Homes on the project, said he was "very much surprised" at the board's decision.

Tantillo first pitched its housing plans to Wheeling trustees about a year ago and has since appeared several times before the plan commission to present alternative designs. "Not only is it the time, but it's the monies that have been

expended, which are quite substantial," Hein said, though he had no figures available. "We're well along into the process."

It would be premature to say whether Tantillo will develop new plans that would fit Wheeling's desire for a commercial development, Hein said.

"We're weighing the options," he said.

Anthony Tantillo, owner of Tantillo Homes, couldn't be reached for comment, but Douthwaite said he plans

to meet with Tantillo today to discuss options.

Wheeling doesn't want to "take the first thing out of the box," Douthwaite said. Officials aren't overly concerned that a sagging economy could stymie new proposals from developers.

"The land isn't going anywhere," Douthwaite said. "It certainly isn't going to depreciate any in value and the board felt it was important to wait for the right development to come along."

Assistant manager hired

3-6-03 c

Wheeling Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite has hired Mark Rooney as his assistant village manager. Rooney is scheduled to begin his job Monday.

Rooney is the former city administrator of Highwood, where he worked for seven years and oversaw the conversion of Fort Sheridan to civilian uses, developed Highwood's first tax increment financing district and negotiated contracts to build telecommunication antennae on city water towers.

Rooney previously spent three years as Sen. Paul Simon's staff assistant, where he worked with the Congressional effort to redevelop Joliet Arsenal and Fort Sheridan. Rooney served as an Army officer during the 1991 Gulf War and received a Bronze Star for the rescue of soldiers following an Iraqi missile attack on barracks in Saudi Arabia. He is still a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Rooney is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and is working on his master's of public administration degree at Northern Illinois University.

Wheeling board candidates debate bus service

BY CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-12-03

Free bus service in Wheeling and the proliferation of so-called "jitney" cabs were on the list Tuesday night of ways candidates for village trustee propose to improve local transportation.

Five of the six residents hoping to win election to the village board April 1 faced off on the transportation issue during the first public forum of the campaign season. "Years ago, there

was talk of a free bus," Pamela Dorband said. "I would like to see that."

Dorband, a Wheeling plan commissioner, said she's encouraged by Metra's plans to build another train track through the village. Yet Wheeling should focus on promoting retail and housing development around its train station and create a local bus service to ease movement there, she said.

"I don't think Wheeling would pay for a free bus just within the village," incumbent Trustee Patrick Horcher

said. Horcher and Trustee Judy Abruscato were the only incumbents to attend the forum hosted by the Libertarian Party at Wheeling Township headquarters. Trustee Robert Heer gave notice that the forum conflicted with his job at the Buffalo Grove Police Department, organizers said.

"The prospect of a free bus is nice," Horcher said, "but when you get the toys and bring them home, the credit card has to come. You have to pay."

Horcher said he might be willing to enter a cooperative agreement with

other municipalities if they wanted to provide a bus service.

Candidate Kenneth Brady, Wheeling's plan commission chairman, pointed out that Niles has a free bus system that has worked for that town.

"And Wheeling has a unique situation in that we have a high concentration of senior citizens in one area and they can't get around," Brady said. "So, through the Illinois Senior Services and the park district, we could get enough money together to provide a free bus within the vil-

lage."

For any bus system to work, Wheeling residents would have to be educated about bus use, Abruscato said. "When I moved into the community, we had bus service, Mr. Brady," said Abruscato, a 36-year Wheeling resident. "And what happened? We haven't educated ourselves to use the bus. I would like to see bus service restored."

Abruscato supported an idea pushed by newcomer candidate Steven Telow to proliferate a system

of jitneys, which buses that carry on a flexible schedule.

"The biggest of the transport Telow said of the 'We should use my day, you'd pay take you.'

Brady, Dorband supportive of more cautious, have to consider safety and liability

Northwest suburbs in 60 seconds

3-13-03

Correcting Wheeling waste bills:

A mistake that resulted in overcharging Wheeling seniors on their trash collection bills this month has the village encouraging senior citizens to call Waste Management Services to have it corrected. About 700 residents aged 65 and older had applied for a 25 percent discount on waste bills through a program set up by Waste Management and the village in February 2002. However, Waste Management representatives told the village that a computer error resulted in seniors being charged full price for the quarterly bills received this month. Wheeling officials said the village is instructing the estimated 700 affected seniors with curbside pickup to pay their typical bill

amount and then call Waste Management at (800) 964-8988 to tell the company they are Wheeling seniors who have applied for the discount. The error is supposed to be corrected by the time the next quarter's bills are mailed, officials said.

No injuries in apartment fire:

A resident of a Wheeling apartment was displaced after fire left the unit uninhabitable Wednesday night. Fire damage was confined to the bedroom, but heat and smoke damage occurred throughout the unit, firefighters said. The fire happened just after 7 p.m. at 830 Corey Lane, firefighters said. No one was hurt and people inside the three-story complex were able to

evacuate safely, they said. Damage was estimated at \$10,000; the cause is still under investigation. Apartment management helped secure another apartment for the resident.

Lake County tax bills to be late:

Lake County homeowners likely will get their spring property tax bills at least a few weeks later than usual. The bills, normally sent out in early May, will be late because personnel cutbacks at the Illinois Department of Revenue have delayed the release of needed data to the county. Chief County Assessor Officer Mary Paulson told the county board on Tuesday. The due date for the spring payments will be pushed back.

Wheeling condo complex gets early OK

BY CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-15-03

A Wheeling developer has won long-awaited preliminary approval for a Wolf Road condominium complex after agreeing to put money behind his promise to build both phases of the project.

Developer Mark Smith also had to tell plan commissioners he was willing to set a precedent in the village by limiting rentals in the 306-unit complex proposed as Prairie Park.

Smith has been working for two years on plans to bring five provincial-style condominium buildings to an extensively landscaped 17.6 acres at 566 N. Wolf Road.

The buildings would circle a pond and fountains along a ring road, and would be accompanied by a clubhouse — a design commissioners praised for fitting Wheeling's goals of

upgrading its housing.

Still, in previous meetings with Smith and his architects, which grew tense at times, commissioners had concerns that Smith might not complete all of the buildings on a site troubled by a flood plain designation. Smith agreed this week to post bonds that village officials said will likely top \$1 million as a guarantee he'll complete the clubhouse, road, landscaping and other improvements in both phases of Prairie Park.

"I would like you to commit to a condition that with approval of the CLOMR, you would make the clubhouse and the ring road the first priority in Phase II so that they will be available to the residents," said Commissioner Steven Boime in outlining some of the commission's demands.

Boime referred to an awaited Conditional Letter of Map Revision, or CLOMR, from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency. The document would indicate that flood maps are incorrect in showing part of Smith's proposed development lies in a flood plain, clearing the way for development.

Commissioners also suggested trustees could use Smith's request for tax-financing help as leverage to ensure that Smith sets limits on rentals at Prairie Park. "They don't have to," Smith said. "We're willing to sit down with the village and come up with a number ... It's beyond me, whether it would be 10 percent, 25 percent. I know it can't be 50 percent."

Commissioners agreed that the village staff should work with Smith to set up a legally binding way to protect condominium mortgage holders at Prairie Park from owning homes surrounded by transient residents renting condos that might be owned by real estate speculators.

plans to build a housing development on one of the village's last significant pieces of open land.

The village board was set to vote on a land-swap agreement that would have helped Tantillo Homes move forward with building condominiums on 10 of the estimated 20 acres at Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

The estimated \$70 million project would have brought the village three, 10-story buildings in a towering complex that developers said would be a hallmark for Wheeling.

However, trustees decided they would rather see a commercial development on the high-profile property, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said Wednesday.

Trustees scrapped the vote on a land-transfer and development agreement with Tantillo after meet-

something that's of that kind of value and location, I think it behooves us to work to make the best of it."

Wheeling wants to find a development that will use the entire 20 acres, rather than dividing the property, Douthwaite said.

He pointed out that, other than the Horcher Farm on Wheeling's far north side, the parcel is the last significant property to be developed in the village.

William Hein, the consultant for Tantillo Homes on the project, said he was "very much surprised" at the board's decision.

Tantillo first pitched its housing plans to Wheeling trustees about a year ago and has since appeared several times before the plan commission to present alternative designs. "Not only is it the time, but it's the monies that have been

whether Tantillo will develop new plans that would fit Wheeling's desire for a commercial development, Hein said.

"We're weighing the options," he said.

Anthony Tantillo, owner of Tantillo Homes, couldn't be reached for comment, but Douthwaite said he plans

concerned that a sagging economy could stymie new proposals from developers.

"The land isn't going anywhere," Douthwaite said. "It certainly isn't going to depreciate any in value and the board felt it was important to wait for the right development to come along."

Assistant manager hired

3-6-03 c

Wheeling Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite has hired Mark Rooney as his assistant village manager. Rooney is scheduled to begin his job Monday.

Rooney is the former city administrator of Highwood, where he worked for seven years and oversaw the conversion of Fort Sheridan to civilian uses, developed Highwood's first tax increment financing district and negotiated contracts to build telecommunication antennae on city water towers.

Rooney previously spent three years as Sen. Paul Simon's staff assistant, where he worked with the Congressional effort to redevelop Joliet Arsenal and Fort Sheridan. Rooney served as an Army officer during the 1991 Gulf War and received a Bronze Star for the rescue of soldiers following an Iraqi missile attack on barracks in Saudi Arabia. He is still a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Rooney is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and is working on his master's of public administration degree at Northern Illinois University.

Wheeling board candidates debate bus service

BY CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-12-03

Free bus service in Wheeling and the proliferation of so-called "jitney" cabs were on the list Tuesday night of ways candidates for village trustee propose to improve local transportation.

Five of the six residents hoping to win election to the village board April 1 faced off on the transportation issue during the first public forum of the campaign season. "Years ago, there

was talk of a free bus," Pamela Dorband said. "I would like to see that."

Dorband, a Wheeling plan commissioner, said she's encouraged by Metra's plans to build another train track through the village. Yet Wheeling should focus on promoting retail and housing development around its train station and create a local bus service to ease movement there, she said.

"I don't think Wheeling would pay for a free bus just within the village," incumbent Trustee Patrick Horcher

said. Horcher and Trustee Judy Abruscato were the only incumbents to attend the forum hosted by the Libertarian Party at Wheeling Township headquarters. Trustee Robert Heer gave notice that the forum conflicted with his job at the Buffalo Grove Police Department, organizers said.

"The prospect of a free bus is nice," Horcher said, "but when you get the toys and bring them home, the credit card has to come. You have to pay."

Horcher said he might be willing to enter a cooperative agreement with

other municipalities if they wanted to provide a bus service.

Candidate Kenneth Brady, Wheeling's plan commission chairman, pointed out that Niles has a free bus system that has worked for that town.

"And Wheeling has a unique situation in that we have a high concentration of senior citizens in one area and they can't get around," Brady said. "So, through the Illinois Senior Services and the park district, we could get enough money together to provide a free bus within the vil-

lage."

For any bus system to work, Wheeling residents would have to be educated about bus use, Abruscato said. "When I moved into the community, we had bus service, Mr. Brady," said Abruscato, a 36-year Wheeling resident. "And what happened? We haven't educated ourselves to use the bus. I would like to see bus service restored."

Abruscato supported an idea pushed by newcomer candidate Steven Telow to proliferate a system

of jitneys, which are small vans or buses that carry multiple passengers on a flexible schedule.

"The biggest disaster we have out of the transportation area is Pace," Telow said of the regional bus system. "We should use the jitneys, where in my day, you'd pay a nickel and they'd take you."

Brady, Dorband and Horcher were supportive of the jitney idea, but more cautious, saying they would have to consider state laws, and safety and liability issues.

Northwest suburbs in 60 se

3-18-03

Correcting Wheeling waste bills:

A mistake that resulted in overcharging Wheeling seniors on their trash collection bills this month has the village encouraging senior citizens to call Waste Management Services to have it corrected. About 700 residents, aged 65 and older had applied for a 25 percent discount on waste bills through a program set up by Waste Management and the village in February 2002. However, Waste Management representatives told the village that a computer error resulted in seniors being charged full price for the quarterly bills received this month. Wheeling officials said. The village is instructing the estimated 700 affected seniors with curbside pickup to pay their typical bill

amount and then call Waste Management at (800) 964-8988 to tell the company they are Wheeling seniors who have applied for the discount. The error is supposed to be corrected by the time the next quarter's bills are mailed, officials said.

No injuries in apartment fire:

A resident of a Wheeling apartment was displaced after fire left the unit uninhabitable Wednesday night. Fire damage was confined to the bedroom, but heat and smoke damage occurred throughout the unit, firefighters said. The fire happened just after 7 p.m. at 830 Corey Lane, firefighters said. No one was hurt and people inside the three-story complex were able to

Wheeling condo complex ge

BY CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-15-03

A Wheeling developer has won long-awaited preliminary approval for a Wolf Road condominium complex after agreeing to put money behind his promise to build both phases of the project.

Developer Mark Smith also had to tell plan commissioners he was willing to set a precedent in the village by limiting rentals in the 306-unit complex proposed as Prairie Park.

Smith has been working for two years on plans to bring five provincial-style condominium buildings to an extensively landscaped 17.6 acres at 566 N. Wolf Road.

The buildings would circle a pond and fountains along a ring road, and would be accompanied by a clubhouse — a design commissioners praised for fitting Wheeling's goals of

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Still, in previous meetings with Smith and his architects, which grew tense at times, commissioners had concerns that Smith might not complete all of the buildings on a site troubled by a flood plain designation. Smith agreed this week to post bonds that village officials said will likely top \$1 million as a guarantee he'll complete the clubhouse, road, landscaping and other improvements in both phases of Prairie Park. "I would like you to commit to a condition that with approval of the CLOMR, you would make the clubhouse and the ring road the first priority in Phase II so that they will be available to the residents," said Commissioner Steven Boime in outlining some of the commissioner's demands. Boime referred to an awaited Conditional Letter of Map Revision, or CLOMR, from the Federal Emer-

Trustees talk taxes for public projects

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-13-03

Wheeling trustees are wrestling with how much of an increase they are willing to impose on residents to pay for public improvement projects.

Public Works Department representatives submitted a draft of their five-year capital improvements program last week that details a list of projects totaling \$48.5 million. Included in the plan is \$7.1 million for projects next year.

The program is mainly made up of improving sewer pumps, replacing water mains, increasing street lighting, burying utility lines, building pocket

parcs and maintaining village streets.

Some special projects in the plan include a new \$15 million public works facility proposed for construction in 2007, acquiring and demolishing flood-prone properties and building new roadside entrance signs for the village.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the capital improvements program has no local revenue source outside of the motor fuel tax, utility taxes for electricity and natural gas, and a portion of sales taxes. That means the village will have to issue bonds and increase taxes to pay for the projects.

Douthwaite said property taxes could increase between 6 percent and 9.5 percent to pay the costs.

That translates into an increase of \$25 to \$35 in taxes on a home with a fair market value of \$200,000.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, said the figures are not "written in stone" since the board has options in structuring the debt or using funds from the three tax increment financing districts already established to pay for the work. The TIF districts are used to fund improvements within delineated areas. A TIF district exists, for example, around Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. Using TIF money to make improvements in those areas would not effect the annual tax levy.

"There are a number of options before the board (Continued on page 8)

at this point," Mondschain said. "It's hard to say what the final impact will be."

The levy increases projected by Douthwaite are based on how much money the village will have to borrow through bonds.

"This is a policy issue you need to look at," Douthwaite told the board at its March 3 meeting.

Board members are split on how much to raise taxes.

"I'd like to keep any tax increase to the 5 to 6 percent level," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "That should give us a good volume of money to work with."

Trustee Michael Horcher said he is pleased to see an aggressive capital improvements program, but he is also cautious of raising taxes.

"We're moving ahead pretty good, but I don't want to raise taxes any more than we have to," he said. "Maybe we can defer some projects or look at other revenue to offset the need for property taxes."

Other trustees argue that the village may want to borrow more money now and complete the projects since interest rates are at historic lows.

"If you're going to bond, now's the time," said Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is a vice

president at Corus Bank.

Trustee Trevor Lehmann suggested the village borrow more money and accelerate the program's schedule to take advantage of low interest rates.

"Money is a steal," he said. "Rates will rise in two years. We're talking about millions of dollars, and a few percentage points is saving a lot of money."

Trustee Dean Argiris is wary about raising taxes and increasing debt if the village finds it needs to borrow money in an emergency in the future.

"I have a real problem with increasing taxes," he said. "We know the problems we have today, but nobody has a crystal ball to see the problems tomorrow."

Argiris charged Mondschain to "find the funds" in tax increment financing money or grants.

Douthwaite said he and village staff will work to put together different scenarios of borrowing, using TIF funds raising taxes and deferring projects. Ultimately, it is up to the Village Board to decide on the final capital improvements program. Trustees must approve the plan by the end of April.

State legislators endorse Abruscato

Wheeling/Wheeling voters have an easy choice when they vote for village trustee April 1.

Trustee Judy Abruscato has invested her time, energy and effort to promote the community. She has worked tirelessly to enhance her professionalism as an elected official, attending sessions on issues of importance to Wheeling and other local governments. She conducts village business without a personal agenda, always mindful of her responsibility to the taxpayers.

Trustee Abruscato has truly been a leader in her community involvement, wanting only the best for Wheeling and its residents. As legislators who represent the village of Wheeling, we are honored to work with her and strongly endorse her re-election.

Senator Terry Link
30th District
Rep. Kathy Ryg
59th District

March
13-03

Prairie Park to go to Village Board

The Wheeling Plan Commission gave its approval to the site and appearance plan of the proposed Prairie Park to be built near the intersection of Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Commissioners approved Smith Brothers Construction's plan after the company made some minor changes to the plan after a Feb. 27 Plan Commission meeting. Developer Mark Smith agreed to post bonds for the second phase of the project and agreed to meet with village staff to draw up an agreement that deters renters from moving into the 308-unit condominium development.

Smith said he was not sure how the agreement would read, but it will most likely place a limit on how many units can be rented out in each building.

Smith will build two buildings on the east side of the property, along with an elaborately landscaped entrance, in the first phase of the project. The second phase will include construction of three other condominium buildings and a clubhouse. Smith still needs approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the second phase of the project. He is hoping FEMA will redraw the flood plain map, allowing him to build on the western part of the property.

Smith said he anticipates construction to take three years. The project still needs approval from the Village Board before construction can begin.

Blood drive Wednesday

The Wheeling Board of Health will hold a blood drive from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. March 26 in the main fire station at 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Board of Health asks those wishing to donate blood to contact Michael Boyle, Wheeling's health officer, at (847) 459-2621, or by e-mailing him at mboyle@vi.wheeling.il.us to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins are welcome, but those with appointments will receive priority. The American Red Cross, the agency conducting the collections, recommends donors eat a few hours prior to donating and drink 12 glasses of water a day for several days to hydrate the veins.

Candidates in Wheeling trustee race consider land-use plan

March 20, 2003

ELECTION 2003

The Daily Herald sent questionnaires to each of the six candidates in the race for Wheeling village trustee. Here are their responses to one of the couple of selected questions. The candidates are running for three 4-year seats.

Q. Wheeling has dedicated more than a year to developing its first new comprehensive land-use plan in decades. How

should the village board see the plan is adhered to?

Judy Abruscato: We should review the comprehensive land-use plan on a timely basis to make sure we are moving in the right direction to meet the needs of the residents and businesses.

Kenneth R. Brady: Take steps to ensure that the comprehensive plan is reviewed at least every two to three years, or shortly after a major development has been approved that is contrary to the plan in order to check the effect the project had on the surrounding area. The board should work closely with the chamber and the economic development commission to monitor trend changes to stay

current in land-use planning. A regular workshop meeting should be held between the village board, plan commission and economic development commission. It is important to maintain understanding between the lawmakers and their advisory boards regarding industry trends, problem areas, redevelopment ideas, etc.

Pamela D. Dorband: I have been

involved in that plan every step of the way and I don't want it shelved and forgotten. It is up to the trustees to insure that the plan is implemented. We need to maintain our focus and set goals and timelines for completion. Some items can be set into motion immediately — streetscape work, for example. Others will need to be more long range. In order to stay on track, it is necessary to schedule

periodic reviews of the plan.

Robert J. Hoer: A lot of work has gone into the revised comprehensive plan, which some have described as the "blue print" for the future of Wheeling. Others, however disagree with the plan and feel its not how they envisioned the plan to be. Whatever the case, the village board has

See Q&A on PAGE 3

Q&A: Town's land-use plan topic of debate

Continued from Page 1

the ultimate say on what is developed within the community utilizing the comprehensive plan. The plan is flexible enough to allow for the best use of the property.

Patrick A. Horcher: Stick to it.

What good are instructions for a complex project if you don't use them?

Steven "The Owl" Telow: This comprehensive plan has not been voted on as of Feb. 10, 2003. And if it does pass, it will be a monumental flop.

Wheeling plan gets early OK:

A plan aimed at remaking Wheeling's image through redevelopment is finally on its way to the village board. After 15 months of community meetings and workshops, the Wheeling Plan Commission last week voted unanimously to recommend approval of Wheeling's first completely revamped comprehensive plan in decades. The new so-called redevelopment blueprint includes recommendations for creating a town center, redeveloping the Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road corridors and fixing flood problems. It comprises 105 pages of text and maps, compared to a current plan that's a less detailed 40 pages. Trustees are scheduled to review the plan at a workshop April 21 before voting on it April 28. Plan text is online at www.vi.wheeling.il.us.

Candidates dissect school space problems

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-19-03

All five candidates seeking a seat on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board realize that finding room for students on the east side of the district is a challenge that cannot be ignored.

DISTRICT 21

The disagreement among those seeking one of three, four-year seats is how the district should go about solving the problem. The candidates include incumbents Pamela Becker-Dean, Larry Krulewich and Ellen Clark, and Stacey Horcher and Katherine Edmonds.

The board attempted to ease the crowded classroom conditions on the east side of the district last spring by moving kindergarten students who would normally attend Whitman Elementary School to the Hawthorne school. Their goal was to make space at Whitman, whose 690-student enrollment makes it the largest elementary school in the district. There are 147 Whitman kindergartners at Hawthorne this year.

The decision came after the board tumbled over two different plans to create more space at Whitman. The board decided to scrap those plans after the administration of former Su-

perintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie provided conflicting school population statistics. The numbers given to the board did not match statistics developed by faculty and parents at schools that would have been most affected by the plans.

The board hire a demographer in May to better forecast population growth. That report, conducted by George Ambruster of K12 Analytics, shows overall population growth is flattening out, but east-side growth is expected to outpace west-side growth.

Incumbents' views

Clark and Krulewich were part of the District 21 Board during the brunt of the discussion to solve the space issue last spring. Becker-Dean was appointed to the board in April, after the majority of the debate had ended. She voted in favor of the Hawthorne solution in May.

All three incumbents admit the board handled the situation poorly last year, mainly because it was trying to solve the problem with incorrect enrollment statistics.

Clark said empty classrooms in some west-side buildings prove that school boundaries should be redrawn and that space on the west side of the district should be used before the district builds additions to Whitman.

"We have more than enough room (in the district) to accommodate all the

children," she said. "It doesn't make sense to build if we already have room."

Clark said building more space at Whitman could also have a negative effect on an already large school.

"The class sizes are OK, but you would lose some of the atmosphere at a school that big," she said. "Right now, the school is so big the teachers don't know the students and the students don't know the teachers."

Krulewich said the district needs to continue to look at other solutions besides enlarging Whitman and redistricting.

"My fear is, with a building that big, you could end up with a white elephant," he said. "Why spend money on a facility we do not need?"

He supports continued investigation as to whether more students can be sent to Hawthorne. The district has avoided sending more kids to Hawthorne because of possible concerns about the building being in a flood plain.

"We have to make the best use of all our facilities. We opened up kindergarten rooms at Hawthorne for Whitman students, and we need to continue to get the optimum use out of Hawthorne," he said. "That is where the kids are."

Becker-Dean said the district needs to involve the community more in any decision that is made. She said Superintendent Gary Mical's Superinten-

dent Advisory Council, made up of about 60 parents representing each school, did a good job coming up with some suggested solutions to the space issue.

"We need to all work together and not come up with a plan and ask (the community), 'What do you think?'" she said.

Becker-Dean also suggests the district hire someone to redraw school boundaries instead of relying on the administrative staff.

"We can't put this burden on (staff)," she said. "It's not their competency. We should get people who know what they're doing. It's an emotional issue, and we need to take the emotion out."

The challengers

Edmonds agrees with the idea of hiring an outside consultant to come up with new school boundaries.

"The board is too emotional," she said. "We need someone to take a fresh look at the situation, with no biases."

Edmonds said any redrawing of boundaries should try to adhere to the district's neighborhood-school philosophy, in which students in the same neighborhood attend the same school. But Edmonds admits that sticking to the policy may be difficult.

"I believe in the neighborhood- (Continued on page 8)

schools concept," she said. "It's tough if a child across the street is moved to another school. But the growth on the east side is unbelievable. I don't know if we can maintain neighborhood schools."

Horcher favors redistricting, but she sees no need to pay someone from outside the district to redraw school boundaries. Horcher said the demographic study and the suggestions from the Superintendent's Advisory Council provide the district a good start in getting the information it needs.

"I can't imagine how one person with a good brain, a pencil, a ruler and a map couldn't do it," she said. "I don't think the administration can't do it."

Horcher also agrees that the community needs to be more involved in giving input on any plan to alleviate the space problem.

"Parents need to be involved in the decision-making process," she said. "If (parents) do not want (their children) to be widely distributed across the district, then they should be accommodated."

Trustees approve overpass repair

The pedestrian overpass that spans Dundee Road between Field Elementary School and London Middle School will be repaired after all.

The Wheeling Village Board voted to repair the overpass after looking at suggestions and estimates from Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers at its March 17 meeting. The plan is to repair the stairs and railings, improve the abutments and replace the walkway and fence. The project is expected to cost about \$270,000. The village has \$280,000 budgeted for the repairs.

Trustees considered demolishing the bridge and replacing it with a street light at the London entrance and Cedar Run Drive. However, trustees opted for the repairs after the Illinois Department of Transportation informed them that they could pursue the work without having to install ramps to adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Repairs could begin this summer. London Middle School Principal Jim Parker said students use the bridge every day to get to and from school. He was pleased to hear the bridge will be repaired.

"Using the overhead walk is a lot safer," he said. "Even if there was a light, the kids could run out. Some cars go 30 (mph) and some go 55, and the kids can have a hard time judging how fast a car is going."

Wheeling bridge will stay put, be rehabbed

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-27-03

After years of debate, Wheeling has decided the fate of the Dundee Road pedestrian overpass — again.

It took 51 months and almost \$39,000 in studies for the village to decide to leave the so-called "London bridge" where it is.

Trustees tentatively agreed recently to budget \$272,000 for rehabilitating the 36-year-old walkway.

The decision represents a reversal of last spring's \$300,000 plan to put a wrecking ball to the overpass, realign adjacent roads and install a traffic light.

Some trustees have long said the overpass is critical to the safety of kids walking to Jack London Middle School, and that view eventually triumphed over earlier concerns that repairing it would be too costly.

"You could make the criticism that we took the time and took the money and came full-circle and decided it was going to stay put, but I think the trustees were genuinely torn on the appropriate alternative," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

Parents repeatedly spoke out against demolishing a bridge trustees complained was

unsightly, but the village board for years thought rebuilding it would cost up to \$400,000.

The Illinois Department of Transportation had said Wheeling would have to install disability ramps and heighten the bridge if it were rebuilt.

"So what we did was look at the possibility of putting a light at London," Douthwaite said.

Yet IDOT in 2000 initially refused Wheeling's request to install a traffic signal there.

Trustees decided in December 2001, to deal with the bridge themselves and OK'd a traffic-signal last April. They unexpectedly decided to reopen the issue in December, after learning IDOT had changed its costly requirement to install ramps. "We are pleased to have the bridge stay," London School Principal James Parker said. "If we could do anything aesthetically to make it look a little bit nicer, that would be fine. But our kids, from a safety standpoint, use it regularly."

The concept design calls for replacing the 81-foot solid structure with corrugated steel and lightweight concrete to form the walkway beneath a new protective screen. The project should be completed by the end of November.

Garbage bills surprise seniors

3-20-03

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Officials with Waste Management say they have fixed an error that resulted in several hundred Wheeling senior citizens being overcharged for garbage collection during the last billing cycle.

‘There was a computer glitch. We have those from time to time.’

About 700 senior citizens living in single-family homes did not receive the 25 percent discount they are entitled to through the village's contract with Waste Management. The error resulted in senior citizens being overcharged by \$7.73. Robert Stob, municipal marketing director for Waste Management, said the company discovered the error soon after the bills were mailed.

"There was a computer glitch," he said. "We have those from time to time."

Stob said all who qualify for the discount but did not receive it on the last bill will be credited on their next bill.

"Everyone (with the discount) is getting notices," Stob said. "We don't want to collect money that's not owed to us. And if we owe money back, then we're going to pay it back."

Diane Anderson, secretary to the assistant to the Wheeling village manager, said it was too late to correct the problem because they had already been sent out.

"Waste Management called us right away," Anderson said.

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Parents repeatedly spoke out against demolishing a bridge trustees complained was

unsightly, but the village board for years thought rebuilding it would cost up to \$400,000.

The Illinois Department of Transportation had said Wheeling would have to install disability ramps and heighten the bridge if it were rebuilt.

"So what we did was look at the possibility of putting a light at London," Douthwaite said.

Yet IDOT in 2000 initially refused Wheeling's request to install a traffic signal there.

Trustees decided in December 2001, to deal with the bridge themselves and OK'd a traffic-signal last April. They unexpectedly decided to reopen the issue in December, after learning IDOT had changed its costly requirement to install ramps.

"We are pleased to have the bridge stay," London School Principal James Parker said. "If we could do anything aesthetically to make it look a little bit nicer, that would be fine. But our kids, from a safety standpoint, use it regularly."

The concept design calls for replacing the 81-foot solid structure with corrugated steel and lightweight concrete to form the walkway beneath a new protective screen. The project should be completed by the end of November.

Garbage bills surprise seniors

3-20-03
By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Officials with Waste Management say they have fixed an error that resulted in several hundred Wheeling senior citizens being overcharged for garbage collection during the last billing cycle.

There was a computer glitch. We have those from time to time.

About 700 senior citizens living in single-family homes did not receive the 25 percent discount they are entitled to through the village's contract with Waste Management. The error resulted in senior citizens being overcharged by \$7.73. Robert Stob, municipal marketing director for Waste Management, said the company discovered the error soon after the bills were mailed.

"There was a computer glitch," he said. "We have those from time to time."

Stob said all who qualify for the discount but did not receive it on the last bill will be credited on their next bill.

"Everyone (with the discount) is getting notices," Stob said. "We don't want to collect money that's not owed to us. And if we owe money back, then we're going to pay it back."

Diane Anderson, secretary to the assistant to the Wheeling village manager, said it was too late to correct the problem because they had already been sent out.

"Waste Management called us right away," Anderson said. "They began immediately to credit the accounts in the next billing cycle. Everyone is pleased. Mistakes happen, and we understand that."

Wheeling residents 65 and older with curb-side garbage pickup have qualified for the discount since February 2002. The error affects the last billing cycle only. Seniors who live in condominium buildings or town homes do not qualify for the discount, and their bills were not affected.



Blood drive Wednesday

The Wheeling Board of Health will hold a blood drive from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. March 26 in the main fire station at 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Board of Health asks those wishing to donate blood to contact Michael Boyle, Wheeling's health officer, at (847) 459-2621, or by e-mailing him at mboyle@vr.wheeling.il.us to schedule an appointment.

Walk-ins are welcome, but those with appointments will receive priority. The American Red Cross, the agency conducting the collections, recommends donors eat a few hours prior to donating and drink 12 glasses of water a day for several days to hydrate the veins.

Programs Office. The series is funded through donations by the National Science Foundation, New York Council for Humanities, New York City Council, Golden Family Foundation and Kellogg Library Training.

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Trustee village

By CASEY MC
STAFF WRITER



Murphy

The candidates seeking Village Board agree that could use some relief from groups. There needs to be open lines of communication between the students, faculty and administration in things such as line-item budgets," Minton said.

Incumbent Trustee Leon Shure, of Buffalo Grove, said there has been no building building.

"Perhaps partly because the board they lost the taste for debate," Shure said.

Candidate William Kelley, 48, of Chicago, said he would encourage meetings between faculty, staff and students.

"I would like to create a climate of healthy ideas and a willingness to have a common court," Kelley said. "That all stems from the board."

Candidate Ryan 31, of Palatine, said communication led to the faculty strike.

"The biggest issue is not financial," Kelley said.

Candidate Matt Murphy, 33, of Chicago, said communication is affected by leadership. "The faculty is highly educated. I think you would want to know how to run the school," he said. "The fact (Harper Preside Breuder) is not in their opinions."

Candidate Michelle Minton, 56, of Inverness, said she would have to gather input from all groups.

"There needs to be open lines of communication between the students, faculty and administration in things such as line-item budgets," Minton said.

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Kelley

Other departments also candidates say it would increase if the Community Development could move back onto from its rented space behind the building just east of Village Road.

Trustee Judy Abruscato is up for her fifth term on the board, building a new public work

No summer school studied in Dist. 21

BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposal to eliminate summer school for one year in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 may have received a warmer reception if Alice Cooper sat on the school board.

The rock star's "School's Out" song almost became reality in an administrative bid to save money and headaches Thursday night.

As it is, school board members said they wanted more information before they could support canceling summer school this year.

The proposal is the brainchild of Superintendent Gary Mical. Mical, after consulting with principals, decided eliminating the program this year would solve several logistical problems.

With school construction projects at eight of the district's 12 schools, summer classes would be consolidated into one building. The costs of transporting students from all over the district to one building factored into Mical's proposal.

Also, the district will not offer summer school fee waivers this year, potentially making it cost prohibitive for some families and further decreasing participation. Mical projected about 100 elementary students would likely participate in the non-mandated program.

The remedial Summer Bridges and English as a Second Language summer programs would continue as normal under Mical's proposal.

Summer school would return next summer.

School board members, indi-

ating a strong desire to keep all summer school programs, said they want more information on costs and student impact before agreeing to cut it.

Meanwhile, district principals had already let word out to some parents that summer school was canceled.

Parent Randi Asquini lambasted Mical in public comment for his proposal, saying she was "appalled" and couldn't believe the proposal was even under consideration.

The school board will revisit the issue at a future school board meeting. Mical will present more information at that time, most likely in May.

Mical expressed a willingness to keep the summer program if the board saw fit.

"If you desire to continue with it, so be it," Mical said.

Trustee Continued from page 7

"Dundee Road is the best place for it," he said. "Residents want it there."

Challenger Pam Dorband, also a member of the Plan Commission, said she also likes the idea of renovating an empty factory in town for public works or other village departments.

"We have these empty factories, and we can be creative," she said. "Maybe we can move one of those facilities there if (the building) fits our needs."

Dorband also said village officials could consider moving the Dundee Road fire station or opening a satellite office for the Police Department to create more space for other village departments.

Challenger Steven Telow said using the Hintz Road property for village facilities is a "farce." He would rather see an addition built onto Village Hall.

"We can build another story on Village Hall, easy," he said. "I don't see why it can't be done."

Telow said public works needs nothing more than additional storage for road salt. He suggested the village sell the Hintz Road property.

Aids, but sometimes you need to do that."

Horcher said it may be too much to ask for more taxes from residents to build new village facilities, especially when the Village Board is debating how much of a tax increase should be implemented to pay for more pressing needs.

"We can't want all the toys and not pay for them, and ultimately it's the people's money," he said. "The department heads want what's best for their departments. But there are a lot of residents who struggle to make ends meet."

Challenger Ken Brady, the chairman of the Wheeling Plan Commission, said a new public works facility on the Hintz Road property might be a good investment, but he said a new building is not completely necessary.

"Industrial buildings might become available, and we could buy one of those and renovate it," he said. "We do need to do something for public works."

Brady believes that Village Hall needs to stay in its current location.

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Trustee hopefuls assess summer school village's space needs

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
3-20-03

The candidates seeking a seat on the Wheeling Village Board agree that village employees could use some relief from their cramped quarters, but they have differing views on the urgency and methods to alleviate the problem.

The Public Works Department, looking for every inch of available space for its employees and its heavy equipment, has created more office space by building new cubicles in its building. A new public works facility is included in the village's five-year capital improvements program, but construction, estimated at \$13.5 million, is not scheduled until 2007.

Other departments also are crowded, and candidates say it would improve village business if the Community Development Department could move back onto the village campus from its rented space behind the Wickes Furniture building just east of Village Hall on Dundee Road.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who is seeking a fifth term on the board, said she supports building a new public works facility on village-

owned land on Hintz Road, which would free space at Village Hall for other departments.

"Village Hall is right where it belongs," she said. "Move public works (to Hintz Road) and retrofit the current building. Let's get community development out of Wickes and closer to Village Hall."

Trustee Robert Heer, who is seeking a third term, said ownership of the property at Hintz Road provides the village a "card we can play at any time" to relocate public works. But Heer also wants to wait for the results of a study that will determine if Village Hall property can be removed from the flood plain, which could allow for more space to be added on the existing building.

"We want professional service, but it has to start at (Village Hall)," he said. "If we don't give staff the room it needs to do its job, the community suffers. I'm waiting to see if Village Hall can get out of the flood plain."

Trustee Patrick Horcher, who is also running for a third term, said village officials should first focus on improving its sidewalks, streets and other infrastructure before investing in more space for village departments.

"Public works got some more office space, and it got more salt storage (this past year)," Horcher said. "Right now, we're doing Band-

(Continued on page 14)

Summer school in Dist. 21

With school construction projects at eight of the district's 12 schools, summer classes would be consolidated into one building. The costs of transporting students from all over the district to one building factored into Mical's proposal.

Also, the district will not offer summer school fee waivers this year, potentially making it cost prohibitive for some families and further decreasing participation. Mical projected about 100 elementary students would likely participate in the non-mandated program.

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The school board will revisit the issue at a future school board meeting. Mical will present more information at that time, most likely in May.

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Trustee Continued from page 7

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Richard Baijaleh/Pioneer Press

Wheeling officials refuse to grant an occupancy permit for this structure built on the Horcher farm because it lacks a fire sprinkler system required by village ordinance.

Village, Horchers at odds over shed

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-20-03

The village of Wheeling is refusing to issue an occupancy permit for a structure on the Horcher family farm because the building violates an ordinance requiring the installation of a fire sprinkler system.

Village officials said no permit can be issued until a sprinkler system is installed. Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said his department inspected the building and found that it did not comply with the ordinance.

Patrick Horcher, a Wheeling village trustee seeking re-election April 1, said Monday that he knew his brother was building what the family calls a shed. He also said he knew the shed would require a sprinkler system. He said he neither told his brother to install the sprinkler nor reported the apparent violation to the village because he doesn't support the ordinance.

The ordinance requiring the installation of sprinkler systems states that "an approved automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in all new buildings and structures regardless of the materials used in construction and/or use group classification." The only buildings exempt are those "used exclusively for the transmission and/or distribution of electrical

power." Patrick Horcher voted against the ordinance when the Village Board approved it by a vote of 4-2 in 2000. He said those who knew of the shed's construction "got caught doing a rehab." He said he could not force his brother to install the sprinkler because of his opposition to the ordinance.

"It would be hypocritical of me to go along with things if I don't believe in them. ... That's not me. I'm not going to do something that isn't right or necessary," Patrick Horcher said.

He also said he didn't think it was his responsibility to get involved in the building of the shed because he isn't going to use it or benefit from it.

"I couldn't have stopped it. ... I probably wouldn't have tried to stop it even if I could," he said.

Michael Horcher, Patrick's father and a Wheeling trustee since 2001, said he did not think it was necessary to install a sprinkler because the project was a renovation of what the family called a "summer kitchen" that was old and falling down.

"I thought since it was a pre-existing building, it didn't need one," Michael Horcher said. "I had no idea we would need to sprinkle it."

Village officials were reluctant to talk about the sprinkler controversy and offered few details about

the violation and what is being done to correct it. They did say, however, that they have been aware of the problem for eight months and that they continue to meet with Patrick and Michael Horcher to rectify the situation. The Horchers said they most likely will have to install a sprinkler system.

Patrick Horcher said MacIsaac visited the farm Monday. And Community Development Director Dan Ozanich said he was to have a meeting with a Horcher family member Wednesday. (The meeting was scheduled after the **Countryside's** deadline.)

Ozanich said the Horchers were not required to apply for a village building permit because the building code does not cover construction for agricultural uses.

The Village Board is investigating ways to alter the sprinkler ordinance after Patrick Horcher recommended that it be reviewed in February. He believes the ordinance in its current form is a burden to property owners and takes away personal liberties.

"I'm not against sprinklers. What I am against is municipalities' or any government's growing intrusion into people's rights to make choices," Patrick Horcher said. "I'm not saying, 'Don't put them in.' But they shouldn't be mandated."

Other departments also candidates say it would mess if the Community Development could move back onto from its rented space behind the building just east of V. dee Road.



Kelley

Trustee Judy Abruscato fifth term on the board, building a new public work

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Wheeling

send original photographs along with an SASE; laser prints will not be accepted due to poor reproduction quality

3-17-03

To the editor: I am pleased to offer my recommendation of Judy Abruscato for another term as trustee. I had the opportunity to serve with Judy for eight years on the village board. She always did her homework on the issues at hand.

Judy has been very active in the village of Wheeling for many years and chairs the Special Events Committee, which presents the Fourth of July activities and the Festival of Lights.

Judy's No. 1 priority is, and has always been, driven by what is most important for the citizens of Wheeling. She is an honest, hard-working, conscientious elected official who is deserving of another term in office to continue her work

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Wayne J. Wi
Whu

Voters can fix what tax cap has wrecked

To the editor: Why do school districts make do what it has already? In it was serving on the District board when the voters g

You've always had your own style special! You truly are a beautiful like crazy!

Wheeling's would-be trustees eye price tags

3-26-03

By CASS CLIAAT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

There's no question that all of Wheeling's beautification efforts have a price tag, but would-be village trustees differ on how residents should bear the cost.

Some of the six candidates seeking election next Tuesday oppose the new taxes and fees Wheeling approved last year, while others say the village must rely on those types of measures to support an aggressive pace of improvements to upgrade Wheeling's image.

"I'm in favor of looking before we create another tax. 'Do we need it?' " said incumbent Trustee Patrick Horcher. "And let's look at if the benefit outweighs the negatives."

Horcher voted in favor of new ambulance fees and use taxes for gas and electricity the board approved in 4-2 votes last summer.

"You have to look at if it's a way of generating capital, and if it's money the village can use and the village needs," Horcher said of the fee and tax increases expected to generate more than \$800,000 a year. "We have to pay for the new sewer lines, the road improvements ... with everything, the bill comes due."

Plan Commissioner Pamela Dorband said the fees were a less painful way of getting money from residents "that helped a lot."

"Like the ambulance fees, that's supposed to be picked up by insurance, so it will help defray costs," Dorband said.

"One of the fees was the utility tax and it really had a minimal affect on the residents," she added. "So there are creative ways to do finance, and I think we need to encourage doing more things like that."

Incumbent trustees Judy Abruscato and Robert Heer voted against Wheeling's new fees. Both said they would continue to eye new taxes warily.

"I'm not against increases in taxes because I know you have to pay for services," Heer said. "I have problems with taxing all at once. I believe you have to

living with surpluses," Mical said.

Projections show a successful referendum vote April 1 will give the district "healthy" education fund balances for the next 10 years, Mical said.

"We will be in really good shape in five years, and projections look good for the next 10," he said.

The district is planning to phase in the tax rate increase over three years if the referendum is successful. The district will add 35 cents the first year, nothing the second year, and the final 15 cents in the third year. Depending on Cook County assessments, tax bills payable to District 21 should increase between \$208.48 and \$347.07 over the three years for a person owning a home with a \$200,000 fair market value.

Pritzker said the board will continue its budget reviews even if the referendum passes.

"We will begin a review of all programs," he said. "Programs that are not working will change. We want to maintain programs, but there is a recognition there is needed improvement."

No organized referendum opposition has surfaced. Dis-

Tax: Candidates debate merits of fees



Patrick Horcher Pamela Dorband Judy Abruscato Robert Heer Kenneth Brady Steven Telow

Continued from Page 1

space these out." Abruscato opposed the ambulance fees and an earlier proposal for real estate transfer fees because she thinks they translate into higher insurance premiums, she said.

Abruscato would support adding some taxes to the property tax bill, allowing residents to benefit from tax write-offs.

"The utility tax, etc. ... yes, it may not be that hard on the dollar amount — it might be just a dollar or so — but when you talk about all the taxes, it's \$6 or

\$7 and it just goes on and on," Abruscato said.

Candidate Kenneth Brady, Wheeling's plan commission chairman, agreed that property taxes would be a better way to collect money. He criticized the village's former vehicle sticker program, saying Wheeling spent more administering the fees than was collected until the council did away with it in the 1990s.

"If we need the money, let's tax for it and let's not go through all the gyrations of getting it from the people other ways," Brady

said. "This ambulance fee both-

ers me because it's charging people at the wrong time in their life, when they're having a catastrophe."

Steven "The Owl" Telow said his stance on taxes is simple: He wouldn't support increases in any form.

"If I were on the village board, there is no way I would allow any increase in escalating fees," he said.

School explain for budget

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-20-03

It's been a long road budgetary red for Wheeling Elementary School District

District officials are hoping voters will help alter the district's financial course by approving a 50-cent tax-rate increase April 1. The increase will go to the district's education fund, which pays for daily operations of the district. If the vote fails, district officials warn they will have to cut \$9 million in spending over the next two school years.

The District 21 Board has already agreed on a plan to cut \$4.5 million and 50 teaching positions from the budget next year if the referendum fails. Board members say they have no choice but to make the cuts, because the district's education fund is expected to run a \$4.6 million deficit by the end of the school year.

School officials say there are a number of factors that led the district toward its current deficit. Enrollment has jumped to 7,200 students from 5,500 in 1993. Benefits for teachers have increased 120 percent over the last five years, they said. And the property tax cap is restricting revenue growth.

Superintendent Gary Mical said the upcoming referendum would not be necessary if the district was allowed to collect taxes voters approved in 1989. Voters approved a 70-cent tax-rate increase that year, but the district never collected the full amount.

School Board President Phil Pritzker said the district's plan in 1989 was to collect what it needed. By 1993, when the tax cap took effect, the dis-

Whe

By JAMES F...
Daily Herald Staff

With a substage, the crowd the school board a first-round T A forum for candidates to ions broke into display when the podium a shouting match.

During Wednesday night's opening statements, Wheeling village board candidate Steven "The Owl" Telow railed against Wheeling Township Elementary District 21's pending tax increase request.

Repeatedly referring to the three incumbent school board candidates as "wimps" Telow said the school district wastes money.

Incumbent school board candidate Larry Krulewich pounced on the "wimp" accusation during his time, leaving the podium to get in Telow's face.

"Did you call me and my fellow board members wimps?"

Cook County has probably noticed a discrepancy between the property value figure on their tax bills and what the home would likely fetch from a buyer.

The county bases its assessment on a number of factors, including what it cost to build the home. So the construction costs for a home built in the 1940s or 1950s are used, although county officials try to

adjust for inflation during the frontation-free. Krulewich and newcomer Stacey Horcher were the only two school board candidates to show out of a field of five. The two tackled audience questions about lopsided academic achievement between the east and west side of the school district.

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DAILY H

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Wheeling board trustee endorsed by colleague

3-17-03

To the editor: I am pleased to offer my recommendation of Judy Abruscato for another term as trustee. I had the opportunity to serve with Judy for eight years on the village board. She always did her homework on the issues at hand.

Judy has been very active in the village of Wheeling for many years and chairs the Special Events Committee, which presents the Fourth of July activities and the Festival of Lights.

Judy's No. 1 priority is, and has always been, driven by what is most important for the citizens of Wheeling. She is an honest, hard-working, conscientious elected official who is deserving of another term in office to continue her work

Neighbor Fencepost

Contact us at (847) 427-4580 or e-mail the Daily Herald at neighborlet@dailyherald.com

caring for the residents of our village.

Wayne J. Wisinski
Wheeling

Voters can fix what tax cap has wrecked

To the editor: Why can't a school district make do with what it has already? In 1988, I was serving on the District 21 board when the voters gener-

ously passed a referendum to increase the taxes for the education fund.

Before the referendum, the board promised not to levy the entire tax authorized by referendum until existing revenue bonds were paid off. We, and the community, understood that the full amount would be needed eventually as enrollment increased.

When the referendum passed, the District 21 board kept the promise and did not levy an amount equal to the bond payoff. When the bonds were paid off the next year, we planned to increase the education fund levy as allowed by the referendum.

Unfortunately, tax caps

intervened and District 21 lost the levying power that the community understood it would need. The result has been desperate.

My husband and I no longer have children in school. We understand the need to provide today's children with the fine education that our son got.

We are also concerned about property values. District 21 cannot provide a quality education without paying for it. The value of our house depends on the quality of education provided by our local schools.

We are voting in favor of the District 21 referendum.

Joy Fisher
Buffalo Grove

Trustees eye

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talk about all the taxes, it's \$6 or a dollar or so — but when you dollar amount — it might be just may not be that hard on the "The utility tax, etc. ... yes, it benefit from tax write-offs. adding some taxes to the prop- Abruscato would support she said. into higher insurance premiums, because she thinks they translate

Tax: Candidates debate merits of fees



Patrick Horcher Pamela Dorband Judy Abruscato Robert Heer Kenneth Brady Steven Telow

Continued from Page 1

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"The utility tax, etc. ... yes, it may not be that hard on the dollar amount — it might be just a dollar or so — but when you talk about all the taxes, it's \$6 or

\$7 and it just goes on and on," said. "This ambulance fee both-

Abruscato said. Candidate Kenneth Brady, Wheeling's plan commission chairman, agreed that property taxes would be a better way to collect money. He criticized the village's former vehicle sticker program, saying Wheeling spent more administering the fees than was collected until the council did away with it in the 1990s.

"If we need the money, let's tax for it and let's not go through all the gyrations of getting it from the people other ways," Brady

ers me because it's charging people at the wrong time in their life, when they're having a catastrophe."

Steven "The Owl" Telow said his stance on taxes is simple: He wouldn't support increases in any form.

"If I were on the village board, there is no way I would allow any increase in escalating fees," he said.

School officials explain reasons for budget deficit

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

3-20-03

It's been a long road to budgetary red for Wheeling Elementary School District 21.

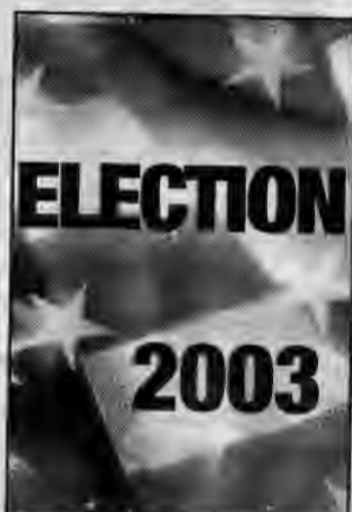
District officials are hoping voters will help alter the district's financial course by approving a 50-cent tax-rate increase April 1. The increase will go to the district's education fund, which pays for the daily operations of the school district. If the vote fails, district officials warn they will have to cut \$9 million in spending over the next two school years.

The District 21 Board has already agreed on a plan to cut \$4.5 million and 50 teaching positions from the budget next year if the referendum fails. Board members say they have no choice but to make the cuts, because the district's education fund is expected to run a \$4.6 million deficit by the end of the school year.

School officials say there are a number of factors that led the district toward its current deficit. Enrollment has jumped to 7,200 students from 5,500 in 1993. Benefits for teachers have increased 120 percent over the last five years, they said. And the property tax cap is restricting revenue growth.

Superintendent Gary Mical said the upcoming referendum would not be necessary if the district was allowed to collect taxes voters approved in 1989. Voters approved a 70-cent tax-rate increase that year, but the district never collected the full amount.

School Board President Phil Pritzker said the district's plan in 1989 was to collect what it needed. By 1993, when the tax cap took effect, the dis-



living with surpluses," Mical said.

Projections show a successful referendum vote April 1 will give the district "healthy" education fund balances for the next 10 years, Mical said.

"We will be in really good shape in five years, and projections look good for the next 10," he said.

The district is planning to phase in the tax rate increase over three years if the referendum is successful. The district will add 35 cents the first year, nothing the second year, and the final 15 cents in the third year. Depending on Cook County assessments, tax bills payable to District 21 should increase between \$208.48 and \$347.07 over the three years for a person owning a home with a \$200,000 fair market value.

Pritzker said the board will continue its budget reviews even if the referendum passes.

"We will begin a review of all programs," he said. "Programs that are not working will change. We want to maintain programs, but there is a recognition there is needed improvement."

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By JAMES F. ...
Daily Herald Staff

With a substage, the crowd the school board a first-round T. A forum for candidates to ions broke into display when the podium a shouting match.

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Repeatedly referring to the three incumbent school board candidates as "wimps" Telow said the school district wastes money.

Incumbent school board candidate Larry Krulewich pounced on the "wimp" accusation during his time, leaving the podium to get in Telow's face.

"Did you call me and my fellow board members wimps?"

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DAILY H

Wheeling candidate challenged to duel

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer 3-27-03

With a substantial age advantage, the crowd was betting on the school board incumbent by a first-round TKO.

A forum for Wheeling area candidates to voice their opinions broke into a testosterone display when two of them left the podium and broke into a shouting match.

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"Did you call me and my fellow board members wimps?"

Krulewich asked while accusing Telow of being "anti-kid" and against all taxes.

The 80-year-old Telow responded by telling Krulewich, 49, to go back to the podium, but not without issuing a challenge. "Do want to have a duel with me?" He asked. "I'll take you on."

"We'll do what we need to do," Krulewich responded.

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fails because class sizes will increase as teachers are fired. She said she'd like to bring senior citizen volunteers into the mix to tutor needy students. She also wants to research other school districts with substantial bilingual needs to see what works for them.

Both Horcher and Krulewich said communication with dis-

trict residents was important and must improve.

Telow continued to lambaste the district's spending practices with every speaking opportunity, substituting "that name he didn't like" for "wimps." No further arguments erupted.

Krulewich and Telow did not address each other as they left the Wheeling High School stage.



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Pritzker said the board will continue its budget reviews even if the referendum passes.

"We will begin a review of all programs," he said. "Programs that are not working will change. We want to maintain programs, but there is a recognition there is needed improvement."

No organized referendum opposition has surfaced. District PTOs have been out educating voters about the referendum and the consequences if it fails. PTO presidents say they have heard "isolated" opposition to the referendum, mainly from people who do not have children in District 21 schools. PTO presidents said those opposing voices are concerned about paying more in taxes. Some even say they believe the board's deficit-reduction plan is a bluff.

Pritzker, however, said officials are not bluffing.

"The plan will go into effect if we fail," he said.

The District 21 Board has already agreed on a plan to cut \$4.5 million and 50 teaching positions from the budget next year if the referendum fails. Board members say they have no choice but to make the cuts, because the district's education fund is expected to run a \$4.6 million deficit by the end of the school year.

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School Board President Phil Pritzker said the district's plan in 1989 was to collect what it needed. By 1993, when the tax cap took effect, the district had only added 40 cents to the tax rate out of the 70-cent increase voters approved.

"We operated conservatively," Pritzker said. "The cap gave us no leeway to continue to access the money approved by the voters."

Mical said the district would have an additional \$13 million in the education fund if the district had opted to collect all of the 70-cent increase at one time.

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School officials explain reasons for budget deficit

By CASEY MOFFITT STAFF WRITER 3-20-03

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School candidates know

Brady also said he would like to see mandatory reviews of the new plan to keep it in line with new trends in redevelopment. "We need to keep that blueprint on the table, not in a bottom drawer," he said.

"We have become a hub of activity and seen an overwhelming interest from businesses and corporations in Wheeling," he said. "We have the power to create new opportunities on a daily basis."

Trustee Robert Heer, who is also seeking a third term, had a similar message of remaining locally responsible, especially in a difficult economy. He said the village needs to take advantage of the business opportunities that arise to boost the tax base.

Trustee Patrick A. Horcher received 23.2 percent, or 1,948 votes, in the six-way race. Trustee Patrick A. Horcher was close behind with 22.2 percent, or 1,860 votes, and Trustee Robert J. Heer received 1,552 votes, or 16.9 percent, and Brady got 1,268, or 15.1 percent of the votes. Perennial candidate Steven Telow got 335 votes, or 4 percent.

"One of my arguments is the plan commission needs to be put on cable," Dorband said. "We spend months and months on a project, and then it goes to the board and they get all the credit and all the glory."

The two plan commissioners had focused their campaigns on work they've done on the village comprehensive plan. Dorband and Brady repeatedly criticized trustee candidates for their absence at meetings over the past year to develop a plan meant to help upgrade Wheeling's image by establishing a redevelopment blueprint for the next 20 years.

Heer could not be reached for comment, but Horcher said it was true that commissioners don't get credit for much of the work they do.

Still, all of the candidates contacted Tuesday said they plan to continue to work toward the betterment of the village.

Wheeling officials are considering a \$7.1 million capital improvements program this year. Horcher said the village is being forced to take an aggressive improvements program now after such improvements were neglected in the 1980s. However, he said making those improvements, and raising taxes if necessary to do it, is worth the effort to keep residents in the village.

"People are reinvesting in their homes, and they want to do it here," he said. "This is a 100-degree turnaround. Ten to 15 years ago, if you were successful in Wheeling, you moved out. People are choosing to stay now."

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Schools locked up tight

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
3-27-03

Wheeling Elementary School District 21's director of operations says school maintenance crews are keeping their eyes peeled for anything suspicious in light of the elevated terrorist threat in the country.

Gheorghe Trifon said his crews have been instructed to pay more attention to who is in and around the school buildings and to make sure school buildings are kept locked tight from the outside.

"They are scanning the area and seeing who is around," Trifon said. "We tell them if they see anything suspicious to call the police."

District 21 school buildings are already equipped with security systems and cameras

that send visual images of people outside to the school office. Visitors cannot enter without being let in by office staff, Trifon said.

Trifon also keeps in close contact with the fire and police departments serving district schools. Every school door that leads outside is numbered so police and rescue crews know exactly where they need to respond.

"It makes it easier to coordinate, and we get a more efficient response," Trifon said. "We hope nothing happens, but you never, never know."

Trifon said the security system and the coordination with police and fire departments puts District 21 ahead of many other school districts.

"I've spoken with my peers, and most (other districts)

don't have as much as we do," he said. "Many are just installing security systems now."

Security systems and coordination aren't always enough, however, and Trifon said that is why the crews have been asked to stay sharp.

"The best protection is keeping your eyes open and to call the police," he said. "We're only as safe as people are alert. We can't stay passive. We have to keep vigilant."

District Superintendent Gary Mical said school employees are focusing on making sure students feel safe.

"We are aware of the situation, but we want the kids to feel like they are not in an immediate threat, and that's because they aren't in any immediate threat," he said.

Newcomer joining Dist. 21

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Voters on Tuesday added a not-so-new face to the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board and re-elected two incumbents.

Kathy Edmonds will take the seat of the defeated Larry Krulwich. According to unofficial results, Edmonds will join incumbents Ellen Clark, the top vote-getter, and Pamela Becker Dean in victory.

Edmonds is well-known for her involvement in the Walt Whitman Elementary PTO and several district committees. She edged Stacey Horcher by less than a percentage point, or 166 votes.

Unofficial totals showed only 5 percentage points separated Clark at the top and Krulwich at the bottom. Clark received 23 percent of the vote with 4,087 ballots cast.

Becker Dean received 3,938



Pamela Becker Dean



Ellen Clark



Katherine Edmonds

votes, or 22 percent; Edmonds was next with 3,518 votes, or 20 percent; Horcher received 3,352 votes, or nearly 19 percent; and Krulwich received 3,126 votes, or 17 percent.

Krulwich said he was happy voters approved the district's tax increase request and said he was baffled by his defeat.

He said health problems limited his door-to-door campaigning. A heated argument with 80-year-old Wheeling village board candidate Steven "The Owl" Telow at a recent forum might have damaged

voters' perception of Krulwich.

Becker Dean will serve her first full term after being appointed last year.

In a race in which candidates spent more time campaigning for the tax increase than themselves, she said it will be nice to really settle in.

"Nobody likes voting to cut 50 teachers," Becker Dean said of that possibility if the referendum had been voted down. "I've had my learning curve and now I can get to work on other issues."

Clark said school crowding issues will be her main focus.

"This referendum showed us that we need to be real sure that every dollar is spent wisely," Clark said.

Board members showed Superintendent Mical and district a good job teaching the need for the "The big head in a time of stress," Gould's continue to be evaluating practices that are work are not.

The tax increase was phased in over \$200,000 home increase will be homeowner w

The district's was 14 years ago overwhelmingly

Wheeling has recently shown a commitment to improvement, and candidates in Tuesday's election think residents didn't want to mess with a good thing.

Voters maintained the status quo, returning the three incumbent trustees to their Wheeling village board seats.

In unofficial returns, Wheeling's senior Trustee Judy Abruscato garnered the highest percentage of the 8,382 votes.



Judy Abruscato



Patrick A. Horcher



Robert J. Heer

receiving 23.2 percent, or 1,948 votes, in the six-way race. Trustee Patrick A. Horcher was close behind with 22.2 percent, or 1,860 votes, and Trustee Robert J. Heer received 1,552 votes, or 16.9 percent, and Brady got 1,268, or 15.1 percent of the votes. Perennial candidate Steven Telow got 335 votes, or 4 percent.

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Heer could not be reached for comment, but Horcher said it was true that commissioners don't get credit for much of the work they do.

Still, all of the candidates contacted Tuesday said they plan to continue to work toward the betterment of the village.

Horcher credited his down-to-earth approach.

"And I think people have noticed a change in Wheeling," Horcher said. "I think people have seen projects going, new development. I mean, last year we had a huge tax increase and we didn't get complaints, so I think people like what we're doing."

However, Pamela Dorband and Kenneth R. Brady wondered if residents appreciate their contributions as plan commissioners.

Dorband received 1,419

votes, or 16.9 percent, and Brady got 1,268, or 15.1 percent of the votes. Perennial candidate Steven Telow got 335 votes, or 4 percent.

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Hawthorne School into a magnet school are a more probable reality now that the district has more money to support such changes.

That discussion likely will come along with solutions to the crowding problem on the east side of the district. School Board Vice President Ellen Clark said that topic is now the key issue for the school board to tackle in the coming year.

Clark has twins at Whitman Elementary, one of the most overcrowded schools in the district. They will soon move to Holmes, the most crowded of the three middle schools.

"Hopefully in the next year, the decisions will be made about how to solve that," Clark said.

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Wheeling voters back board incumbents

Voters free District 21 from

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
April 2, 2003

50 teachers facing pink slips can

Visual programming p...

On the Web
dailyherald.com

More coverage on Pages 9-12

School candidates know district finances require their constant attention

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

March 27, 2003

Wheeling Elementary School District 21's financial health might get a boost if voters approve a tax hike Tuesday, but candidates running for the board say the district will still have to watch its spending habits.

DISTRICT 21

The district is expected to have a \$4.6 million deficit at the end of the school year. The board has approved the first half of a two-year deficit-reduction plan that will be implemented if the referendum fails. District officials will have to cut a total of \$9 million from the education fund in two years if they want to balance the budget.

But School Board candidates say they want to improve programs even if the referendum passes. That will require a close examination of how well current programs work and how to spend money to improve overall academic achievement.

Pamela Becker-Dean, one of three incumbents seeking re-election, said she expects the board to be held accountable when it comes to spending money and stressed an examination of the budget is needed.

"We need to take a look at programs and see what works and what doesn't," she said. "We need to take a hard look at things, and that has not been done in a long time."

Becker-Dean said the new No Child Left Behind legislation is going to force school districts to improve academic achievement, which will cost money and make the budget process an even bigger challenge.

Ellen Clark, who is seeking a third term on the board, said the school district will need to take a new direction in handling finances regardless of the referendum outcome. She said more fees for programs may be needed to make sure costs are contained. She cited increased fees for intersessions at schools that use the continuous learning calendar as one possibility. Parents currently pay \$10 a week for intersession courses.

"We learned from that experience," she said about the intersession costs. "The program is

extremely beneficial, but it is never appropriate to make a decision with blinders on."

Clark said the board's formation of a Board Finance Committee and re-establishing the Budget Committee of district officials and residents helps in the budget-review process.

"We will continue to evaluate spending, and if there is fat to cut, we will cut it," she said.

Incumbent Larry Krulewich said the board always spends conservatively. He said managing district finances is made more difficult because of state tax-cap legislation.

"It is difficult when working in an arena where the rules keep changing," he said.

Krulewich said the board has to continue to stay informed on health insurance costs and needs to stay vigilant by studying their cost-reduction plan, even if voters support a tax increase Tuesday.

"We should take another look at it (if the referendum passes)," he said. "We should keep it around and constantly evaluate it to see if we can cut some of those things."

Challenger Kathy Edmonds said the school district has to take a long, hard look at all of its discretionary spending. With about 75 percent of the budget tied up in salaries and benefits, Edmonds said the district should ensure that such programs like the intersessions are self-funded and self-supporting.

Edmonds said the district can also do more to secure grant money.

"Are we going after enough to make sure we get everything we're entitled to?" she asked.

Challenger Stacey Horcher said school finances is the biggest issue in the district and more needs to be done to curb spending before it becomes a "total disaster."

"I'm not pleased with the way finances have been handled," she said. "They knew (the deficit) was coming, but they didn't put the brakes on spending."

Horcher, who supports the referendum, said the district will have even more of a responsibility to control the deficit, save money and focus spending on the "basic needs" of students if voters approve the tax increase.

"If the referendum passes, the district should save some of that money," she said. "That way, they have some for a rainy day."

Wheeling voters

By CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer
April 2, 2003

Wheeling has recently shown a commitment to improvement, and candidates in Tuesday's election think residents didn't want to mess with a good thing.

Voters maintained the status quo, returning the three incumbent trustees to their Wheeling village board seats.

In unofficial returns, Wheeling's senior Trustee Judy Abruscato garnered the highest percentage of the 8,382 votes.



Judy Abruscato



Patrick A. Horcher

receiving 23.2 percent, or 1,948 votes, in the six-way race.

Trustee Patrick A. Horcher was close behind with 22.2 percent, or 1,860 votes, and Trustee Robert J. Heet received 1,552

Voters free District 21 from

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

ELECTION 2003

On the Web
dailyherald.com

School board members and district staff expelled a collective sigh of relief Tuesday night as voters approved a key 50-cent tax increase for Wheeling Township Elementary District 21.

The tax increase received 64 percent of the vote with 4,773 "yes" ballots cast against 2,661 "no" ballots. The margin was one of the largest among the successful tax increases in the area.

The approval will bring enough new money to eliminate the district's looming \$9 million budget deficit with room to spare. School board members, district administrators and the 50 teachers facing pink slips can

all look forward to financial security for the better part of the next 10 years.

"We are exceptionally relieved," said school board President Phil Pritzker. "We basically said to the community, if you value education, if you value your community's future, we need to have this, and they agreed."

Pritzker and his fellow board members will be spared another round of budget cuts that would have added more teachers to the 50 the board promised to lay off in the first round if the tax request failed.

Music programs, perhaps the

most hotly contested area for cuts, will remain fully funded with no staff cuts.

The dollar infusion also will make for a short stay on the state's financial watch list. The list is reserved for Illinois' most fiscally troubled school districts. District 21 recently made the latest version of that list.

That discussion likely will come along with solutions to the crowding problem on the east side of the district. School Board Vice President Ellen Clark said that topic is now the key issue for the school board to tackle in the coming year.

Clark has twins at Whitman Elementary, one of the most overcrowded schools in the district. They will soon move to Holmes, the most crowded of the three middle schools.

"Hopefully in the next year, the decisions will be made about how to solve that," Clark said.

Board members said the clear message showed Superintendent Mical and district a good job teaching the need for the "The big head in a time of stress," Gould's continue to be evaluating programs which are work are not.

The tax increase phased in over the \$200,000 home increase will be homeowner will increase the next year.

The district's was 14 years ago overwhelmingly

Newcomer joining Dist. 21

By JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Voters on Tuesday added a not-so-new face to the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board and re-elected two incumbents.

Kathy Edmonds will take the seat of the defeated Larry Krulewich. According to unofficial results, Edmonds will join incumbents Ellen Clark, the top vote-getter, and Pamela Becker Dean in victory.

Edmonds is well-known for her involvement in the Walt Whitman Elementary PTO and several district committees. She edged Stacey Horcher by less than a percentage point, or 166 votes.

Unofficial totals showed only 5 percentage points separated Clark at the top and Krulewich at the bottom. Clark received 23 percent of the vote with 4,087 ballots cast.

Becker Dean received 3,938



Pamela Becker Dean



Ellen Clark



Katherine Edmonds

voters' perception of Krulewich.

Becker Dean will serve her first full term after being appointed last year.

In a race in which candidates spent more time campaigning for the tax increase than themselves, she said it will be nice to really settle in.

"Nobody likes voting to cut 50 teachers," Becker Dean said of that possibility if the referendum had been voted down. "I've had my learning curve and now I can get to work on other issues."

Clark said school crowding issues will be her main focus.

"This referendum showed us that we need to be real sure that every dollar is spent wisely," Clark said.

Edmonds was next with 3,518 votes, or 20 percent; Horcher received 3,352 votes, or nearly 19 percent; and Krulewich received 3,126 votes, or 17 percent.

Krulewich said he was happy voters approved the district's tax increase request and said he was baffled by his defeat.

He said health problems limited his door-to-door campaigning. A heated argument with 80-year-old Wheeling village board candidate Steven "The Owl" Telow at a recent forum might have damaged

Voters free District 21 from deficit

Daily Herald
April 2, 2003

By JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

ELECTION2003

On the Web
dailyherald.com

Bookmark our Web page for up-to-the-minute results and information.

More coverage on Pages 9-12

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WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD

Incumbents get thumbs-up
Residents return Abruscato, Horcher and Heer, endorsing their efforts at recrafting the village's image. Page 9.

ROUTING MEADOWS

Two new faces on city council
Sue Walton edges field in 1st Ward race, and Larry Buske slips by one challenger in 3rd Ward. Page 9.

LONG GROVE REFERENDUM

Voters turn down police tax
Residents clearly eject a new village property tax, which would have paid for a police force. Page 9.

Village may

LIFTS YOUR

"We had no choice but to give the voters an opportunity to turn this around," he said. School Board President Phil Pritzker said nearly 500 parents, teacher and staff volunteers helped on the referendum campaign. He also commended Mical for his efforts, considering he was hired as superintendent in July. "Within six months of being on the job, he had to put together a referendum campaign," Pritzker said. "Now we can all begin to concentrate on academics and closing the achievement gap. It's great to get this behind us." Mical made it a personal priority to reach out to the community to inform residents about the district's efforts. "We had no choice but to give the voters an opportunity to turn this around," he said. School Board President Phil Pritzker said nearly 500 parents, teacher and staff volunteers helped on the referendum campaign. He also commended Mical for his efforts, considering he was hired as superintendent in July. "Within six months of being on the job, he had to put together a referendum campaign," Pritzker said. "Now we can all begin to concentrate on academics and closing the achievement gap. It's great to get this behind us." Mical made it a personal priority to reach out to the community to inform residents about the district's efforts.



Richard Bajajaleh/Pioneer Press

Construction crews pile up dirt and debris on Weiland Road off McHenry Road. The Illinois Department of Transportation is widening McHenry Road to five lanes between Lake-Cook and Dundee roads. Motorists should expect delays.

McHenry traffic may crawl

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-3-03

Construction has begun on McHenry Road between Dundee Road and Lake-Cook Road, and motorists can expect delays all summer long. "The project is about 15 percent completed, so we're moving right along," said Brian

Carlson, area programmer for the Illinois Department of Transportation. Carlson said the project is scheduled for completion Oct. 31. The work includes widening the road to include a fifth lane. Turning lanes also will be installed at busy intersections, and traffic signals will be improved, Carlson

said. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction instead of the normal two lanes, Carlson said. The lane reduction is expected to create delays along the road, and motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes around the construction area. Carlson asked that motorists use extra caution while driving in and around the construction because the project runs through a residential area. "When it's done, the road will have added capacity, which should reduce disruption and delays." Greco Contractors was awarded the \$8.8 million McHenry Road project last year, Carlson said.

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District 21 Board reorganizes 4-10-03

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board chose new leadership at its April 3 meeting following the election two days earlier. Ellen Clark, who was re-elected to her third term on the board, will now serve as the board's president. Arlen Gould will serve as vice president. Ron Smolin will continue as the board's secretary for the next two years. Newly elected board member Kathy Edmonds was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting. Board members also wished Larry Krulewich well. Krulewich lost his re-election bid. Krulewich said he was disappointed to lose his seat, but he also thanked the community for giving him the opportunity to serve. Krulewich said he will "always remember the bonds of friendship" he developed while serving.

School tax hike sails to victory

Wheeling won't be able to assume Kmart lease

By CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-4-03

Wheeling's experiment of trying to control the quality of development in the village by going into the leasing business died this week.

The village had to give up on plans to take over the lease of the vacant Kmart on Dundee Road because the property's owner challenged the move in Kmart bankruptcy proceedings, village officials said.

Wheeling leaders again are in the position of hoping a flea market, discount mattress store or other low-cost retailer doesn't move into the 107,000-square-foot store at 780 W. Dundee Road.

The village tried to assume the Kmart lease to allow Wheeling to choose the next tenant, preventing degradation of a prime area that will be central to plans to upgrade Wheeling's image.

"The village board has as one of its long-term goals creating a central village core, a downtown," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

with Wheeling last February to let the village take over the lease.

However, a provision of Kmart's original lease guarantees the property's Chicago owner, Donald Geller, more rent if store sales reach a specific level.

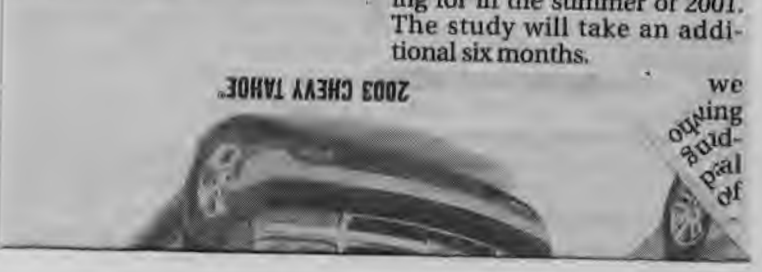
Because Wheeling didn't have a tenant in mind to sub-lease, Kimco's lawyers told the village they couldn't prove in bankruptcy court that the property would continue to generate sales.

Wheeling had to walk away from the deal, Douthwaite said.

The bright side, though, is that Wheeling received word Tuesday that it has received a long-sought Regional Transit Authority grant for a study that could help prepare the village to develop its town center.

"The study will combine market analysis with looking at land uses for the area around the train station," Wheeling Economic Development Director William Whitmer said.

The grant will pay \$60,000 of the \$75,000 cost of the study, which Wheeling began applying for in the summer of 2001. The study will take an additional six months.



Village may buy land on Milwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-3-03

Village officials are hoping to take a larger role in developing the intersection of North Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the Wheeling Village Board is considering purchasing two parcels on the northeast side of Milwaukee Avenue just south of Lake-Cook Road in an effort to develop both properties simultaneously.

"The board considered this project and has indicated it wants to move in a unified manner, rather than piecemeal," Douthwaite said. "There is no direction yet. It's still up in the air."

Two developers, Tantillo Homes and Smith Brothers Construction, have been working with the village in an effort to develop the Wedgewood Riding Center and land further south stretching down to the former Wonder Bread outlet store.

Tantillo Homes had plans for a 168-unit condominium project on land it owns. Smith Brothers has a purchase agreement with the Wedgewood Riding Center, but the builder must wait to take over ownership until another location for the horse facility can be found. Smith has not presented any plans for the property, but the company is developing land across the street for condominiums.

Tantillo Homes has been working with the Wheeling Plan Commission on its project. The proposal would have allowed Smith to take the time he needs. However, at the March 10

meeting, with little progress made. Tantillo representatives were scheduled to appear before the Plan Commission March 27, but company representatives requested a delay. The Plan Commission tabled the project until April 24.

In a letter written by Anthony Tantillo, owner of Tantillo Homes, the request to delay the process was due to "the village's interest to acquire the property." Tantillo did not return phone calls to the Countryside.

Trustees had directed Tantillo and Smith to work together on a single development in August. Tantillo wanted to get started on his project since he owned his property and did not want to be held up by Smith's schedule. Smith said he was willing to work with Tantillo, but he also indicated he did not want to hold up the other project.

Trustees told Tantillo and Smith in August that they would entertain the possibility of condemning both properties, which are located in a tax increment financing district, if the builders could not work together.

To speed up the process, Trustee Patrick Horcher suggested a land swap between the village and Tantillo. Horcher proposed the village acquire land just south of Tantillo's property and swap it for land at the northern end of his property. The plan was for the village to extend Wolf Road and build a boulevard between the two properties so

(Continued on page 12)

Village Board meeting, trustees tabled an item authorizing a development and land transfer agreement between the village and Tantillo.

Drivers use extra caution while driving in and around the construction because the project runs through a residential area.

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School tax hike sails to victory

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-3-03

The future is much brighter for Wheeling Elementary School District 21, as voters overwhelmingly supported a tax hike that will bolster district finances and avert teacher layoffs and program cuts.

Tuesday's referendum vote to increase the district's education fund tax rate by 50 cents over three years passed by an unofficial margin of about 64 percent to 36 percent, with 4,773 voters supporting the tax hike and 2,661 opposing it.

The margin of victory came as a surprise to School Board member Arlen Gould.

"I thought it would be close," Gould said. "This is unprecedented. Never have we won a tax referendum the first time."

The tax increase will translate into an estimated increase of about \$347 over three years for a person owning a home with a fair market value of \$200,000.

Superintendent Gary Mical said educators can now "get back to the business of educating children." Mical and the board presented a cost-cutting plan to the community that would have called for dozens of teacher layoffs and extensive program cuts if the referendum failed.

"We had no choice but to give the voters an opportunity to turn this around," he said.

School Board President Phil Pritzker said nearly 500 parents, teachers and staff volunteers helped on the referendum campaign. He also commended Mical for his efforts, considering he was hired as superintendent in July.

"Within six months of being on the job, he had to put together a referendum campaign," Pritzker said. "Now we can all begin to concentrate on academics and closing the achievement gap. It's great to get this behind us."

Mical made it a personal priority to reach out to the community to inform residents about the district's financial condition. Administrators predicted a \$9 million education fund deficit in the next two years if revenues were not increased.

"It was both important and difficult for me to get out publicly and send the message," he said. "But the message was consistently the same all the

time." Although the district will be receiving more tax dollars, Mical said staff and the School Board are committed to watching their spending.

"We're going to balance the budget, spend wisely and put money in the best interest of the kids," he said. "We're committed to do those things."

Assistant Superintendent of Finances Dan Cash said the tax hike should allow the school district to have a balanced budget in two years.

More school results

Three seats were up for election on the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board. Winners are Pamela Becker-Dean with 3,938 votes; Ellen Clark with 4,087 votes; and Kathy Edmonds with 3,518 votes.

In the High School District 214 race, Stan Eisenhammer beat Art Gollberg by a wide margin for the one contested two-year board seat. Eisenhammer garnered 13,681 votes to Gollberg's 6,769.

The apparent winners of three seats on the Harper College Board with three out of six McHenry County precincts outstanding at press time are William F. Kelley with 18,527 votes; Barbara Barton with 18,576 votes; and Matt Murphy with 12,982 votes.

Village Board

The incumbents prevailed for the three open seats on the Wheeling Village Board.

Judy Abruscato topped all candidates with 1,948 votes. Pat Horcher garnered 1,860 votes, and Bob Heer earned 1,552.

Finishing out the field was Pam Dorband with 1,419 votes, Ken Brady with 1,268, and Steve Telow with 335 votes.

Park Board

Two new faces will be joining the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners.

Joining victorious incumbent Cheri Klumpp will be Jonathan Kolssak and Keith Pecka. Pecka led all candidates with 1,956 votes. Klumpp earned 1,794 votes, and Kolssak earned 1,742.

Challenger Bill Hein finished fourth with 1,663 votes, and incumbent Dennis Drake finished with 1,461.

Check www.pioneerlocal.com for more results.

Douthwaite said,

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Condo developer must douse flood fears before building

BY CASS CLAIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

4-15-03

Flooding concerns continue to haunt a condominium development proposed for Wheeling. Trustees learned Monday that a federal agency wants more comprehensive flood-map information before allowing construction of both phases of a 306-unit development known as Prairie Park.

Nevertheless, members of the Wheeling village board said they were pleased to give the official go-ahead for developer Mark Smith to finalize plans for the condo complex at 566 N. Wolf Road.

Trustees gave their approval after Smith assured them he was confident the Federal Emergency Management Agency would approve a Conditional Letter of Map Revision for the condo site.

The long-awaited map letter would clear the way for construction by indicating that current maps are wrong in showing part of the proposed Prairie Park lies in a flood plain.

"Our engineering's solid — there's no question about that," Smith said, adding he was confident of getting clearance to build. "Will this maybe add delays of six months, eight months, or so? Yes. But we know we're dealing with a government agency and this is how things work sometimes."

For two years, Smith has been working with the village to bring five provincial-style condominium buildings to 17.8 acres on Wolf Road.

Smith said he plans a three-year build-out in which he would initially build two complexes before adding a club house and the other three buildings to encircle a pond.

The newest hitch is that the federal agency now wants a Conditional Letter of Map Revision for Wheeling's storm water diversionary channel — which would accept water from the condo development in extreme flood situations — in addition to requiring the flood-map revision for the condo site itself.

Wheeling learned of the request only three weeks ago and plans a meeting with the federal agency to discuss the issue, officials said.

"We hope Mr. Smith's project can still stand alone," said Tony Stavros of Wheeling's engineering department. "We see no reason why they should be tied together."

Village awarded for finances 4-10-03

The Government Finance Officers Association has awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the village of Wheeling for the village's comprehensive annual financial planning report.

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

A GFOA panel judged the report against an established standard. One of the program's objectives is to promote a "spirit of full disclosure" in the report.

Wheeling Finance Director Michael Mondschain accepted the award on behalf of village staff.

School district officials commit to budget scrutiny

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-10-03

A successful tax referendum has given Wheeling Elementary School District 21 a boost in revenue, but work continues to get the district's finances on solid footing.

School officials say although the district will have enough funds to avoid major budget cuts, the School Board and administrators will continue to examine the budget and look at ways to spend money more effectively.

"We're going to take a closer look at where to put our resources," School Board member Phil Pritzker said. "We'll be looking at programs on a cyclical basis."

Superintendent Gary Mical said the district will develop a system to evaluate programs to help make budgetary determinations.

"We want to develop a process that can use community input and staff input to evaluate programs," he said. "We want to find the good things that we're doing to see what we can do to make (programs) better."

Mical said the board will most likely evaluate one or two programs at the end of the school year, and district officials will be working on developing that cycle this year. Mical said he would like to evaluate each program about every five years.

The district also wants to re-establish the Budget Development Committee, which hasn't met in about two years. The committee was made up of community volunteers who would participate in the budget process and give input to the School Board before the budget was approved.

"I'd like it to involve more

citizens," Pritzker said. "Hopefully, people will want to be involved."

Mical said the committee would start working during the 2004-05 budget process, because the district is already working on the 2003-04 budget.

The Board Finance Committee will also be involved in this year's budget development process. The committee was established this year to create a deficit-reduction plan, which proposed \$4.5 million in cuts from next year's budget. The plan was created in case the referendum failed.

Mical said the district now has "an element of being conservative" in its spending as it commits to being fiscally responsible.

"It's nice to be able to take a deep breath and know we can live a little easier, but we still have responsibilities we need to keep," he said.

Wheeling residents get some tax relief in budget

BY CASS CLAIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

4/15/03

Wheeling has decided to stretch its public-improvement schedule to be kinder to residents' wallets, officials said.

The village board has approved an estimated \$37 million budget for 2003, including about \$6.4 million for widening Wolf Road and other capital improvements.

The eight-month budget is

for a fiscal year ending Dec. 30 to accommodate Wheeling's change to a Jan. 1 budget year.

This year's improvement budget is about \$700,000 less than trustees considered last month, as the board decided to set a five-year schedule for projects to avoid paying for them with bonds.

A bond issue could have cost residents \$36 more in annual property taxes, officials said.

"It would cost \$6½ million to

do the bonds, and then we would have had to pay \$3 million interest," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "The board came up with the idea of using the utility tax to pay for the improvements, and we wouldn't have to use \$3 million of the taxpayers' money."

About 17 planned projects were heavily concentrated over the next two years, but now will be prioritized, Klatecki said.

"Like if you're going to re-do

Wolf Road, you have to put the street lighting in right away so you don't have to be out there again," Klatecki said. "Things will be decided like that."

A \$966,000 project for widening and resurfacing Wolf Road from Manchester Drive to Milwaukee Avenue made the 2003 list.

Other expenses include \$580,000 to buy flood-prone properties along Wolf Road and a \$1.4 million project to

install a water line south of Dundee Road to a planned condo development. The money will come from a project to reconstruct Wheeling Road, which will be put off until 2004.

The new Jan. 1 budget schedule next year should be a boon to Wheeling's money management by making it easier to determine the property tax levy needed to fund the budget, officials said.

Patience asked for sidewalk repairs

Residents in the Hollywood Ridge subdivision will be seeing new sidewalks installed as part of the village's 2003 sidewalk removal and replacement plan.

Some of the sidewalk squares to be removed and replaced are located immediately adjacent to private driveways and aprons. Residents will not be able to park on their driveways for 72 hours in cases where construction impedes entrance to them. Overnight parking will be permitted along all streets within the subdivision during this time.

Village officials are aware of the temporary inconveniences these improvements will cause, and officials say every attempt to minimize problems will be made.

The sidewalk program is designed to remove and replace defective, cracked, heaved and potentially dangerous sidewalk squares. Public Works officials estimate the work in Hollywood Ridge to last three or four weeks.

Village

As goes the economy, so goes Wheeling. Wheeling's share of the state sales tax dropped last year, according to the Illinois Department of Revenue. But an increase in the home-rule sales tax more than made up the difference.

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-17-03

People are spending less money in Wheeling, but the village has not suffered from a lack of sales tax revenue.

Part of the state sales tax — 1 percent of the 6.25 percent tax — is given back to villages. Wheeling collected \$4.8 million from the state sales tax in calendar year 2002, compared to \$5.1 million in 2001, accord-



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Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki I think the most difficult part is trying to be the problem solver between citizens and the government.

If somebody complains about something to me, I have to be the mediator. I have to sit them down with staff and one of the things I like to do is sit them all down and have them all sit face to face. And there's many times that's not highly publicized stuff. Those are just things you have to do. I don't go to a board meeting and say I met four times with citizens. You just do it. And you have to balance that public service with your family life and your job.

One time I got a call at 10:30 at night because a guy's cable went out. One time a guy came up to me while I was shopping. Your private life is very limited.

and look at ways to spend money more effectively.

"We're going to take a closer look at where to put our resources," School Board member Phil Pritsker said. "We'll be looking at programs on a cyclical basis."

Superintendent Gary Mical said the district will develop a system to evaluate programs to help make budgetary determinations.

evaluate each program about every five years.

The district also wants to reestablish the Budget Development Committee, which hasn't met in about two years. The committee was made up of community volunteers who would participate in the budget process and give input to the School Board before the budget was approved.

"I'd like it to involve more

create a deficit-reduction plan, which proposed \$4.5 million in cuts from next year's budget. The plan was created in case the referendum failed.

Mical said the district now has "an element of being conservative" in its spending as it commits to being fiscally responsible.

"It's nice to be able to take a deep breath and know we can live a little easier, but we still have responsibilities we need to keep," he said.

Conditional Letter of Map Revision for Wheeling's storm water diversionary channel — which would accept water from the condo development in extreme flood situations — in addition to requiring the flood-map revision for the condo site itself.

Wheeling learned of the request only three weeks ago and plans a meeting with the federal agency to discuss the issue, officials said.

"We hope Mr. Smith's project can still stand alone," said Tony Stavros of Wheeling's engineering department. "We see no reason why they should be tied together."

before building

Wheeling residents get some tax relief in budget

By Cass Cliatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has decided to stretch its public-improvement schedule to be kinder to residents' wallets, officials said.

The village board has approved an estimated \$37 million budget for 2003, including about \$6.4 million for widening Wolf Road and other capital improvements.

The eight-month budget is

for a fiscal year ending Dec. 30 to accommodate Wheeling's change to a Jan. 1 budget year.

This year's improvement budget is about \$700,000 less than trustees considered last month, as the board decided to set a five-year schedule for projects to avoid paying for them with bonds.

A bond issue could have cost residents \$36 more in annual property taxes, officials said.

"It would cost \$6½ million to

do the bonds, and then we would have had to pay \$3 million interest," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "The board came up with the idea of using the utility tax to pay for the improvements, and we wouldn't have to use \$3 million of the taxpayers' money."

About 17 planned projects were heavily concentrated over the next two years, but now will be prioritized, Klatecki said.

"Like if you're going to re-do

Wolf Road, you have to put the street lighting in right away so you don't have to be out there again," Klatecki said. "Things will be decided like that."

A \$966,000 project for widening and resurfacing Wolf Road from Manchester Drive to Milwaukee Avenue made the 2003 list.

Other expenses include \$580,000 to buy flood-prone properties along Wolf Road and a \$1.4 million project to

install a water line south of Dundee Road to a planned condo development. The money will come from a project to reconstruct Wheeling Road, which will be put off until 2004.

The new Jan. 1 budget schedule next year should be a boon to Wheeling's money management by making it easier to determine the property tax levy needed to fund the budget, officials said.

Patience asked for sidewalk repairs

Residents in the Hollywood Ridge subdivision will be seeing new sidewalks installed as part of the village's 2003 sidewalk removal and replacement plan.

Some of the sidewalk squares to be removed and replaced are located immediately adjacent to private driveways and aprons. Residents will not be able to park on their driveways for 72 hours in cases where construction impedes entrance to them. Overnight parking will be permitted along all streets within the subdivision during this time.

Village officials are aware of the temporary inconveniences these improvements will cause, and officials say every attempt to minimize problems will be made.

The sidewalk program is designed to remove and replace defective, cracked, heaved and potentially dangerous sidewalk squares. Public Works officials estimate the work in Hollywood Ridge to last three or four weeks.

Wheeling Village President Greg Klatecki: I think the most difficult part is trying to be the problem solver between citizens and the government.

If somebody complains about something to me, I have to be the mediator. I have to sit them down with staff and one of the things I like to do is sit them all down and have them all sit face to face. And there's many times that's not highly publicized stuff. Those are just things you have to do. I don't go to a board meeting and say I met four times with citizens. You just do it. And you have to balance that public service with your family life and your job.

One time I got a call at 10:30 at night because a guy's cable went out. One time a guy came up to me while I was shopping. Your private life is very limited.

Village withstands drop in state sales tax

As goes the economy, so goes Wheeling. Wheeling's share of the state sales tax dropped last year, according to the Illinois Department of Revenue. But an increase in the home-rule sales tax more than made up the difference.

By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer

4-17-03

People are spending less money in Wheeling, but the village has not suffered from a lack of sales tax revenue.

Part of the state sales tax — 1 percent of the 6.25 percent tax — is given back to villages. Wheeling collected \$4.8 million from the state sales tax in calendar year 2002, compared to \$5.1 million in 2001, accord-

ing to figures recently released by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Wheeling Finance Director Michael Mondschain said the drop is strictly due to the state of the economy. People spent less everywhere, and Wheeling was no exception.

However, as state taxes were declining, the Village Board decided to increase its home-rule sales tax from .5 percent to .75 percent. Although people were spending less, the village collected more

in home-rule sales tax revenue, which is recorded separately from the state sales tax. The village collected \$2.6 million in home-rule sales taxes in 2002, compared to \$1.7 million in 2001. Mondschain said the revenue increase directly reflects the tax increase.

Although revenue from the state sales tax is in decline, it has done little to affect the village financially. Mondschain said the village had been conservative in its estimates in state sales tax revenue, and it

is actually collecting more than anticipated.

In the fiscal year ending April 30, Mondschain said he expects the village to collect about \$7.3 million in total sales tax revenue. The village anticipated collecting \$6.9 million.

"We were very prepared," Mondschain said. "We budgeted conservatively, and now we have healthy fund balances. Part of the reason for building healthy fund balances is to be ready for things

like these."

Although the economy has slowed, Mondschain said the village is anticipating some growth in the near future. Mondschain said the village is expecting a 2 percent increase in sales tax revenue during the next budget year, which is a relatively conservative increase.

"It's not based on anything specific," he said. "We've been in a downturn for three years now, so we're anticipating some growth."

Utility tax increase may fund improvements

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

4-17-03

Wheeling trustees are looking at user fees — not property taxes — to fund an aggressive campaign to improve village infrastructure.

Trustees' options are few when it comes to raising the millions of dollars that are needed to pay for planned improvements to sidewalks, streets, and water and sewer pipes. They can increase property taxes, or they can look to raising the taxes on natural gas, electricity and water paid by home and business owners.

The board is leaning toward the utility tax in-

crease in an effort to reduce the impact on homeowners if the village had to pay for bonds to cover the cost of capital improvements.

“Money is cheap for us (to borrow), but it's still a

burden to the taxpayer,” said Finance Director Michael Mondschain. “Residents have their own loans to pay for.”

Residents and business owners currently pay the village a 1 percent tax on their natural gas and electricity bills. That could increase to 2.5 percent or 3 percent under the current proposal.

According to the five-year capital improvements plan under consideration, the village would need to collect an additional \$6.7 million to fund all projects other than those associated with water and sewer repairs. If the village chose to borrow money for the projects, it could mean an increase in property taxes

(Continued on page 13)

of between 7 percent and 9 percent, Mondschain said.

The tax for water service could also be increased next year by 18 cents per 1,000 gallons used and then an additional 1 to 3 cents per 1,000 gallons until 2020. The village is expecting to pay \$1.7 million for water and sewer projects next year and a total of \$14.4 million over the next five years.

Trustees say they prefer to pay for the projects with cash they can raise, rather than borrow. Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he is “not excited” about adding another \$6.7 million to the village's debt.

Lehmann suggested the board increase its natural gas and electricity use taxes, which were just enacted in September.

Mondschain said the 1 percent tax generates about \$520,000 a year for the village. Increasing the tax to 2.5 per-

cent or 3 percent would provide the necessary revenue to cover the additional expenses associated with next year's projects, he said.

“We can substitute the user fee for the property tax,” Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said. “If we raise it to 2.5 to 3 percent, we can make the plan work.”

Capital improvement expenditures are expected to total \$7.2 million next year and \$33.6 million over five years. Some of next year's projects are being funded by grant money or tax increment financing funds. Other revenue sources include the motor fuel tax, the local sales tax and a onetime \$1 million infusion from village reserve funds.

“These projects have been on the back burner for years,” Trustee Dean Argiris said. “We need to bite the bullet. We need to move ahead. We need to get this done.”

Mall developer may get \$350,000 from Wheeling

By CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-23-03

Wheeling officials crafted some unprecedented quality-control measures this week to help bring an upscale retail center to town.

Trustees tentatively agreed to give a developer \$350,000 in tax incentives to help build a 12-store mall at 119-145 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

However, the developer of the project known as Petersburg Plaza had to agree to adhere to a list of prohibited uses that will control the types of tenants there.

“The board got burned a couple of years ago with the small out-lot next to Kmart,” Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said of the Kmart on Dundee Road.

“Trustees were seduced, if you will, by the prospect of a new retail center,” Douthwaite said.

“I think it's fair for both the village and us,” said William Hein, development consultant for the project. “I don't really care for the restriction, but they said they'd give us some latitude and let final decisions be made by staff.”

kee Avenue area is critical to long-range plans to develop a town center and upgrade Wheeling's image.

The village won't be able to prevent currency exchanges and other uses from opening in Petersburg Plaza.

Yet the developer will receive portions of the \$350,000 in tax help based on a per-square-foot lease formula only if tenants meet with village approval.

Hein also said he's convinced the development will eventually net the \$625,000 in tax help he had told trustees last month he needed to build a high-end retail center.

“I mean the world to me. He meant the world to me. He meant the world to me. He meant the world to me.”

Hein also said he's convinced the development will eventually net the \$625,000 in tax help he had told trustees last month he needed to build a high-end retail center.

Trial opens for man accused of role in deadly Wheeling theft

By ERIC KROL

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-23-03

Needing \$2,000 to bail his gang leader out of jail in August 1999, Raymond Benavides agreed to serve as the lookout for a Wheeling jewelry store robbery, a Cook County prosecutor said Tuesday.

By the time his two accomplices finished the heist, the prosecutor said, jewelry store owner Emil Risenzon of Buffalo Grove lay dead on the floor, the victim of a vicious metal pipe attack.

“They say that you can't put a value to a human life. That every life is priceless,” Assistant State's Attorney John Dillon told jurors at the opening of Benavides' trial Tuesday. “They put the value of the life of Emil Risenzon, the victim in this case, at \$2,000.”

Benavides, 22, of 416 S. Edward St. in Wheeling, is charged with the murder and armed robbery of Risenzon, a 47-year-old Ukrainian immigrant.

Risenzon was less than a week away from becoming a U.S. citizen when he was killed at Wheeling Jewelry and Repair, 251 E. Dundee Road.

Prosecutors aren't alleging Benavides, who wore a purple

dress shirt, tie, tan pants and thick-rimmed glasses to court, hit Risenzon. But under state law, an accessory to murder can be charged with murder.

Fellow gang member Shaun Fogle, 21, of Wheeling was convicted last November.

Rayon Sampson, 22, a Wheeling resident who prosecutors say beat Risenzon to death, awaits trial.

Defense attorney William Davies presented a short opening argument, telling jurors that just because two other defendants are involved in the case doesn't mean Benavides is guilty. Davies also asked them to pay attention to contradictions in witnesses' testimony.

That followed Dillon's longer opening argument, in which he told the jury that Benavides signed a confession admitting his part in what was supposed to be a “grab n' go” robbery until Risenzon resisted.

Alla Risenzon testified she became worried when she couldn't reach her husband by telephone at the store. Her sister, Paula Gutnik, went to check on him but found Risenzon slumped between the cash register and wall, his forehead stained with blood.

The trial continues today in Rolling Meadows.

Bad milk sickens students, staff

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

Bad milk found in four Wheeling Elementary School District 21 schools made 26 students and two staff members ill April 16.

DISTRICT 21

Students at Twain and Poe elementary schools began complaining about stomach aches around 1 p.m. that day, said Pat McAndrews, District 21 accounting supervisor. Those who drank the bad milk experienced such symptoms as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. None required medical treatment outside of school, and all who experienced symptoms were back at school the next day.

The bad milk was also found at Tarkington Elementary School and Holmes Middle School, but no one at either school became ill.

Bonnie Goldstein, spokeswoman from District 21's food service provider, Sodexo, said symptoms came quickly,

place and a different plant to make sure it was safe.”

The problem appears to have originated either at the dairy or the milk distributor. Goldstein said two students in a Waukegan school district that uses the same dairy and distributor also had similar symptoms the same day.

All the bad milk had an expiration date of April 27, 11 days beyond the date on which it was served. Goldstein said there was no way of knowing the milk was bad until people started showing the symptoms. She said she was “very relieved” no one was seriously sickened by the milk.

McAndrews said more details about what exactly was wrong with the milk will come once it has been tested.

McAndrews said Sodexo officials responded quickly to the incident by removing the milk from its inventory and finding a new supplier. Sodexo informed parents of the incident through a letter that was sent home with students that same day.

Trustees change Wheeling's ethics ordinance

By CASS GLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-16-03

After months of debate, Wheeling trustees this week voted to do away with the village's historic ethics commission.

Trustees approved changes to an ethics ordinance they've said will strengthen enforcement by sending complaints directly to the state via the village attorney.

The unanimous vote came after ironing out final questions

about whether conflicts of interest can arise from accepting campaign donations from businesses that might have issues before the board.

"There's no employment relationship, so it wouldn't be a statutory conflict," village counsel Patrick Lucansky said. "But even if it's a common-law conflict, the result would be that it would void the contract if you didn't abstain from voting."

Under Wheeling's amended ethics ordinance, the village

attorney will investigate allegations of conflicts of interest, while alleged violations of State Gift Ban laws will go to Illinois' legislative ethics commission.

Any board members involved in an ethics complaint — whether as the accused or the complainant — will be banned from voting on developments or other issues at the center of the complaint.

The previous system called on trustees to send ethics complaints filed against elected and appointed officials to five resi-

dents appointed by the village president.

Trustees last December postponed a vote on doing away with the local commission after former Village President Sheila Schultz and other community members spoke out against changing an ordinance that established one of the state's first ethics boards. Wheeling formed its board in 1975 as a commitment to upright government after a federal crackdown of extortion and corruption sent Wheeling officials to prison in

1974. Village President Greg Klatecki said he approved of the measure.

"I think a lot of things change in the state," Klatecki said of the fact that ethics laws didn't exist when Wheeling formed its board 27 years ago.

"If you don't change too," Klatecki said, "you'll still be in the 1990s while everyone else is in the 2000s."

Wheeling's ethics board had processed only one complaint since its formation. It hadn't met in two years.

Campaign signs give trustees the jitters

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
4-24-03

Wheeling's new ethics ordinance prompted trustees to question whether it is appropriate for Village Board members to accept campaign signs from a developer with plans pending before the board.

Three trustees — Judy Abruscato, Robert Heer and Dean Argiris — said they had accepted a donation of signs from Mark Smith of Smith Family Construction.

A discussion at the April 14 Village Board meeting raised the possibility that this might be a conflict of interest, jeopardizing Smith's proposal for a condominium project. But a village attorney said he doubts the donated

signs will present a conflict.

Smith, a Wheeling resident and political supporter of the three trustees, is the developer of Prairie Park, a proposed upscale condominium project on Wheeling's north side that will include 306 units.

Argiris questioned whether accepting the signs would somehow prevent the village from entering into a contract with Smith entitling him to village development funds. He raised the topic during discussion about the village's new ethics ordinance, which the board approved April 14.

Abruscato and Heer accepted the signs during their recent re-election campaign. They both won four-year terms to the board April 1.

Argiris said he accepted signs from

Smith during his unsuccessful bid for Wheeling Township Democratic committeeman in the spring of 2002. But last week, he questioned whether that was appropriate.

"These are things we need to be careful of," he said.

The trustees said they gave no second thought to accepting the signs, because, they said, they had no financial interest in the project.

And they also said that the donations did not influence their decision to grant design approval to Smith's project at the same April 14 meeting.

"I've been sitting on this board for too long for someone to buy my vote," Abruscato said.

The board's next step will be to grant final approval for the entire proj-

ect. After that, the board will have to vote on whether to grant tax increment finance money that Smith will request for the project.

Smith has yet to determine how much he will ask for, but he said the development cannot be completed without millions of dollars in funding that will pay for utility improvements and other aspects of the project.

"To be a reality, (the project) needs TIF money," Smith said. "I can start the process without it, but I know it must be funded with TIF in order to do it."

Village Attorney Pat Lucansky, who drafted the village's new ethics ordinance and who also helped write current state ethics laws, said the trustees

(Continued on page 9)

were not in violation of the state gift ban act because the yard signs were given as an in-kind campaign contribution.

He also said the trustees could not be found in criminal violation of the new village ordinance because they have no financial interest in the project.

But he did say the trustees' actions may open the village to a common-law complaint that could lead to the voiding of the contract if it is determined that their votes were somehow influenced by the campaign donations. But even that action, he said, is "far-fetched."

"It would be a bit of a stretch," Lucansky said. "Often if someone works on a campaign or gives a donation, that doesn't necessarily mean they expect something back. ... But they should look very carefully at the facts (before voting on the TIF contract)."

Lucansky pointed out that the granting of TIF incentives includes recommendations from the village staff. If the staff recommends the incentive and trustees agree with the recommendation, it would be difficult to find any of them in violation of the ethics ordinance, Lucansky said.

"They should review all of the facts, and if there are any questions, they should abstain (from voting)," he said. "The area of conflicts of interest is one of the least-understood in municipal law."

Police up DUI arrests

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
4-24-03

Wheeling police officials credit an almost 40 percent increase in DUI arrests to enhanced enforcement made possible by state grant money that helped pay for more officers on the street.

Wheeling police officers made 78 more DUI arrests in 2002 than in 2001, according to a survey conducted by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists.

The Schaumburg-based organization releases the number of DUI arrests each Illinois police department makes every year. Wheeling increased its DUI arrests from 204 in 2001 to 282 in 2002, an increase of 38.2 percent.

Wheeling ranked 25th among Illinois police departments in DUI arrests in 2002, compared to 38th in 2001.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said use of Safe Communities Grants given by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Traffic Safety Division have helped the department enforce DUI laws.

"We owe some of that (success) in being able to spend more money," Popadowski said. "With the use of the grants, we're able to send out special enforcement teams and set up roadside safety checks."

Tom Pilewski, safe communities coordinator for the department, said Wheeling police have received between \$130,000 and \$140,000 in Safe Communities Grants each of the last four years. Some of that money is also used for educational and awareness programs to combat drunk driving.

"If you do just one or the other, it doesn't

have as great an impact on the community," Pilewski said.

Naperville topped suburban communities with 961 DUI arrests. Perennial DUI arrest leader Buffalo Grove dropped to seventh on the list this year with 510 DUI arrests.

Chicago, which is placed in its own category, had 6,470 DUI arrests in 2002, up from 6,016 last year.

The Alliance has conducted an annual survey of Illinois police departments since 1990 to determine how many DUI arrests they make and to give recognition to the most productive departments and officers.

The study found that the regions of the state with the strongest DUI enforcement are DuPage and Lake counties. The northwest suburbs account for six of the state's top departments.

Alliance Director Charlene Chapman credited police and village leadership for the high DUI arrest numbers. She said keeping DUI enforcement at a high level is difficult because lawyers and the public have sought ways to circumvent current laws.

"First of all, it is a very unglamorous arrest. Police never know the people whose lives they are saving and never see the immediate results of the arrest," she said. "When cases get to the courts, police often face difficult grilling on the stand from lawyers who specialize in DUI defense. The whole thing is a distasteful experience."

Popadowski said Wheeling has increased its DUI arrests each year since 1998, when it recorded 108.

— Staff writer Patrick Corcoran contributed to this report.

Wheeling delays vote on building plan

By Cass Gliatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-29-03

The hot debate over whether developers are dictating the path of Wheeling's future unexpectedly surfaced again Monday.

In a surprise move, Wheeling trustees put off a vote meant to put the final stamp of approval on a village-wide redevelopment plan designed to help Wheeling upgrade its image.

Some trustees said they were vexed the village board was preparing to approve the plan, knowing Wheeling is in talks with a developer that would build contrary to its vision.

Wheeling plan commissioners developed the comprehensive plan through 15 months of community meetings, public hearings and workshops. It includes proposals to develop a town center and improve the village's single-family housing stock, among other development goals for the next 20 years.

Village President Greg Klatecki revealed Monday Wheeling has

"There's no point starting this thing out by contradicting it."

Kenneth Brady,
plan commission chairman

been receptive to a developer hoping to build an undisclosed retail center on one of the village's last large parcels, bordered by Buffalo Grove and McHenry roads.

The proposed comprehensive plan directs the village to use that parcel to develop high-end, single-family housing to help balance a residential stock dominated by condominiums in Wheeling.

Trustee Patrick Horcher questioned why Wheeling spent \$100,000 to develop a new comprehensive plan, only to violate it immediately.

"We paid for the best plan for the village — we accept that's what this is," Horcher said. "We should stick to this."

Village President Greg Klatecki said he couldn't give Horcher his assurance that if Wheeling approved the plan, the board would turn away developers for the Buffalo Grove parcel that didn't conform to it.

"If CDW calls us and looks at that corner and they look at their sales and we see they can bring a lot of tax revenue to the village, I would accept that," Klatecki said, speaking hypothetically. "The good of the village outweighs the plan."

Plan commission Chairman Kenneth Brady spoke out to ask trustees to schedule a workshop between plan commissioners and trustees to find compromises. Trustees agreed.

Some questioned returning to the drawing board in the 11th hour, but the majority said they want to approve a blueprint for Wheeling's future that's right.

"There's no point starting this thing out by contradicting it," Brady told the board.

Upscale liquor store gets OK 4-25-04

A specialty wine and cheese shop received the blessing of the Village Board at its April 12 meeting, although trustees were concerned it could devolve into a regular liquor store.

Crossroads Wine and Spirits, to be located in the new North Star Shopping Plaza on North Milwaukee Avenue, will not be allowed to sell cigarettes, lottery tickets or single-serving alcoholic beverages at the store, as trustees tried to restrict some of the periphery items sold at a typical liquor store.

Instead, trustees said they wanted to see an upscale shop dedicated to selling imported wines, cheeses, beer and other high-end liquors, like vodkas and single-malt scotches, as proposed by William Hein, a consultant of the North Star Plaza project.

"I'd hate to see a guy buy a small pint there, go sit by the fountain and drink it," said Trustee Dean Argiris, summing up the board's fears.

The proposal came to the Village Board without a recommendation from the Plan Commission, which wound up with a 3-3 vote on the proposal.

Residents of Shadow Bend, which borders North Star Plaza to the west, were also concerned the store could become a typical liquor store if sales were not able to keep the store afloat, according to minutes of the Plan Commission hearing.

Crossroads Wine and Spirits still needs to apply for a liquor license before opening the store.

Second 'Rockin' with the Cops' set for Saturday

By Cass Gliatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-29-03

Wheeling police think their experiment last year to help children see officers as people, beyond police squad cars and citation books, was successful.

Police will give area fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders another opportunity Saturday to spend time with officers in a social environment.

The second annual "Rockin' with the Cops" event is

designed to help form bonds between Wheeling's school-age kids and police through a free night of swimming, games and eating. Kids will be able to dance to music provided by a DJ at the Wheeling Park District Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, and use the center's pool, basketball and volleyball facilities.

In some cases, these kids do not have many positive adult

role models in their lives, and their perceptions of police officers are that we are individuals to avoid," Police Chief John Popadowski said. "Events like 'Rockin' with the Cops' allow the officers and kids a chance to establish relationships based on friendship and trust."

Outreach programs are common in police departments, but Wheeling police pride themselves on hosting an event specifically for youths.

Wheeling police held the first cops-and-kids event last December.

Police were pleased attendance topped 120 for the inaugural event, and the police department expects greater attendance Saturday.

"We advertised it considerably more this time," crime prevention officer Dorann Swanson said. "And I think the kids that went last year really enjoyed it, so they're talking to

their friends about it."

Because of last year's response, the police department is limiting participation to the first 350 children who sign up.

Registration forms are available at Holmes and London middle schools and Wheeling grade schools. Students should turn them in to police liaison officers or homeroom teachers by Wednesday. For information, call (847) 459-2990.

Reward offered for wagon 5-1-03

A Wheeling business is offering a \$2,000 reward for the return of a wooden wagon that was stolen over two months ago from the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road.

Jim Biebrach, president of Snow Systems, Inc., said the wagon, made in 1910, was sitting outside for years behind the tree line along Milwaukee Avenue when it was stolen. He said the wagon was left there so it could weather to give it an antique look.

"We wanted to put it in front of our building," Biebrach said.

The wagon is 12 feet long and 5 feet wide. Biebrach said a trailer had been used in the theft. He said he has no idea who may have taken it or why.

"We've had a lot of guesses," he said. "We didn't think there was a market for something like that, or a need or a want."

Biebrach said tips or the return of the wagon can be made anonymously. Anyone with information about the wagon should call (847) 808-7800.

Horizons to be demolished to make room for homes

Children's academy will remain open in new location

By Casey Moffitt

Staff Writer

5-6-04

The Horizons Children's Academy will come down to make way for an upscale, single-family community, as the Wheeling Village Board approved a new housing development on Schoenbeck Road.

The Mitroff Group of Arlington Heights plans to build 18 new homes on the 7-acre lot where the child-care center stands.

David Mitroff, owner of the development company, said he would like to get construction crews on the site in July, meaning Horizons will have to find a new location this summer.

"Obviously, we're going to have to tear the school down," Mitroff said. "We'll have to wait for (Horizons) to move. It looks like it'll be early July when we can get our crews started."

Susan Sclove Tash, executive director and founder of Horizons, said no new location has been identified as of yet for the center.

"We've been in the process of

looking," she said. "We have a lot of leads, but we're not hearing a big splash right now."

Tash said Horizons had found a location in Arlington Heights, but zoning codes prevented the center from moving there. Tash said the building was zoned for industrial use, which is not compatible with a child-care center.

However, Tash said she expects a new location will be found soon.

"News is forthcoming," she said. "There's a lot of wonderful property around."

Tash said the academy's board wants to stay in Wheeling Township, where Horizons has been since it opened in 1974. Horizons has been at its Schoenbeck Road location since 1987. She said the board decided to sell its building because of increased costs for utilities and declining enrollment.

Tash said Horizons is still accepting new children who wish to enroll in its programs.

Mitroff said the company is still developing designs for the

homes it will build, but he expects each home will be at least 3,000 square feet, built with high-quality materials and each with a garage.

"They will be classical, traditional, single-family homes," Mitroff said. "We're putting upscale treatments in all the homes. I think it will be a real nice community."

Mitroff said he expects the development to be similar to the Wind Mill subdivision in Palatine, which Mitroff built in the early 1990s. Homes there have sold for as much as \$750,000, Mitroff said.

Trustees, who approved the Mitroff proposal April 26, have been searching for a developer willing to build single-family homes in the village. A majority of Wheeling's housing stock is in multifamily buildings, and most new residential construction has been condominiums and town houses.

Trustees have said there is a lack of a "move-up market" for (Continued on page 10)

families that might have bought a condominium in town and want to move into a house. They hope more single-family homes will keep residents in Wheeling.

Trustees requested the builder construct a fence along the rear property lines of the homes abutting Tarkington Elementary School. Trustees said

they believed residents will want some barrier between their property and children playing in the school's field.

Mitroff said he is willing to build the fence, but he called the idea a "mistake," believing people might like easy access to the school and the field.

"Most people (buying there)

will most likely have kids, and I know if I had kids I would like to take them out to the field to throw the ball around or something," he said. "It takes the choice away from the homeowner."

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneerlocal.com.

Ribbon thief takes week off

By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer

The mystery of the disappearing Lexington Drive yellow ribbons remains unsolved, but the good news is that the ribbons stayed up for a whole week after being taken down three times in six days.

As the Wheeling Country-side reported May 1, members of AMVETS Post 66 and the Regina Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph the Worker Church had put up ribbons along major streets all over town as a show of support for U.S. troops serving overseas. However, the ribbons along Lexington Drive were taken down.

Don Wennerstrom, a member of both organizations sponsoring the ribbon campaign, said the current batch

of ribbons along Lexington has stayed up since April 28, one day after they disappeared for the third time.

"They've been up all week," he said Monday. "Hopefully they'll leave them up, but we'll see."

The ribbons had disappeared without a trace on April 22, April 24 and April 27. All 136 ribbons were taken off the trees each time, and not a shred of ribbon was left behind.

The Wennerstroms and their friends replaced the ribbons each time they were removed; and they believe it looks like the ribbon bandit may have been licked.

"I hope they will stay up until some kind of treaty is signed, or (the troops) all come home," said Wennerstrom's wife, Pinky.

Detective out for no ordinary stroll

Village officials suggested the following corridors:
Prairie View: Located the

farthest north, the Prairie View corridor would be along Half Day Road. It would include Stevenson High School and the Vernon Township Library at the east end and the Arboretum golf course and Twin Groves Middle School at the west end. The new Arboretum clubhouse, the Woodlands shopping center, Condell Acute Care Center and the Prairie View train station are other amenities in this corridor.

Lake-Cook: This corridor would run along Lake-Cook Road, taking in stores not actually in the village, such as Wal-Mart, Target and Sam's Club, as well as the Chase Plaza, Buffalo Grove Golf Course, St. Mary Church and Chevy Chase golf course.

Dundee Villages: The name reflects the way sections of Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Wheeling intersect like

Banners designed to create

By Kimberly Fornek
 Staff Reporter



Illustration courtesy of Village of Buffalo Grove

This sample shows how the banners that may hang along portions of Milwaukee Avenue could look.

Horizons Children's Academy is under contract to relocate to Mount Prospect. The early learning center is moving to make way for a residential development.

Susan Scrove-Tash, Horizons' executive director, said the academy will be moving to 1001 Feehanville Drive, provided the Mount Prospect Village Board approves the use for the industrial building. Scrove-Tash called the new place a "great location for two doors down from a park."

Scrove-Tash said she is still unsure when Horizons will open, since it still needs to go through the permitting process in Mount Prospect to run its operation there. How long that takes will dictate when Horizons will move.

Representatives from the Midwest Group, the development company building the 18-home single-family community at the Horizons site, are hoping to begin construction there in July.

Scrove-Tash said Horizons might have to find a temporary location before moving into its new facility.

Despite its upcoming move, Scrove-Tash said Horizons is still accepting new students into its day-care, preschool and kindergarten programs.

Man ticketed for stealing ribbons

A man who police ticketed for taking down the yellow ribbons along Lexington Drive said he did so because he believed the show of support for U.S. troops in Iraq was "oppressive."

"I believe this was done by a small group of activists who got the support of the authorities to impose their political opinion. I'd rather not see them in my neighborhood," said Gerard Neufeld.

Wheeling police issued a ticket to Neufeld, who lives at 1101 Wildberry Court in the Lexington Commons subdivision, May 7 after they caught him taking down yellow ribbons from trees and street signs at 12:11 a.m. He was charged with vandalism in Rolling Meadows.

Members of AMVETS Post 66 and the Regina Chapter of the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph the Worker Church put the ribbons up only to see them taken down on three occasions. Members of both organizations have been putting the ribbons up all over town, but only the Lexington Drive ribbons were being removed.

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Detective

Continued from page 8
 May 15, 2003

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amounts, he said, will help the CAC.

Donations can be sent to Jim's

Wyoming Walk, c/o The Children's Ad-

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and Community Relations Unit

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At the center, police will offer

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"We're also in walking dis-

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seen in that area is a large His-

panic community that needs to

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The police department may

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Wheeling geared up for police center

By Cass Clavitt

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Nestled among a strip of apartments, a pizzeria and a bowling alley on Wolf Road is a building that will become Wheeling's newest effort in community policing.

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Charity walk gets big sendoff
 Dropping \$5, \$10 and \$20 in cans, an estimated 600 well-wishers were expected to stop by a benefit party Wednesday to support the Walk Across Wyoming that Wheeling police detective Jim Plovanch will begin July 7. Almost 300 residents and village leaders arrived at Wheeling's Rain Restaurant & Brewery in the first hour of the three-hour benefit to help Plovanch raise money for the Children's Advocacy Center. Tallies from the benefit weren't available, but before it began, Plovanch had already raised about \$6,000 from people who admire his commitment to make a 400-mile trek across the Wyoming wilderness to raise money for the nonprofit advocacy center. The center interviews and counsels abused children.

Horizons finds new home 5-13-04

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Detective out for no ordinary stroll

By CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
May 15, 2003

Wheeling police Detective Jim Plovanih has heard the words often since he announced his plan to walk across Wyoming this summer.

"You're crazy," many people say, some in jest and others with real sincerity.

Plovanih made a pledge to himself when he was 18 to walk across the state. His inspiration came from Vardis Fisher's novel, "Mountain Man," a story about a man who lived off the land in Utah and Wyoming. The novel was adapted into the 1972 film "Jeremiah Johnson," starring Robert Redford.

"I was fascinated by the country; the way he described it in the book," Plovanih said. "I said to myself, 'One of these days, I'm going to walk across Wyoming.' That was 30 years ago."

Today, Plovanih is training for the walk and collecting donations that will go to the Children's Advocacy Center of Northwest Cook County in Hoffman Estates when he finishes. He plans to walk along Route 25 in Wyoming, which will take him from Sheridan, through Casper and eventually to Cheyenne, the state's capital. The walk will total 400 miles, which he plans to cover in 13 days.

"People do things like this all the time," Plovanih said. "I've donated to a number of charities before. The last one was for the Avon Walk for Cancer from Milwaukee to Chicago. I always thought it was noble thing for them to do."

Once he made the decision - and the commitment - to take the walk, Plovanih decided to turn it into a fund-raiser for the Children's Advocacy Center.

"The CAC is something I really believe in," he said. "There are all kinds of causes out there, but I truly believe in this one."



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Wheeling police Detective Jim Plovanih will embark on a walk across Wyoming in July. The walk benefits a children's advocacy group.

"I said to myself, One of these days, I'm going to walk across Wyoming."

has to recall the abuse to the counselor, and not in the courtroom, which can also be traumatic to the victim.

The CAC is a nonprofit organization that depends on donations from individuals and businesses, which prompted Plovanih to help.

Plovanih said he has received a lot of support from the Police Department, the CAC and his family. A fellow detective, Joe Licardi, even paid for his plane ticket to go out to Wyoming.

"At first, they laughed at me," Plovanih said. "But everybody from the (police) chief on down has been completely supportive in helping out."

Plovanih said his wife, Concetta, has also been supportive. She is the one who mapped out Plovanih's route and booked the roadside motel rooms and campgrounds he will be staying at.

(Continued on page 14)

Detective Continued from page 8
May 15, 2003

ing overnight during the trip. "From day one my wife was completely supportive," he said. "She took it as a challenge to book the motels and map the route."

CAC Director Mark Parr said he is thrilled to know that people like Plovanih hold the work the organization performs for abused children in such high regard. He called Plovanih's proposal "pretty inspiring" to the people that work at the CAC.

Parr said he never doubted Plovanih's sincerity of going on the journey.

"Nobody thought he was kidding, or that he wouldn't pull it off," Parr said. "I knew that he had been training for a

while and that this wasn't a decision he made."

Plovanih said he believes support will motivate him.

"I know the thought of going always enter my head when there," he said. "You have that desire to quit."

Training time

Training will help, too. by no means out of shape. marathons in the past, but miles a day for 10 to 12 hours 13 days straight will be an incredible strain. He said he has been 4 miles a day, and walking 15

Wheeling geared up for police center

By CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer
5-29-03

Nestled among a strip of apartments, a pizzeria and a bowling alley on Wolf Road is a building that will become Wheeling's newest effort in community policing. The village board this week agreed to spend \$275,000 to buy a two-story building at 99 N. Wolf Road to convert it to a police resource center.

Pulling for the CAC

Plovanih's duties as a detective with the Wheeling Police Department introduced him to the CAC. He has been working with the organization for about six years. The CAC works with children who have been abused physically and sexually.

Plovanih said CAC counselors interview victims of abuse in a way most police officers or case workers cannot. He

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Continued from page 8
May 15, 2003

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Donations can be sent to Jim's Wyoming Walk, c/o The Children's Advocacy Center, 640 Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estates, IL, 60194. Checks should be made out to CAC Jim's Walk.

Wheeling geared up for police center

BY CLASS CLAWT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
5-8-03

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At the center, police will offer child safety seat inspections, citizens police academies, rape defense sessions and a place for Neighborhood Watch and other community meetings.

"We're also in walking distance of the senior center, so a lot of things will be available to the resource center that aren't easily accessible to the police station," said Sgt. John Teevens, who leads Wheeling's crime prevention unit. "One thing we've seen in that area is a large Hispanic community that needs to be outreached."

The police department may use a victims assistance grant to hire a bilingual social worker.

Bike patrols and other officers will provide a reassuring presence in an area that has been touched by gang activity and disruptive drinking at a nearby park, police said.

"We had a shooting a couple of months ago in that area," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said. "We want to enhance our presence in that area so that the kinds of incidents we're dealing with now we can shut down."

The shooting was not fatal. Wheeling will close the deal on the building June 26. The village plans a gradual take-over of the building this fall as the leases for an apartment, jewelry store and barber shop expire.

Banners designed to create

By Kimberly Fornek
STAFF REPORTER

Village staffers outlined six major Greater Buffalo Grove corridors in a preliminary presentation to the Village Board. The sections would be highlighted with street banners bearing a logo for each corridor. The logos would symbolize some of the amenities along the corridor, be they schools, parks, businesses or other destinations.

"It's intended to be a community resource," said Village

farthest north, the Prairie View corridor would be along Half Day Road. It would include Stevenson High School and the Vernon Township Library at the east end and the Arboretum golf course and Twin Groves Middle School at the west end. The new Arboretum clubhouse, the Woodlands shopping center, Condell Acute Care Center and the Prairie View train station are other amenities in this corridor.

Lake-Cook: This corridor would run along Lake-Cook Road, taking in stores not actu-



The technology fee will increase from \$4 to \$5 per credit hour. The total tuition cost including fees would be about \$73 per credit hour or about \$2,197 per year for 30 credit hours.

The increases mean an additional \$500,000 to the school next year.

Harper officials said the money will offset about 60 percent in expected state budget cuts.

"We're asking (students) to shoulder a portion of what the state is (taking away)," Harper College President Robert Breuder said.

Board Chairwoman Kris Howard said students' costs increase when equipment and faculty salaries in the village are increased. "The downside to the village is that it can capture \$625,000," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. "If (the center) is very, very successful, they can capture

state Property Tax Appeals Board by local businesses, Harper officials estimate, will drain another \$1.7 million from the budget, about \$900,000 of which would be from the education fund.

Ironically, one of the grants the state is projected to cut is about \$289,000 to assist businesses and industry to train their workers.

"My recommendation to (stimulate) discussion on this matter is to go up to \$6 or more per credit hour to compensate for the loss from PTAB. An increase of \$4 could generate \$1 million and cover PTAB loss," Breuder said.

Trustee Patrick Botterman said he is against raising tuitions and a shopping center Promises of up-scale ten-

By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer
5-1-03

Plaza owners get money to build

The Wheeling Police Department is currently in- conducting a roadside safety checkpoint in the village beginning at 10 p.m. Friday until 2 a.m. Saturday. The primary focus of the checkpoint will be to find drunk drivers, but all other Illinois vehicle codes will be enforced as well. The checkpoint in front of Wheeling High School on Elmhurst Road Saturday, which coincides with the kickoff of the Memorial Day weekend, is the second time the department has conducted a similar program. Additional officers will be on patrol all weekend watching for intoxicated motorists. Both programs are funded by the Wheeling Safe Communities Program, with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, and school speed zone camera ordinance.

Police conducting safety patrols

While I must certainly learn my way around the workings of the commission, it will always be my goal to help the airport and the community learn how to work more closely together." Dourlain will serve the remaining 11 months left on Wayne Wisinski's term. Wisinski recently resigned from the commission.

Businesses donate to Lehmann benefit

Wheeling businesses have donated all sorts of items and services for the upcoming benefit dinner for Wheeling Trustee Trevor Lehmann scheduled for Tuesday. Dean Argiris, fellow trustee and organizer of the event, said many Cubs tickets and gift certificates have been donated by local businesses for the raffle to be held that night. Local restaurants are also donating food and beverages to be served that evening. Argiris said he has also received donations to pay for tables and chairs. "Everything for the night, so far, is donated," Argiris said. "A lot of people really wanted to do something." The benefit dinner, to be held at North American Jet, 1011 S. Wolf Road, will help Lehmann in his battle against Lou Gehrig's disease. Lehmann was diagnosed with the disease, which has no known cure, in March. Tickets for the benefit are still available. Tickets are \$50 each and can be ordered by sending a check to the Trevor R. Lehmann Benefit Fund, c/o Corus Bank, 125 McHenry Road, Wheeling, IL 60090. Tickets include dinner, beverages and entertainment. The event is scheduled to run from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 25. For more information, call Argiris at (847) 845-6990 or

The herd that escaped has been at Wedgewood for about two weeks, Romer said. They come from a farm in Springs-
here for sport

"I don't know how they had it in the Mid West," he said. "But it is very peculiar." Romer said the riders love the sport, and she is happy to provide a recreational outlet for them. "These guys rope and compete at a pretty high level," she said. "They are a bunch of real cowboys." Wedgewood will be moving to Watouconda from its Wheeling location in the next few months to make way for a Western hotel development. No one at the riding center Saturday is happy to see it leave.

Eight of the animals were headed back to Wedgewood by Friday night. Two remained at large as of Saturday morning, when at least four riders had gathered at the stables to resume the search. They were found around noon between Haxter Parkway and Lake-Cook Road in unincorporated Lake County near Riverwoods, said Riverwoods Police Chief Morris Weinstern. Haxter Parkway is just a few miles northeast of Wedgewood, which is at the southwest corner of Lake-Cook Road and Lawrence Avenue. Some of the animals were headed back to Wedgewood from Polawater Woods, while others were hidden off the riding center property. The riders who brought the animals back were joined by several dogs that helped flush the animals from the dense forest.

Steer continued from page 5

Staff writer Casey Moffitt contributed to this report.
"It's sad we have to go," Romer said. "It's been a good operation for a lot of years."
"I don't know how they had it in the Mid West," he said. "But it is very peculiar." Romer said the riders love the sport, and she is happy to provide a recreational outlet for them. "These guys rope and compete at a pretty high level," she said. "They are a bunch of real cowboys." Wedgewood will be moving to Watouconda from its Wheeling location in the next few months to make way for a Western hotel development. No one at the riding center Saturday is happy to see it leave.

TINA DEAN	32	IMAGES	29	SCHOOL SCENE	109
DIVERSIONS	B3	LETTERS	23	SHOWTIME	B10
FILM CLIPS	B12	OBITUARIES	21	SOUND CHECK	B14
FOCUS ON YOUTH	33	OPINION	22	SPORTS	123

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Steer clear



Steer clear

Herd back at Wheeling riding center; owners face Cook County violation

By DAVID KIRKPATRICK
MANAGING EDITOR

5-20-04

It took a little while, but the cows finally came home.

That was all that mattered to Wedgewood Riding Center owner Karen Romer late Saturday morning, shortly after taking a cellular telephone call from a suburban cowboy who rustled up two remaining steer from a herd of 10 that escaped Thursday night.

"I think we did a pretty good job getting them back, considering the area," Romer said. "I'm just glad we got them all back."

The story, however, did not have a completely happy ending.

Cook County Forest Preserve District police issued a citation to Wedgewood for allowing the animals to roam free in the forest preserve, said spokesman Steve Mayberry. Wedgewood could be fined between \$50 and \$500 for the violation, Mayberry said.

It took experienced horseback riders, ropers and a professional cattle tracker and his trained dogs to get the herd back.

No one at Wedgewood knows for sure how they broke to freedom, but John Stone, Wheeling's deputy police chief, said police officials believe an employee left a barn door unlocked.

Some at Wedgewood Saturday suggested the steer may have been spooked by storms Thursday night and forced their way out of their pen.

"Animals react to lightning, thunder and storms in different ways," said Irv Capitel of Long Grove, who boards his horse, Cowboy, at Wedgewood.

Lisa Scharba, who boards Sox and Poco at Wedgewood,



Jim Atwood/For Pioneer Press

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agreed that the weather could have played a role in the animal's escape. She completed her ride Thursday before the storms set in and the excitement started.

"If they are scared, and one starts pushing on the gate, they all start pushing," said Scharba, who lives in Mount Prospect.

Romer said she had no idea how the steer got loose. Wedgewood, Romer said, has kept steer for the past 30 years, as long as her family has owned and operated the facility in Wheeling. She said Wheeling village officials knew the steer were there.

"They've known we've had them here," she said. "We

never hid them."

Code violation

It is against Wheeling's municipal code to keep cattle within village limits. Stone said no citation had been issued to Wedgewood as of Monday, however. Dan Ozanich, community development director for

"They have the nose of a bloodhound and the strength of a bulldog," Gene Green said of the black-mouth kerr and catahoula breeds that were part of the search. Green, a member of the United States Team Roping Association, rides horses at Wedgewood.

Here for sport

The herd that escaped has been at Wedgewood for about two weeks, Romer said. They come from a farm in Spring-

Wheeling, said he planned on talking about issuing a citation with police officials.

Stone also said village officials asked that the steer be removed from the stable about 18 months ago.

"We thought it was taken care of," he said. "About a year-and-a-half ago, they were supposed to move (the cattle) to a farm up north. I mean, we can't keep going up there for this."

Ozanich said the steer were moved to Wisconsin at that time, and no citation was issued. He also said village officials did not know more steer were brought back to the stable.

"They keep them behind the building, so you can't see them unless you go onto the property," he said.

Ozanich said he planned to talk to Wedgewood's owners this week about what to do with the animals.

No danger

According to Romer, the horse owners who board at Wedgewood and the suburban cowboys who searched for the animals, the steer are docile animals and posed no threat to humans during their short taste of freedom.

"They're not like you think of a bull," said Jim Meltreger, a seasoned horseback rider who helped round up the steer. "They are scared of people and horses. They are not a danger to anybody."

"Cattle will not attack you," said boarder Ansel Edidin of Northbrook, who saddled up his horse, Hercules, Saturday, and went for a ride. "They might scare somebody. But they won't hurt anybody."

(Continued on page 20)

"They are at a pretty high level," she said. "They are a bunch of real cowboys."

Wedgewood will be moving to Wauconda from its Wheeling location in the next few months to make way for a Westin hotel development. No one at the riding center Saturday is happy to see it leave.

"It's sad we have to go," Romer said. "It's been a good operation for a lot of years."

Staff writer Casey Moffitt contributed to this report.

Plaza owners get money to build

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

5-1-03

Promises of up-scale tenants and a shopping center that will look like few others in Wheeling prompted village officials to grant financial assistance to the developer of Petersburg Plaza.

At least \$350,000 in tax increment finance funds will be given to the developer of the future Petersburg Plaza, a new shopping center to be built on North Milwaukee Avenue just north of Dundee Road. The TIF funds can be used for infrastructure and utility improvements.

William Hein, working as a consultant on the project, argued the 12-store center deserves TIF incentives because the center will be built to higher standards than other shopping centers in Wheeling and will feature "up-scale" retail shopping. Hein said construction should start by early summer.

"This is a very costly center, compared to others in Wheeling," Hein said.

The incentives do not come without conditions. According to the agreement, TIF dollars will only be doled out by the village as tenants fill the 12 shops in the center up until 2008, when any remaining

"If (the center) is very, very successful, they can capture \$625,000," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. "The downside to the village is, if the \$350,000 mark isn't (surpassed) we're out \$350,000."

The village will also have some control as to what tenants will occupy the center, according to the agreement. A list of prohibited uses was developed by village staff and the developer. The list of the 41 prohibited uses includes laundromats, currency exchanges, dry cleaners, thrift stores, video stores, arcades and tattoo and body-piercing parlors.

Technically, the village cannot prohibit the uses on the list. However, if undesirable tenants move into the center, the developer will not receive TIF dollars for the space leased to them.

Village staff had recommended against granting TIF incentives for the project. Douthwaite said the lack of TIF incentives was never described as a "deal killer" by the developer when the project was originally proposed to the village.

"They haven't proved it's a necessity (to build)," Douthwaite said. "You don't have to give (the incentive) away, and

job getting them back, considering the area," Romer said. "I'm just glad we got them all back."

The story, however, did not have a completely happy ending.

Cook Country Forest Preserve District police issued a citation to Wedgewood for allowing the animals to roam free in the forest preserve, said spokesman Steve Mayberry. Wedgewood could be fined between \$50 and \$500 for the violation, Mayberry said.

It took experienced horseback riders, ropers and a professional cattle tracker and his trained dogs to get the herd back.

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The incentives do not come without conditions. According to the agreement, TIF dollars will only be doled out by the village as tenants fill the 12 shops in the center up until 2008, when any remaining funds will be paid.

The agreement also states that center owners could receive up to \$625,000 in total TIF funds based on the amount of property taxes it generates above \$350,000, which is what village finance officials estimate it will generate.

"If (the center) is very, very successful, they can capture \$625,000," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. "The downside to the village is, if the \$350,000 mark isn't (surpassed) we're out \$350,000."

The village will also have some control as to what tenants will occupy the center, according to the agreement. A list of prohibited uses was developed by village staff and the developer. The list of the 41 prohibited uses includes laundromats, currency exchanges, dry cleaners, thrift stores, video stores, arcades and tattoo and body-piercing parlors.

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"They haven't proved it's a necessity (to build)," Douthwaite said. "You don't have to give (the incentive) away, and you shouldn't give it away."

Hein said the incentive will guarantee a high-quality shopping center.

"This will be one of the finest centers in the village of Wheeling," Hein said. "We're striving to upgrade Wheeling's retail, so it's the wise thing to do."

Tantillo surprises with offer to buy land on Milwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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The proposal now heads to the Village Board, which has the final say on the project.

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Wheeling Power line down

May 1, 2003
By CASS CLIATT
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2 new cars trashed as truck hits bridge

5-1-03
By VERONICA GONZALEZ
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two brand-new Chryslers dove off a semitrailer truck one after the other, crumpling into a mess reminiscent of a driver's ed film, after the truck failed to clear a pedestrian bridge.

The truck struck the bridge at 2:26 p.m. Wednesday on westbound Dundee Road in front of London Middle School in Wheeling.

When the top of the truck hit the bridge — its height marked 13 feet, 11 inches — two 2004 Chrysler models, a Pacifica and Concorde, plummeted to the street.

No one was injured. Westbound traffic was blocked for about 2½ hours while tow trucks hauled the cars away. The concrete bridge also was closed until village inspectors determined it was stable. The truck's driver, Kenneth A.

Sunday of Camden, Mich., was issued a ticket for driving a commercial vehicle with cargo higher than 13 feet, 6 inches.

He was driving a truck owned by Cassens Transport Co., based in Edwardsville, Ill.

It was unclear where the truck was going or coming from.

The company hauls other brands of cars like Nissan, Honda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Kia and Toyota to dealerships and rail yards, according to its Web site.

The height of cargo is usually 13 feet, 7 to 8 inches, said Rick Klein, a dispatcher from a Sterling Heights, Mich., office. He said drivers are supposed to measure their cargo and know where low-clearance bridges are located.

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The company's only other Michigan facility is in Detroit, and it ships Chryslers.

Plan co

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 5-3-03

The blame for a delayed on the redevelopment meant to improve Wheeling image does not lie with the village's plan commission, officials say.

Village staff deliberately misled commissioners in the about talks of building a store on one of Wheeling's significant parcels, said Village Manager Wally Douthwaite.

Plan commissioners spent months putting together a n



Developer Carl Bongiovanni has entered into a contract to sell the Emerald Hills II subdivision to Streamwood-based Kirk Corp.

Truck hits Dundee Road overpass

A truck carrying new cars hit the pedestrian overpass between Field Elementary School and London Middle School April 30, leaving two brand-new Chryslers mangled and laying on Dundee Road.

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"It made a big mess," Kuzynowski said. Kuzynowski said the pedestrian bridge sustained little to no damage, but a village engineer inspected the structure to make sure it remained structurally sound. School children were able to use the bridge later that day.

Kuzynowski said Dundee Road was completely closed for about 45 minutes. Police reduced traffic to one lane in each direction for another hour or two until the cars could be removed from the scene.

Police issued a citation to the truck's driver, Kenneth A. Sunday, 42, of Camden, Mich., for driving a commercial motor vehicle load in excess of 13 feet 6 inches.

The bridge is scheduled to undergo major renovations later this summer or early fall. Village officials agreed to improve the bridge because it has fallen into disrepair and is considered an eyesore. Trustees voted to repair the bridge instead of tearing it down in an effort to maintain safety for students as they cross the street.

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came before the Plan Commission April 24 seeking guidance from commissioners on what would be acceptable if Tantillo bought the property and developed the entire package on its own.

Hein said Tantillo wants to develop the properties as a mixed-use commercial and residential development.

"We are ready, willing and able to acquire all properties in question," Hein said. "We want you to be assured ... we are willing to go on with this project."

But Plan commissioners said they were in no position to give Tantillo Homes any direction on the project, because none of them is aware of any plans by the Village Board to develop the land.

"What you're saying is all hearsay," said Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady.

Other commissioners didn't feel they could provide any guidance to Tantillo because they were caught off guard by the developer's desire to buy the land.

"This is an untenable situation for us and you," Commissioner Steve Boime said. "We're back to a situation where, ostensibly, you need to go to the Board of Trustees and get some direction. We don't know the direction anymore."

Village President Greg Klutec said there are a number of developers interested in building a variety of residential and commercial developments near Lake-Cook and Milwaukee. He said no formal plans for the area have been presented to the board.

Hein argues Tantillo should be the one buying the land and developing it.

"I do not see an advantage for the village to acquire that land when a developer is ready to do it. ... What we're saying is, save your money. We'll buy the land for you," he said.

Smith Family Construction has a contract pending to buy the riding center. Developer Mark Smith said he has not been approached by either Tantillo or the village regarding the purchase of the property.

The TRUCKS ...

Road and Milwaukee Avenue that village officials also have their eye on.

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The plan also calls for 12 outdoor seats, with no indoor seating.

Achim said Starbucks plans to use the existing 800-square-foot building for the shop, but some changes will be made to its appearance.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who has yearned for a Starbucks in town, thinks the former Town Pantry is a "perfect place" for the coffee shop.

"I think businesses are realizing that Wheeling is a different community than perceived by a lot of people," she said.

"It looks like a barn right now," Achim said. "We want to 'de-bar' it. We want to re-image it so it does look like 'Old MacDonald's Coffee'."

Drive-through shops are a new so far successful, concept for Starbucks, Lauer said. The site will be for about eight cars in the drive-through lane, and Lauer said the average wait time from the menu board to the window will be 5 to 7 minutes compared to 4 minutes inside a typical Starbucks.

Randy Wright, operator of House of Rentals that abuts the property to the north, told commission-

Wheeling approves plan for upscale retail mall

May 1, 2003

By CASS CLIATT
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Trustees approved \$350,000 in tax incentives for the Petersburg Place project set for 119-145 N. Milwaukee Ave., but

not before questions from one trustee who wanted to ensure Wheeling can assure a return on its investment.

Glenview developer Alex Babitsky plans to build a 12-store mall that will attract a jeweler and high-end shops of the caliber of Caribou Coffee and Haagen-Dazs.

The development's location is within Wheeling's Crossroads tax increment financing district, which expires in eight

years.

In the TIF district, valuations of the properties in the area are frozen for 23 years, limiting the amount of property taxes paid to area taxing bodies.

The actual increase in property values realized over that period is redirected into the TIF district to pay for infrastructure upgrades and development improvements.

"We're asking the taxpayers of Wheeling to come up with \$350,000 to give to this partnership, which calls itself Northstar Plaza LLC, a limited liability partnership," Trustee Bob Heer said of the company formed to develop the mall.

"The problem is, we know nothing about this partnership," Heer said.

"Have they ever been bankrupt before? Who are these

partners?" Babitsky asserted never been bankrupt no judgments filed.

He explained that 95-percent share ownership and a Chi holds 5 percent.

Wheeling councilman Ferolo told Heer that was following a committee to protect share-

Plan commission not to blame, critics

By CASS CLIATT
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The blame for a delayed vote on the redevelopment plan meant to improve Wheeling's image does not lie with the village's plan commission, officials say.

Village staff deliberately kept commissioners in the dark about talks of building a retail store on one of Wheeling's last significant parcels, said Village Manager Wally Douthwaite.

Plan commissioners spent 15 months putting together a rede-



Wally Douthwaite

velopment blueprint for Wheeling's future, unaware they were proposing residential development for an area that could easily go retail.

Revelations made this week about talks with an unnamed developer to build on the land bordered by McHenry and Buffalo Grove roads prompted village officials to postpone a final vote on the

comprehensive plan, returning it to the drawing board.

"I don't see the plan commission's role as looking at ultimate land use with an eye toward how much revenue a given land use can generate," Douthwaite said of the decision not to inform commissioners of the retail talks. "We would pollute the plan commission's mind with any developer, (and) commissioners might be distracted from their goal, which is to establish an ideal. So, I'd like to deflect any criticism of the plan commission."

Some trustees have questioned why the village the final authority, went to the commission's reconsider last-minute changes before trustees.

Trustees were set to vote on the plan only after a workshop during which they said that it conformed to the plan for an improved Wheeling.

"How can this make a workshop (and) to the want to vote on it, an one's saying, 'Let's go back to the drawing board?'" Trustee Heer asked.

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Wheeling gave the final OK this week to help build an upscale retail mall on Milwaukee Avenue before time runs out on the tax aid the village can give to improve the area.

Trustees approved \$350,000 in tax incentives for the Petersburg Place project set for 119-145 N. Milwaukee Ave., but

not before questions from one trustee who wanted to ensure Wheeling can assure a return on its investment.

Glenview developer Alex Babitsky plans to build a 12-store mall that will attract a jeweler and high-end shops of the caliber of Caribou Coffee and Haagen-Dazs.

The development's location is within Wheeling's Crossroads tax increment financing dis-

trict, which expires in eight years.

In the TIF district, valuations of the properties in the area are frozen for 23 years, limiting the amount of property taxes paid to area taxing bodies.

The actual increase in property values realized over that period is redirected into the TIF district to pay for infrastructure upgrades and development improvements.

"We're asking the taxpayers of Wheeling to come up with \$350,000 to give to this partnership, which calls itself Northstar Plaza LLC, a limited liability partnership," Trustee Bob Heer said of the company formed to develop the mall.

"The problem is, we know nothing about this partnership," Heer said.

"Have they ever been bankrupt before? Who are these

partners?"

Babitsky asserted he has never been bankrupt and has no judgments filed against him.

He explained that he holds a 95-percent share of the partnership and a Chicago man holds 5 percent.

Wheeling counsel James Ferolo told Heer that Babitsky was following a common practice to protect shareholders

from liability when developing. Ferolo also said that three-year minimum leases written into the tax-incentive agreement should protect Wheeling from having a mall that sits empty.

Wheeling will give the \$350,000 on a pro-rated basis, only if tenants don't appear on a list of "prohibited uses" that includes currency exchanges, dry cleaners and resale shops.

Plan commission not to blame, official says

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 5-3-03



Wally Douthwaite

The blame for a delayed vote on the redevelopment plan meant to improve Wheeling's image does not lie with the village's plan commission, officials say.

Village staff deliberately kept commissioners in the dark about talks of building a retail store on one of Wheeling's last significant parcels, said Village Manager Wally Douthwaite.

Plan commissioners spent 15 months putting together a rede-

velopment blueprint for Wheeling's future, unaware they were proposing residential development for an area that could easily go retail.

Revelations made this week about talks with an unnamed developer to build on the land bordered by McHenry and Buffalo Grove roads prompted village officials to postpone a final vote on the

comprehensive plan, returning it to the drawing board.

"I don't see the plan commission's role as looking at ultimate land use with an eye toward how much revenue a given land use can generate," Douthwaite said of the decision not to inform commissioners of the retail talks. "We would pollute the plan commission's mind with any developer, (and) commissioners might be distracted from their goal, which is to establish an ideal. So, I'd like to deflect any criticism of the plan commission."

Some trustees had questioned why the village board, the final authority, would defer to the commission's request to consider last-minute plan changes before trustees vote.

Trustees were set to approve the plan only after agreeing during a workshop last week that it conformed to their vision for an improved Wheeling.

"How can this make it to the workshop (and) to the eve we want to vote on it, and everyone's saying, 'Let's go back to the drawing board?'" Trustee Bob Heer asked.

Other trustees agreed that plan commissioners and trustees should have worked together earlier. They decided to hold a joint workshop to "get it right" within 30 days.

"The plan commission did their job, OK?" Trustee Dean Argiris said. "They worked very, very hard, not just with our community, but with everyone else. It's up to the village board — do we have the same vision?"

Argiris said he wants to make sure the village is "not coming back every six weeks and making changes."

rs trashed hits bridge

Sunday of Camden, Mich., was issued a ticket for driving a commercial vehicle with cargo higher than 13 feet, 6 inches.

He was driving a truck owned by Cassens Transport Co., based in Edwardsville, Ill.

It was unclear where the truck

ass be- School and lay- are 2:30 Chrysler zynow- little to ture to children sed for in each I be re- eth A. nercial as later nrove consid- instead uents

Announcement puts hold on land plan

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

5-8-03

The possibility of a major commercial addition to Wheeling has delayed the approval of a new land-use plan that calls for residential development on the same piece of property.

"I don't fault the Plan Commission at all. You don't know when these (developers) will walk away."

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite

their deliberations. Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said village officials intentionally kept some potential proposals from plan commissioners while they worked on the plan. He said officials did not want plan commissioners "tainted" with information about a potential development that may never materialize.

"I don't fault the Plan Commission at all," Douthwaite said. "You don't know when these (developers) will walk away."

Trustees also had questions about other land-use proposals included in the plan. Trustee Dean Argiris said he favors commercial development along Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road instead of the mixed-use designation forwarded by the Plan Commission that could also allow for the construction of residential units.

(Continued on page 9)

Village officials are keeping all details of the possible commercial development quiet, but the announcement that the site could be used for commercial use prompted trustees to delay approval of a new comprehensive land-use plan. The plan will serve as a blueprint for village growth, and has been in the making since December 2001.

News of the possible development on vacant land between Buffalo Grove and McHenry roads came during a Village Board meeting last week when approval of the comprehensive plan also was on the agenda.

"Do we want to say residential (use) on a parcel when we know a commercial use is putting stakes in the ground?" Trustee Patrick Hercher asked. "We paid for the best plan, and we need to stick to this."

Plan commissioners were unaware of the potential commercial development during

commission meetings. The Plan Commission typically meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in council chambers at Village Hall.

Land plan Continued from page 8

Plan commissioners and trustees agreed to hold a workshop session June 2 to discuss the plan and what steps should be taken to ensure that all development scenarios included in it will serve the village's best interests.

"I'd hate to see you approve

a plan, knowing you're going to go against it right away," Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady told trustees. "There's no sense in starting out by contradicting it."

Trustees commended the Plan Commission's work and the work of hired consultants Camiros, who helped guide

the commission through the lengthy planning process.

"The Plan Commission did its job, and Camiros did their job," Argiris said. "If (the plan) needs tweaking, let's do it right so we're not coming back every six weeks or two months and keep changing it."

Village to bid Friendship Park lands

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

5-8-03

The matter of adding more landscaping to the grounds of Friendship Park evolved into a debate about the benefits of bidding village contracts versus granting familiar companies jobs without first seeing what the competition has to offer.

Wheeling trustees decided to bid a landscape design and planting contract for the park at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue rather than waive the process and accept a proposal submitted by the Wheeling-based Brickman Group.

Trustees selected Brickman last month to maintain the park's landscaping, and the firm included a landscape design proposal calling for new annual flowers and other plantings to complement what is currently there. Brickman did not charge the village for the landscaping design.

Trustees, however, agreed to bid the project after seeing Brickman's \$56,000 fee to plant the vegetation on both corners of the park.

"It's a lot of money to not go out to bid," said Village President Greg Klatecki.

Trustee Robert Heer insisted the village bid the project, also because of the cost.

"There is no question Brickman does good work," he said. "I just want everything to be on the up and up and give others an opportunity to bid."

The recommendation to waive the bidding process was made by the Village Board's ad hoc park committee, made up of trustees Trevor Lehmann and Dean Argiris. Lehmann said he favored Brickman doing the work because the firm already handles weekly maintenance at the park.

"The idea behind the ad hoc committee was to find good, quality people to do good, quality work (at the park)," Lehmann said. "Nobody disputed Brickman as a quality company, and they're local."

Lehmann said he has no problem sending the project out to bid. But he said the delay in the process will mean the park will not be in full



Trustees decided they can wait to see Friendship Park in full to bid a landscape design and planting project.

bloom for those people who take pictures there when they celebrate graduations and weddings this year.

Heer said the wait could be worth the money the village may save by bidding the project.

ect.
"I can see their side, that they want to get it planted," he said. "But (the park) could nickel and dime the village to death."

Klatecki said the planting o

Paint-a-thon homes wanted

Organizers of the 16th annual Community Paint-A-Thon are looking for qualified homes to paint this coming September.

A team of volunteers from Village Hall paints a home each

Budget calls for increase in utility taxes

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

6-8-03

Wheeling residents and business owners will see higher gas and electric bills this year because the Village Board has hiked utility taxes.

The village will use the extra income to cover the

jump to 4 percent this year is expected to generate \$1.2 million after it takes effect June 1. The tax could generate up to \$2.1 million annually.

The increase will affect businesses, especially industry, in Wheeling more than it will residents. Village officials said industry and business account for about 72 percent of all electricity consumed and about 65 percent of all natural gas used in the village.

William Black, a project manager at Sauk Machine Works, Ltd., a custom machine parts manufacturer in Wheeling, said he thought the increase was "pretty significant" in what it will cost the company.

Sauk pays Commonwealth Edison about \$3,500 each month in electricity bills. Black estimates the company's village electricity tax will climb to \$140 a month from about \$35 a month.

Trustees voted on increasing the use tax as an alternative to raising property taxes. The village would have increased its property tax levy by more than 9 percent if trustees decided to borrow money to pay for the improvements and used property tax increases to pay back the loans.

Instead, the levy increased by 36 percent because trustees agreed to fund the improvements through utility taxes. The increased use tax will also save the village more than \$3 million in interest payments, because the projects will be paid with available cash rather than through borrowing.

cost of repairing streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure. The higher fees are included in Wheeling's \$36.7 million budget that trustees approved unanimously April 28.

Increases in natural gas and electricity taxes will help fund this year's capital-improvement projects, which continue to take up a large part of the budget.

Other revenue sources for funding capital improvements include the motor fuel tax, the Crossroads and Southern tax increment finance districts and a \$1 million infusion from the existing general fund balance.

Water rates are not expected to increase this year. But the budget does include \$25,000 for a professional water and sewer rate study. Finance Director Michael Mondschain said the study will examine if current rates are appropriate and if a more equitable system of collecting water and sewer fees can be implemented.

In other budgetary matters, the village is altering its fiscal year to align with the calendar year beginning in 2004, which is why the \$36.7 million budget is so much less than last year's \$53.8 million budget.

The 2003 budget began May 1 and will run through Dec. 31. The new budget calendar should make it easier for the village to establish an accurate annual levy that will better reflect spending needs, said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. Under the old fiscal year, the village had to estimate its tax revenues based on two different years.

Douthwaite also said the new fiscal year could save the village money when putting capital projects out to bid. The new fiscal year will allow the village to bid projects during the winter months, while contractors are idle and looking for work. Village officials have typically bid projects in the spring, when contractors are busier and seeking higher fees.

Wheeling officials have budgeted to spend \$6.4 million in improvements to village streets, sidewalks, water mains and sewer lines this year.

Increasing the tax on natural gas and electric bills to 4 percent comes after the Village Board initially implemented a 1 percent use tax in September. The

(Continued on page 9)

459-2670 or stop by the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St. in Wheeling.

Board delays Starbucks vote

The Wheeling Village Board sent a proposal from Starbucks Coffee back to the Plan Commission in an effort to design a better layout to handle traffic flow. The company's proposal calling for a drive-through shop at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Strong Street where the former Town Pantry stands includes a walk-up window and outdoor seating. Trustees don't believe there is enough room between parking spaces facing Milwaukee Avenue and cars waiting for the drive-through window. They have concerns that someone wanting to back out from a parking space would have little or no room to maneuver around cars waiting in the drive-through lane. Starbucks' representative Mike Achim said he was confident the site plan would work. He said most customers who choose to park should have little problem navigating the lot because drive-through customers typically come for their coffee in the morning while most walk-up traffic would come in the afternoon.

Trustees were not convinced, however, and they asked Starbucks to rework the site one more time with village staff.

"As much as I want you there," President Greg Klatecki said, "I would like you to take one more look at this."

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By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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Village

By CASEY MOFFITT

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Plan commission to be on TV 5-8-03

Wheeling Plan Commission meetings will appear on cable channel 17 beginning tonight (May 8) so the public can see how the commission works.

The Village Board approved of the idea at its April 28 meeting. Trustees said the move was done so the public can see how a development evolves while it is at the commission level.

The Plan Commission is assigned to examine projects before they reach the Village Board. During the process, commissioners tell developers how to change their projects to make them more acceptable. The commission then sends a recommendation to the Village Board, which has the final say.

There will be no additional costs to the village to broadcast commission meetings. The Plan Commission typically meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in council chambers at Village Hall.

Budget

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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Paint-a-thon homes wanted 5-8-03

Organizers of the 16th annual Community Paint-A-Thon are looking for qualified homes to paint this coming September.

A team of volunteers from Village Hall paints a home each year. Other businesses or organizations are also invited to take part in the paint-a-thon as volunteer painters.

Nancy Janssen, director of senior services, said homes are being sought now for the Sept. 6 event. Qualified homeowners must be at least 60 years old or have a permanent disability that prevents them from painting their own home. Qualified home owners cannot have an annual income that exceeds \$25,000.

The selection committee will take excessive expenses, like prescription drug costs or medical bills, into account when making its decision.

Those looking for applications to get their homes painted or to become volunteers should contact Janssen at (847) 459-2670 or stop by the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 N. First St. in Wheeling.

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A new downtown will require financial help

BY CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

May 15, 2003

Village officials are planning to establish another tax increment financing district around the intersection of Dundee and Wheeling roads to help spur the development of a new town center.

The Wheeling Village Board is expected May 19 to discuss the selection of a consultant who will help village staff create the new TIF district. The beginning stages of establishing the new TIF will include the consultant's evaluation of the area to see which parcels to include and to conduct a qualifying study that is required by law.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said establishing the TIF is the easiest method for the village to build a new town center.

"When you establish the TIF district, the existing base of property taxes continue to flow to the various taxing bodies," he said. "Any additional development created as a result of the TIF, and the taxes generated, goes directly to the village to help pay for improvements needed to spur redevelopment."

Tax dollars are frozen to other taxing bodies through the life of the TIF, which can last up to 23 years, according to state statute. Additional tax dollars generated through the TIF are put into a separate fund, which allows the village to use money outside of its annual levy to help spur redevelopment.

Those funds can be used to acquire land or make infrastructure improvements in the district. TIF dollars can also be given to private developers to help with projects.

Douthwaite said he expects the village will want to acquire quite a bit of land in the new TIF district for a new town center. He said he expects some infrastructure improvements will also have to be made.

Traffic flow could be an issue in the area if more shopping and residential opportunities arise in the new district, and TIF dollars could help alleviate traffic concerns.

Commonwealth Edison also has its high-tension power lines in the area, which might have to be moved or buried. What can be done with those power lines is still unknown.

"We learned it would cost about \$1 million to bury each pole," Douthwaite said. "Even

if money were no object, there are a lot of utilities in the ground there already."

A major natural gas line and water main run underneath those power lines as well as cable television lines.

"It's one of the things we'll have to talk about," Douthwaite said.

The creation of TIF districts can upset officials from other taxing bodies when they lose out on tax dollars. Douthwaite said it is "too early to tell" how other taxing bodies in the village will respond to the creation of the new TIF.

"A lot, I think, will depend on the amount of residential building (proposed) in the area," he said. "If there's no residential building, it won't really affect the schools or libraries."

If the TIF is established, it will be village's fourth. The Village Board established one around the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road intersection in February. Another was established around the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection, called the Crossroads TIF. That one is set to expire in 2008. The other is just south of the Crossroads TIF, which was established in July 2000.

Wheeling raises Teen preserves

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer
May 15, 2003

Shortly after she was forced to perform sex acts with her attacker, a 17-year-old Elk Grove Village girl saved crucial DNA evidence that, years later, would lead police to the man now on trial for the 1997 attack. She didn't rinse her mouth or brush her teeth.

Electricity and gas used rather than on the bill itself. Still, the calculation is not much different according to Village Manager Wally Douthwaite. Residents will pay \$3 more for every \$100 of gas and electricity they use. Trustees unanimously approved the increase Monday. The tax increase is expected to generate about \$2 million a



John Gert Johnson

an assault, experts say.

Talks on crea

BY CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

5-15-03

The wheels of a new "downtown" development around Wheeling's Metra station are beginning to turn.

Village officials sat down with consultants to begin planning for the area's future. Representatives from S.B. Friedman and Company, the Lakota and the Metro Transportation Group asked a project committee made up of trustees, planners, economic development commissioners, and other village staff members what they envision developing about 145 acres around the station along Dundee Road.

"This has been a long time coming," said Whitmer, Wheeling's economic development director. "This is much warranted and much needed in the community."

S.B. Friedman is the main consultant for the

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Did you know?

Most residents know they need a building permit to add a deck, garage or addition to their homes. Some other projects requiring permits might surprise many residents. The Wheeling Village Board is expected to increase permit fees at its May 27 meeting.

Permit type	Proposed fee
Burglar alarm	\$25
Central air conditioner replacement	\$20
Dog run	\$20
Furnace replacement	\$20
Satellite dish (18" or under)	\$25
Satellite dish (over 18")	\$40
Siding	\$25 minimum
Water heater replacement	\$20
Water softener	\$25

Source: Village of Wheeling

Pioneer Press/LRK

Adding satellite TV? Expect to pay more

east. It follows Wheeling Road south, just past Catherine Court. The plan also includes Old McHenry Road to the junction with Route 83 to the north.

Village officials say they want to see a redevelopment plan that complements the institutions in the area and the train station, as well as modernizes the strip-mall commercial uses along Dundee Road.

Members of the special committee said they would like to see a mixed-use development around the train station, which would offer condominium housing and shopping opportunities. Some entertainment, such as taverns, ice cream shops or coffee shops, are also desired.

However, making sure all the uses in the area complement each other will be a critical element of the plan.

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"This needs to be more than just the sum of its parts. It needs to be coordinated."

There are a lot of small businesses that have been here a long time, and they're here because they feel they're part of the community," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "They need to be involved."

The consultants agreed that having those businesspeople involved will be necessary for the project's success.

"You can't depend on a Panera Bread to move in," LaMotte said. "(Small businesses) will be part of the plan."

Funding for the planning process has been secured with a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority through its Regional Technical Assistance Program. The planning process is expected to conclude in October.

The nine-member special committee formed to oversee the process is made up of Village President Greg Klatacki, Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady, Community Development Director Dan Ozanich, Lehmann, Harris and Whitmer. Others on the committee include Jan Buchs, executive director of the park district; Bill Stasek of Stasek Chevrolet, who is representing the Wheeling Heights Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and John Flanagan, chairman of the Economic Development Commission.

A new downtown will require financial help

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Wheeling raises energy tax to pay for roads

added that most of the money raised by the tax increase will be paid by businesses rather than residents. Trustee Judy Abruscato said the vote was a "painful" one for her as she has previously opposed the gas and electricity tax altogether. However, the amount of projects to be completed needed dedicated funding, she said. "Sometimes we need to do what we don't want to do," she said. "Reliable money dedicated for all the capital improvement is the best thing for the village. Our taxes will stay reasonable and our residents will be happy." The tax increase goes into effect June 1.

such projects. The alternative to the gas and electricity tax increase was issuing \$6 million in bonds that would be repaid with a property tax increase. Rather than go into debt, the gas and electricity tax increase gives the village a "pay-as-you-go" funding mechanism for the projects, Douthwaite said. He

year. That money will pool with \$500,000 of the existing utility tax money and a one-quarter cent earmarking of the sales tax to give the village a dedicated fund for capital improvement projects. Such a fund has not previously existed. The village has always raised money on an annual basis through various means to fund

tricity and gas used rather than on the bill itself. Still, the calculation is not much different, according to Village Manager Wally Douthwaite. Residents will pay \$3 more for every \$100 of gas and electricity they use. Trustees unanimously approved the increase Monday. The tax increase is expected to generate about \$2 million a

ing residents will take it to fund village road and alk improvements as this week raised the gas cricity tax, which will increase to ent from 1 percent, is on the amount of elec-

MES FULLER
STAFF WRITER
May 15, 2003

Talks on creating Wheeling "downtown" begin

By CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

5-15-03

The wheels of a new "downtown" development project around Wheeling's Metra station are beginning to turn.

Village officials sat down with consultants May 6 to begin planning for the area's future. Representatives from S.B. Friedman and Company, the Lakota Group and the Metro Transportation Group asked a special project committee made up of trustees, plan commissioners, economic development commissioners and other village staff members what they envision in redeveloping about 145 acres around the station and along Dundee Road.

"This has been a long time coming," said William Whitmer, Wheeling's economic development director. "This is much warranted and much needed in the community."

S.B. Friedman is the main consultant for the plan-

ning process. Tanya Vartivarian, a Friedman senior project manager, said Friedman's main role in the process will be to examine market conditions to see what kinds of redevelopment will work in the area. Friedman will also look at the demographics of the village, current land uses in the area and redevelopment options.

John LaMotte, a Lakota principal, said his group's expertise is in looking at physical conditions of the area, finding "development opportunity sites" and proposing a variety of redevelopment options.

Robert Duboe, Metro Transportation vice president, said the firm will study traffic implications of the redevelopment project. All three groups have worked together in the past on other downtown revitalization projects similar to the Wheeling project.

The consultants were encouraged to see what the village has done to prepare for the planning process. The new comprehensive plan is nearly complete, and a flood study is coming in July. The consultants also

said the proximity of Village Hall, the Community Recreation Center, post office and St. Joseph the Worker Church already bring people to the area, which should help the success of the project.

"You have a lot of institutions in the area, so people are coming on a regular basis," LaMotte said. "That's good news."

Metra is also planning to lay a second set of tracks near the Wheeling station, which will add twice as many trains coming to and leaving the station. That should create more convenient schedules for more commuters.

Metra currently has a limited weekday schedule from Wheeling and no weekend trains. The double-tracking, planned to be completed in 2005 or 2006, should increase ridership.

The area targeted for redevelopment stretches from London Middle School on the west end, along Dundee Road and to the Community Recreation Center to the

(Continued on page 9)

east. It follows Wheeling Road south, just past Catherine Court. The plan also includes Old McHenry Road to the junction with Route 83 to the north.

Village officials say they want to see a redevelopment plan that complements the institutions in the area and the train station, as well as modernizes the strip-mall commercial uses along Dundee Road.

Members of the special committee said they would like to

"There are a lot of small businesses that have been here a long time, and they're here because they feel they're part of the community," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "They need to be involved."

The consultants agreed that having those businesspeople involved will be necessary for the project's success.

"You can't depend on a Panera Bread to move in," LaMotte said. "Small businesses will be part of the plan."

Expect to pay more for village permit

By CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

5-15-03

Looking to enhance your television variety by going satellite? You'll need a village

Director Dan Ozanich said issuing permits and conducting inspections help ensure the safety of residents and their homes after renovations and

This needs to be more than just the

STAFF WRITER
May 15, 2003

Village officials are planning to establish another tax increment financing district around the intersection of Dundee and Wheeling roads to help spur the development of a new town center.

The Wheeling Village Board is expected May 19 to discuss the selection of a consultant who will help village staff create the new TIF district. The beginning stages of establishing the new TIF will include the consultant's evaluation of the area to see which parcels to include and to conduct a qualifying study that is required by law.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said establishing the TIF is the easiest method for the village to build a new town center.

"When you establish the TIF district, the existing base of property taxes continue to flow to the various taxing bodies," he said. "Any additional development created as a result of the TIF, and the taxes generated, goes directly to the village to help pay for improvements needed to spur redevelopment."

Other taxing bodies through the life of the TIF, which can last up to 23 years, according to state statute. Additional tax dollars generated through the TIF are put into a separate fund, which allows the village to use money outside of its annual levy to help spur redevelopment.

Those funds can be used to acquire land or make infrastructure improvements in the district. TIF dollars can also be given to private developers to help with projects.

Douthwaite said he expects the village will want to acquire quite a bit of land in the new TIF district for a new town center. He said he expects some infrastructure improvements will also have to be made.

Traffic flow could be an issue in the area if more shopping and residential opportunities arise in the new district, and TIF dollars could help alleviate traffic concerns.

Commonwealth Edison also has its high-tension power lines in the area, which might have to be moved or buried. What can be done with those power lines is still unknown.

"We learned it would cost about \$1 million to bury each pole," Douthwaite said. "Even

are a lot of times in the ground there already."

A major natural gas line and water main run underneath those power lines as well as cable television lines.

"It's one of the things we'll have to talk about," Douthwaite said.

The creation of TIF districts can upset officials from other taxing bodies since they lose out on tax dollars. Douthwaite said it is "too early to tell" how other taxing bodies in the village will respond to the creation of the new TIF.

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If the TIF is established, it will be village's fourth. The Village Board established one around the Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road intersection in February. Another was established around the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue intersection, called the Crossroads TIF. That one is set to expire in 2008. The other is just south of the Crossroads TIF, which was established in July 2000.

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Village officials say they want to see a redevelopment plan that complements the institutions in the area and the train station, as well as modernizes the strip-mall commercial uses along Dundee Road.

Members of the special committee said they would like to see a mixed-use development around the train station, which would offer condominium housing and shopping opportunities. Some entertainment, such as taverns, ice cream shops or coffee shops, are also desired.

However, making sure all the uses in the area complement each other will be a critical element of the plan.

"This needs to be more than just the sum of its parts," said Jeff Harris, village planner. "It needs to be coordinated. The between uses will be critical."

There will be some obstacles to overcome. Members of the planning committee listed the location of high-tension power lines, the need to move Meyer Material and easing traffic flow in the area as challenges to the plan. The committee also stressed the importance of getting small-business owners involved in the process.

"There are a lot of small businesses that have been here a long time, and they're here because they feel they're part of the community," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "They need to be involved."

The consultants agreed that having those businesspeople involved will be necessary for the project's success.

"You can't depend on a Panera Bread to move in," LaMotte said. "(Small businesses) will be part of the plan."

Funding for the planning process has been secured with a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority through its Regional Technical Assistance Program. The planning process is expected to conclude in October.

The nine-member special committee formed to oversee the process is made up of Village President Greg Klatecki, Plan Commission Chairman Ken Brady, Community Development Director Dan Ozanich, Lehmann, Harris and Whitmer. Others on the committee include Jan Buchs, executive director of the park district; Bill Stasek of Stasek Chevrolet, who is representing the Wheeling/Overport Heights Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and John Flannagan, chairman of the Economic Development Commission.

"This needs to be more than just the sum of its parts. It needs to be coordinated."

Expect to pay more for village permit

By CASEY E. MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
5-15-03

Looking to enhance your television variety by going satellite? You'll need a village permit.

That old water heater break down? You'll need a permit if you want to install a new one.

Thinking of putting up a dog run for the family pet to enjoy?

You got it. You have to get a permit first.

Wheeling officials plan to increase building permit fees for the first time since 1987, making them more in line with the costs associated with inspections conducted by the village.

And some projects like those mentioned above that require permits might come as a surprise to many residents. Most people understand that a permit is required to build a deck, add a garage or re-roof a home, for example. But permits are also needed for such mundane things as installing a satellite dish or a dog run, and even replacing a water heater.

The Village Board is expected to approve a long list of new residential permit fees during a meeting May 27. Most will increase by \$5 or \$10, but some are going up more substantially. Fees to install a hot tub, for example, could rise by as much as \$40.

Community Development

Director Dan Ozanich said issuing permits and conducting inspections help ensure the safety of residents and their homes after renovations and remodeling projects. Business owners also pay for commercial permit fees, which Ozanich said are more expensive than residential permits in an effort to "lessen the impact to residents."

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, said the village collects about \$150,000 annually from permit fees. He was unsure how much more the village would collect if and when the new fees are imposed.

With such things as the installation of a new water heater or water softener requiring a village permit before work can begin, Trustee Trevor Lehmann wanted to be sure that residents are aware of the rules. Ozanich said the village plans to include lists in "Village Views," the village newsletter that is published every other month. The complete list also is posted on the village's Web site.

The minimum penalty for building without a permit also is expected to increase to \$50 or twice the amount of the original permit. The maximum penalty would be set at \$500.

District 21 Board set to cut budget

BY CASEY E. MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

About 10 of the eliminated positions include classroom teachers and bilingual teachers. The

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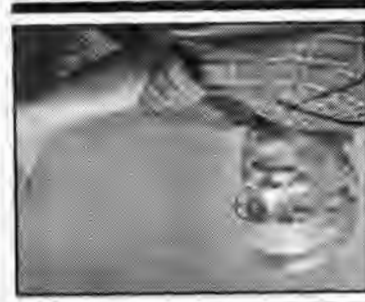
PAUL SASSONE	18	IMAGES	88
SCHOOL SCENE	27	CLASSIFIED ADS	C1
SHOWTIME	B10	CROSSWORD	B26
SPORTS	101	DIVERISIONS	B3
WEDDINGS	89	EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS	96
		PEEK AT THE WEEK	28
		POLICE BLOTTER	12
		PROPERTY TRANSFERS	96
		ROLL CALL	21

Budget

Continued from page 5

increasing fees. The district will increase student fees by \$5 and summer school fees by \$8 per week, raising that tuition to \$33 per week from \$25.

Intersession fees for those schools that offer a year-round continuous learning calendar will also increase from \$10 per week to \$28. The board also reduced the number of weeks of intersession courses to four



at parades

School Board approves warehouse addition

BY CASEY E. MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

A tour of the Wheeling Elementary School District 21 warehouse facility convinced School Board members to spend nearly \$900,000 to build an addition that would provide more space for those who keep the schools up and running.

Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Gheorghe Trifon requested the 10,000-square-foot addition

so that employees would have more work space and to provide more storage space for district vehicles and records. Money to fund the addition will come from the \$21.5 million building referendum voters approved in March 2001.

Trifon gave board members a tour of the existing facility, located just behind the administration building on Dundee Road, immediately before their May 15 meeting. The tour made a real impression on some.

Board member Kathy Edmonds said she was "shocked" to see how inadequate the space was for the work that needs to be done in the warehouse. Trifon's staff fixes computers and audiovisual equipment in the workshop, and they also make repairs to heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units. The addition will also be used to house outdoor stages for special events, which are currently stored off-site.

Trifon said the district saves money

by doing many repairs in-house.

"We can save a lot of money by being able to fix equipment ... and deliver it to classrooms quickly and efficiently," he said. "Right now, we have about a 4-foot by 4-foot space where two guys work."

The district has also had a problem with deterring vandalism to its vehicles, which are now stored outside. Windows get broken, tires punctured and a plow from a truck has been stolen in the past, Trifon said.

(Continued on page 17)

The school district also will save \$18,000 annually that is currently spent for the storage of machine parts and other items. Other aspects of the addition include new office space, additional district meeting space and a training room. With the new office space, the building department will move out of the administration building and into the warehouse, which will allow the district's technology department to vacate space in the Hawthorne School building and move into the District 21 Administration Building. It will also free office space for the department of instruction.

The school district allocated about \$450,000 in referendum funds for work on the warehouse, but cost savings from projects last summer allowed the district to spend more money on warehouse improvements, said Dan Cash, District 21 finance director.

Robber beaten with own gun faces 30 years

BY TONY GORDON
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

A Wheeling man faces up to 30 years in prison after being convicted Friday of attacking people at automatic teller machines in three Lake County communities.

Thomas Cooper, 22, was arrested when his third intended victim ripped the .22-caliber revolver being pointed at him out of Cooper's hand and beat him on the head with it.

Cooper, of 107 E. Dundee Road, robbed people at ATMs in Mundelein and Libertyville on Oct. 25 before meeting his match later that day in Vernon

Hills, Assistant State's Attorney Eric Kalata said.

From a man at a Mundelein bank at 685 S. Route 83, Cooper took \$1,000, a cell phone, a wallet containing credit cards and car keys.

Another \$1,040, a cell phone and car keys were stolen from a man at Hulburt and Park in Libertyville about 30 minutes later.

In Vernon Hills, Cooper approached a man at an ATM at Hawthorn Center and demanded cash, but the man grabbed Cooper's gun from his hand.

"The victim meted out a significant pounding," Kalata said. "He hit the defendant on the top of his head with the butt of

the weapon hard enough to break the grips off the pistol."

Cooper fled the scene, but the weapon was traced to his parents' home. He was arrested two days later after the Vernon Hills victim identified a picture of Cooper police had obtained.

Cooper gave police a 17-page confession. He had cuts, bruises and abrasions on his head and face suffered in the fight with the man in Vernon Hills.

Police had a DNA test done on blood found on the intended victim's shirt that showed the odds were 1 in 5.42 quadrillion that it came from someone other than Cooper.

He was convicted of two armed robberies and one

attempted armed robbery after at trial before Associate Judge John Phillips.

Cooper did not contest any of the evidence at trial or call any witnesses on his behalf. Defense attorney Ralph Strathmann of Waukegan said he intends to appeal the conviction.

Strathmann said he does not believe police had probable cause to take Cooper into custody when they did, and that any evidence against him gathered after that should not be used.

Phillips scheduled a sentencing hearing for July 17, allowing Cooper to remain free until then on the \$25,000 cash bond he had posted.

Police to open center on Wolf Road

Purchase of building allows village to increase presence, enhance services

BY CASEY E. MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board agreed to buy a two-story building at 99 N. Wolf Road and turn it into a community resource center for the Police Department.

The agreement, reached at the board's May 27 meeting, allows the village to purchase the building for \$275,000 with money from the village's reserve fund.

"That's the advantage of having a healthy reserve fund," said Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite. "You can take advantage of unexpected opportunities like this."

Douthwaite said Police Chief John Popadowski made it known soon after

Douthwaite became the village manager in September that the department wanted a resource center in that particular neighborhood, which has seen gang and other criminal activity.

"This will give us more of a police presence in an area that has seen it's share of problems," Douthwaite said.

Sgt. John Teevans of the Police Department's crime prevention unit said the unit will relocate from the current police station to the new building. The center will also be used to host neighborhood watch meetings, the Citizens Police Academy, rape aggression defense classes and for child safety seat inspections and training. A social worker will also be stationed in the center, Teevans said.

The center also will be open for residents to file complaints or talk about issues in their neighborhoods. The location is within walking distance from the Pavilion Senior Center, allowing the department to offer services specifically for the elderly population at the facility.

Teevans said he was excited to hear the Village Board agreed to buy the building in the exact location the department wanted to put the center.

"We were talking to businesses in the area to see if they had space available where we could operate the center," he said. "We were talking to those businesses when the building became available and the village decided to look into it."

Moving the crime prevention unit

out of the police station will also free up badly needed space for the rest of the department, Teevans said.

There are businesses in the newly acquired building, and some residents live in a three-bedroom apartment upstairs. The department will have to wait for leases to expire before renovating the building and moving in. Teevans said other businesses and residents in the neighborhood are excited to see the center open.

"The residents are glad to see us take a more active role," he said. "All the reaction from surrounding businesses and residents has been positive."

Teevans said he expects the village will close the deal on June 26.

set to cut budget

By CASEY E. MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board is cutting expenses and finding new revenue sources as part of its budget for the 2003-04 school year, fulfilling a promise to control spending.

The board is cutting \$1.3 million and adding about \$260,000 in new revenue, according to a revised budget. Board members promised to keep an eye on spending during a campaign for an education-fund tax increase, which voters approved April 1.

"This is a better use of resources," said board member Arlen Gould. "Despite the referendum, we need to watch our spending."

The revised cuts total about 31 percent of the \$4.3 million in cuts recommended by the board before the referendum vote. At that time, the board was planning to cut about 50 teaching positions. According to the new plan, about 15 teachers and other personnel will be eliminated. Despite the cuts, average classroom sizes will remain about the same throughout the district, school officials said.

"We spoke to all the principals to see where they are and what they needed to meet target (classroom) areas," said Superintendent Gary Mical. "In some cases, we're below those areas."

The district tries to keep classroom sizes at 25 students in kindergarten through grade three, 26 students in grades four through six, and 27 students in grades seven and eight.

Mical said no teachers will have to be laid off. The cuts will be achieved by not filling positions vacated by retirements.

About 10 of the eliminated positions include classroom teachers and bilingual teachers. The other positions include psychologists, social workers and instructional specialists.

The board also elected to reduce the hours police liaisons work in each of the middle schools. The district had one full-time police officer in all three middle schools — Holmes, London and Cooper. According to the new plan, police officers will be in those schools only 10 hours each week.

That reduction drew the ire of some parents of Holmes Middle School students, who said the officer helps the Police Department keep track of trouble in the school and the neighborhood. They were particularly upset because of an incident that took place near the intersection of Dundee and Wolf roads in February in which shots were fired during a fight. No one was injured in the incident, and no school children were involved.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said the department considers the resource officer an important component of its crime-fighting strategy.

"We consider the resource officer vital in both of the (Wheeling) middle schools and the high school," Popadowski said. "I think the resource officer has been helpful not only to the Police Department, but to the schools, the parents and the students."

The district will save \$98,000 by reducing the hours of the resource officers.

All the cuts will be incorporated into next year's budget, board approval of which is expected in August.

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Intersession fees for those schools that offer a year-round continuous learning calendar will also increase from \$10 per week to \$28. The board also reduced the number of weeks of intersession courses to four weeks each year from six.

Board President Ellen Clark said she believes intersession fees should be reviewed again next year, especially because they are lower than summer school fees. Intersession courses run the entire school day, while summer school courses are only two hours a day.

The district will also save about \$169,000 by securing a state grant for its Summer English Language Academy instead of paying for it with district funds.

While the board made cuts elsewhere, it also agreed to pump \$36,000 into programming and services at Hawthorne School, which houses Whitman Elementary School kindergartners. The money will go toward providing library services, before- and after-school day care and mini-exploratory classes. The extra classes will be held four days a week, and include Spanish, English literacy, technology, music and art.

"This is a special need for a unique school," Gould said. "It's not necessarily a pilot program."

The school district also will save \$18,000 annually that is currently spent for the storage of machine parts and other items. Other aspects of the addition include new office space, additional district meeting space and a training room. With the new office space, the building department will move out of the administration building and into the warehouse, which will allow the district's technology department to vacate space in the Hawthorne School building and move into the District 21 Administration Building. It will also free office space for the department of instruction.

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Moving the crime prevention unit

out of the police station will also free up badly needed space for the rest of the department, Teevans said.

There are businesses in the newly acquired building, and some residents live in a three-bedroom apartment upstairs. The department will have to wait for leases to expire before renovating the building and moving in. Teevans said other businesses and residents in the neighborhood are excited to see the center open.

"The residents are glad to see us take a more active role," he said. "All the reaction from surrounding businesses and residents has been positive."

Teevans said he expects the village will close the deal on June 26.

Links to the past

Family business prides itself on traditional approach to making sausage

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
6-3-04

Bratwurst and wieners are summertime staples for outdoor grilling, and one Wheeling company produces a wide variety of both using traditional family recipes.

The Stiglmeier Sausage Company on Chaddick Drive has been making sausages since 1965. The company is still family-owned and still uses many of the same techniques and recipes from when the company first started.

"My husband learned (to make sausage) in Germany," explained Gertraud Stiglmeier, president of the company. "He started a butcher shop in 1961 and then started the (sausage) company on Elston Avenue in Chicago."

Gertraud and Anton Stiglmeier moved from Bavaria to the United States in 1959 and began the company catering to a large German population in Chicago. The 20,000-square-foot Wheeling plant was built in 1986.

Anton Stiglmeier has since retired, but Gertraud and her children, John and Elizabeth Stiglmeier, still run the company. The Stiglmeier children have grown up around the plant and couldn't imagine doing anything else for a living.

"Every summer vacation and every day off from school we were here," Elizabeth Stiglmeier said. "I really enjoy it."

Brat basics

Using top-grade, USDA approved pork, veal, beef and liver, along with spices, Stiglmeier makes 70 different varieties of sausage. They range from traditional Bavarian bratwurst and wieners, to deli meats like German-style mortadella, bologna and salami. The company also produces Polish, Russian and Jewish-style sausages, but it does not produce kosher items. Stiglmeier also specializes in smoked hams.

Stiglmeier does not use any preservatives or fillers in its sausages. They also make them with a minimum amount of water so the sausage maintains its plump shape when cooking.

"If you have a good bratwurst, you don't need to precook or add any extra spice or marinade," Elizabeth Stiglmeier said. "The brat should speak for itself."

However, tastes have changed since the company first began. Gertraud Stiglmeier said there are fewer German immigrants in the area today, and Stiglmeier has changed its recipes to meet those new tastes.

"There are a lot more Polish and Russians coming over now," she said. "And they're starting their own businesses."

Stiglmeier's Bavarian bratwurst tends to be mild in



Cathryn Scott/Staff Photographer

Stiglmeier employee Mira Medvedeviene packs brats at the family-owned factory on Chaddick Drive in Wheeling.



Cathryn Scott/Staff Photographer

The Stiglmeier Sausage Co. in Wheeling specializes in a wide variety of meats, everything from cold cuts to bratwurst and ham.

flavor, and made with veal and pork. Other styles of sausage have different spices and coarseness to them.

'A specialty business'

Stiglmeier has relied on smaller businesses to carry its products, as opposed to large chain supermarkets. Gertraud Stiglmeier said she doesn't want to enter that market because her product is not cheap enough to compete.

"There is not a lot of hand labor in cheaper meats,"

she said. "I want to stay in the specialty business and not get too big. ... We're a specialty business, and that sticks around."

All sausage — whether spicy or mild, coarse or smooth — produced at Stiglmeier starts with the meat, which is chopped and blended with spices into a fine emulsion. Ground meat is added to the emulsion, depending on the coarseness of the sausage. It is then stuffed into its casing and wrapped. After wrapped, sausages are hung on a tall rack, which is placed into the cooker.

After its cooked, the sausage is packaged and ready to ship.

"We ship all over the U.S. now," Gertraud Stiglmeier said.

Stiglmeier has also found success with its mail-order business, especially during the Christmas season, the company's busiest time.

"We don't get to see our own families at Christmastime, we're so busy," Elizabeth Stiglmeier said.

Stiglmeier also produces sausage for other labels. Other companies provide the recipes and the labels, and Stiglmeier will produce the sausages to order and ship them out.

The Stiglmeier sausages can be found at Fresh Farms, 291 E. Dundee Road, and Garden Fresh, 1786 W. Hintz Road, in Wheeling. They can also be found in smaller European-style delis in the Chicago area.

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

adopted by most dispatchers in early 2002, the dispatcher knows only the call-back number of the cellular phone, the location and coverage area of the cell tower, and which way the antenna that picked up the call was facing.

"Now it doesn't have to be so much of a hit or miss," Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

we had the benefit of being a smaller community — more centrally focused," MacIsaac said.

Global positioning technology is supposed to pinpoint a cell caller's exact location in the next phase of 911 improvements, which Wheeling doesn't expect for three or four years.

Click it or Ticket called a success

The Wheeling Police Department is calling its recent "Click it or Ticket" campaign a success. The department conducted its campaign in conjunction with the national "Click it or Ticket" campaign, which is designed to increase awareness about the importance of wearing safety belts and increase enforcement of seat belt laws. The campaign included a school speed zone, seat-belt enforcement zone, DUI enforcement and a roadside safety check over the Memorial Day weekend.

Police issued 659 citations and written warnings during the campaign, including 443 for seat belt violations, nine for child safety seat violations and 83 speeding tickets. Police also made

Trevor Martinez of Lake Forest checks out the driving acco mother Lisa (center) and sister Sidney admire the sheet

Hot wheels

Hot wheels

'Click it or Ticket' called a success
6-26-03

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6-26-03

Police officers were spending 40 hours in the Cooper, Holmes and London middle schools each week. The board, in order to keep spending down, is looking to cut the number of hours to 10 each week.

Superintendent Gary Mical told board members the principals of each school said if they had to take a cut, the police liaisons would be the most preferable.

Mical said he spoke with Wheeling President Greg Klatsch, and indicated village officials in Wheeling might be willing to help pay to keep the liaisons in the schools. Mical said he planned to meet with Wheeling officials "in the next week or two."

Mical said a survey of surrounding school districts showed some districts have police liaisons in middle schools, and some do not. Very few, however, have a full-time officer in the school, he said.

Police liaisons still considered for cuts
6-26-03

The Wheeling Elementary School District 21 Board is still considering reducing the number of hours police liaisons will spend in the district's three middle schools.

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Roadside check results in 11 arrests
6-11-03

The Wheeling Police Department set up a roadside safety check on Wolf Road near Chamber Park May 23. Officers checked 107 vehicles between 9 p.m. May 23 and 2 a.m. May 24. Eleven people were arrested, five for not having a valid driver's license, two for driving with a suspended or revoked license, three for possession of marijuana and one for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Authorities said the driver who was arrested for DUI was about to be waved through the checkpoint when he hit two of the signs alerting drivers to the safety check and knocked down a portable flashing light. The police also issued citations to 12 people for not wearing their seat belts.

Business earns safety award
6-10-04

Lid Electric, Inc. of Wheeling, a firm specializing in commercial electrical contracting, won an award for its safety programs when the Association of Subcontractors & Affiliates held its ninth annual Safety Award Evening in Schiller Park May 4. Awards are presented to companies who have demonstrated continuing efforts in the implementation of exemplary safety programs.

"Having a safe work site is paramount to these firms, and they have demonstrated that commitment to safety by having the safest work sites among our members," said Bob Smith of The Levy Safety Committee Chairman Company. "They set an example for all subcontractors to follow."

BY CASS CLATT
6-12-03
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's good because now, about 80 percent of our 911 calls are cellular-based.

MacIsaac cautioned, though, that the new location technology will work best for Wheeling 911 callers.

Police and firefighters can't pinpoint a cell user's exact location yet.

However, village trustees learned Monday that the Wheeling-Glenview dispatch center is one of the first in the Northwest to achieve the so-called Phase II technology that allows 911 dispatchers to locate a caller within 450 feet.

Under a federal schedule mandating 911 improvements, Phase II requires cellular companies to send longitude and latitude coordinates to police when cell phone users dial 911.

Most towns still operate in Phase I, in which emergency dispatchers track a caller within a 20-square-mile zone.

Under that Phase I system adopted by most dispatchers in early 2002, the dispatcher knows only the call-back number of the cellular phone, the location and coverage area of the cell tower, and which way the antenna that picked up the call was facing.

"Now it doesn't have to be so much of a hit or miss," Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said.

Global positioning technology is supposed to pinpoint a cell caller's exact location in the next phase of 911 improvements, which Wheeling doesn't expect for three or four years.

Wheeling dispatchers zero in on 911 cell calls

Links to the past

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Technology assists 911 cell calls

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
6-19-03

New technology now allows the Wheeling fire and police departments to remove some of the guesswork when it comes to finding a person making a 911 call on a cellular telephone.

With nearly 80 percent of all Wheeling 911 calls coming from cellular telephone users, the new technology, which pinpoints the caller's location within a 400- to 500-foot area, is considered a tremendous asset to firefighters and police officers.

"Having a more definitive location means a quicker response and quicker service," Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac said. "Before, we were still dependent on the party giving us a good description as to where they were."

Wireless 911 has been available in Wheeling for more than a year now, but the

new technology gives police officers and firefighters a more exact location of a crime scene, accident or fire.

All cellular telephone calls are transmitted by three area towers, MacIsaac said. Previously, the system told dispatchers which tower was receiving the strongest signal, giving police or fire officials a more vague idea as to from where the call was originating.

MacIsaac explained the new technology now takes the signal, runs it through a computer program and displays a theoretical latitude and longitude of the location of the call on a computerized map.

"Before, we would know a call might be coming from the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club area (in Wheeling), which is a pretty big area," MacIsaac explained. "Now we would know that same call is coming from the 900 or 1000 block of McHenry Road."

Wheeling is one of the first communities

widely used tool to respond to emergencies."

Another phase of cellular technology also on the horizon, but still years away, is the use of a global positioning satellite to pinpoint the origins of a call even more accurately.

"Only a few vendors are using GPS (technology), and until all the old cell phones are replaced, you're not going to see the full benefit,"

to implement the new technology in the northwest suburbs, MacIsaac said. When the new dispatch center for Wheeling and Glenview was built two years ago, it was built knowing this technology was on its way.

"We didn't have to rebuy any equipment," he said. "It's all new, designed and built with this (technology) in mind."

MacIsaac said more and more people are using cellular telephones to report emergencies. He said the department isn't necessarily receiving more calls, but since people tend to take their cell phones with them wherever they go, it makes sense that more emergency calls are coming via cell.

"People are calling from cars, backyards, baseball games, church events, while they're shopping — you name it," MacIsaac said. "The cell phone goes everywhere you do. As a result, it's becoming a

(Continued on page 11)

MacIsaac said. "It's getting there, but with the hardware, there's still a lot of work to do."

The new dispatch services and technology upgrades are paid for by a state-imposed surcharge on cellular telephone bills. Wheeling receives 48 cents of the 75-cent charge, and the remaining goes to the phone company to develop and maintain wireless 911 technologies and hardware.

Restaurants cited in alcohol check

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
6-19-03

Three Wheeling restaurants are accused of serving alcohol to minors after the Wheeling Police Department conducted an alcohol compliance check of 39 businesses earlier this month.

The check, conducted June 2 and June 4, found servers at Buono Sera, I Am Siam and Alamos Tacos provided alcoholic beverages to patrons under 21 years old. Those servers were issued a citation for serving alcohol to a minor and will appear in court and before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission to determine guilt and punishment.

Cpl. Joseph Schaff of the Wheeling Police Department accompanied the underage informants and said he was surprised the businesses sold them liquor, especially since advance notice was provided.

"This (check) was an- their own identification cards during the checks.

"We're not trying to be sneaky," Schaff said. "We tell everyone to card everybody. It's the easiest route to go."

Schaff said he was especially surprised that servers in Alamos Tacos and I Am Siam served the minors after checking their identification cards.

"One (server) said he thought the drinking age was 18," Schaff said.

Village officials have been trying to keep the sale of alcohol to minors at a minimum, and part of their strategy includes working with the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce and Industry on a training program.

This year, the Restaurant Row Hospitality Group, which is part of the chamber, has conducted two Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training programs. Jim Lederer, president of the

nounced," he said. "About two or three weeks prior to the check, we sent written notification to all businesses that have a liquor license that we would be out doing this."

The department has conducted similar checks in the past. During the last check conducted in November, five businesses out of 29 visited served alcohol to minors. Schaff said no prior notification was sent out before that check.

The five businesses caught in the November check included Hackney's, Hangouts, PS Pub, Benihana and Pico De Gallo. All five pleaded guilty to the charges, and the village fined Hackney's, Hangouts, PS Pub and Benihana \$300 for the infractions. Pico De Gallo was fined \$500 and had its liquor license suspended for three days.

Undercover police officers accompany volunteer minors into the establishments during the checks. The volunteers use (Continued on page 10)

Restaurant Row Hospitality Group, said the group wanted to police itself in the training program before village officials passed new ordinances forcing servers to be trained.

"There have been a lot of crackdowns and political pressure lately," Lederer said. "With better training, we can protect ourselves."

More than 20 bartenders, servers and managers have attended the first two training sessions. Another session is planned for this summer. The program is open to both chamber members and nonmembers. Lederer said he was pleased to see the number of those who apparently failed the check drop this time around and that none of the businesses cited is a repeat offender.

"We had problems with repeat offenders before, which is why the village approached us to begin with — to minimize repeat offenders," Lederer said.



Abandoned annexation proposal

Gaps in the Wheeling map will continue to be considered part of the village in name only, despite a decision in February 2002 to forcibly annex at least four of seven unincorporated Cook County parcels to speed beautification efforts.



1. Plum Creek and Hunt Club area: Includes Plum Creek Condominiums complex and Hunt Club apartments. Village concerned about drug activity in Hunt Club apartments. About 48 acres.

2. South Milwaukee Avenue: Consists of construction yard with outside truck storage, equipment and construction materials that trustees consider unsightly. About 2 acres.

3. Industrial Drive area: Includes waste management facility, automobile repair shops and private airport hangars. Was about 66 acres, but village hoped to reduce to 60 acres by getting some owners to annex voluntarily.

4. South Milwaukee area: Includes restaurant and bar, auto rental office and construction offices. About 1 1/2 acres.

5. Wolf Run Estates: Initially proposed as possible second phase, but considered this week as primary takeover. Older, smaller homes and businesses. About 14 acres.

6. Vera Lane area: Proposed as possible second phase. Mostly homes, with commercial properties and home businesses. About 22 acres.

7. Jackson Drive area: Proposed as possible second phase. Mostly single-family homes and vacant lots. About 58 acres.

DAILY HERALD

Wheeling says annexing nearby areas too costly

June 18, 2003

By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Early last year, Wheeling

"The properties we're talking about carry the

Wheeling wants to back out of bike path plan with Buffalo Grove

CASS CLIAFF
Herald Staff Writer 6-19-03

Wheeling is poised to pull the plug on a 10-year partnership to build a bike path that would connect cyclists to Metra train stations in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Trustees in Wheeling, which is the lead on the project, say the path's \$1 million design is complete and that costly changes would come out of local pockets. Instead, Wheeling wants to use federal funds to create bike lanes

on streets and fill gaps in sidewalks that have been installed since the bike-path partnership was conceived in 1993.

Buffalo Grove fears that this alternative would jeopardize a community-driven project intended to unite two towns in promoting environmentally friendly transportation, said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William Balling.

"It's a Wheeling decision, but this was kind of like a lasting reminder that Wheeling and Buffalo Grove have been irrevocably

connected through our entire growth and development," Balling said. "There's an awful lot of essence of the project that would be lost."

The Regional Greenway Corridor Bike Path was supposed to create a pathway loop from a point near Wheeling's Metra station near Dundee Road to Busch Parkway near Buffalo Grove's rail station.

Rotary Clubs in both towns had persuaded park districts and village officials to get an 80-percent funding match for the

path from Illinois' federal enhancement funds.

Wheeling officials say that, in the past decade, the project has encountered such obstacles as refusal by the Illinois Department of Transportation to allow access to a crossing at Dundee Road.

Wheeling Engineering Assistant Tony Stavros also told trustees new development has changed the landscape along the intended path.

It has created safety concerns by placing part of the path under

a darkened, graffiti-covered overpass at Lake-Cook Road.

"I don't know if you want your daughter riding through there," Stavros told trustees.

Design changes would add \$120,000 in local funding to a project already set to cost Wheeling, its park district and its Rotary Club more than \$120,000, Stavros said. Buffalo Grove's share was about \$102,000.

IDOT wants to know by July 7 whether Wheeling wants to allow bids to go out for the Greenway path.

Trustees decided to ask IDOT whether Wheeling can use the \$766,000 the state set aside for the Greenway project on an alternative loop proposal Wheeling developed that incorporates local sidewalks.

Steve Boime, an employee of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and a Wheeling resident, said he supports that plan.

"The alternatives I think serve neighborhoods," Boime said. "And if we can set a precedent of getting bike lanes on the street, I'm all for it."

Statistics show crime's again on the run

After a blip, Northwest suburban incidents down

June 21, 2003

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

After a probable hiccup two years ago, crime in the Northwest suburbs returned to its downward path last year, according to new statistics.

Major crimes reported to police fell 5 percent in 2002, a path that generally mirrors the rest of the Chicago suburbs but outpaces drops nationwide, statewide and in Cook County as a whole, according to new figures from the Illinois State Police.

Throughout the Northwest

suburbs, there were 21.44 crimes for every 1,000 residents, figures show. That's less than half the Cook County-wide rate and well below the national rate, which has hovered around 41 incidents per 1,000 people. Crime in the Northwest suburbs is pretty much on par with crime elsewhere in the suburbs, the data shows.

Some types of crime in the Northwest suburbs went up in 2002, while others went down.

Six homicides were committed, a drop from 14 in 2001. There were 165 criminal sexual assaults reported last year, 40

more than two years ago, figures show.

Experts caution that such statistics provide only a crude barometer to measure crime, but locally, several Northwest suburban police officials are pointing to specific efforts they say are yielding results.

Common property crimes, such as theft, auto theft and burglary, dropped — a phenomenon some police say can be traced to better policing.

In Wheeling, for example, arrests for burglary and theft were up sharply, and Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said

those busts prevented further crimes.

"What we saw was thefts from motor vehicles in the apartment complexes," Hermes said of a trend that began a few years ago. "If you get one (vehicle break-in) in an apartment complex, you're going to get four or five at once, at least. But we were able to break up some of those rings ... through good follow-up work."

Mount Prospect Police Chief Rich Eddington said the most recent figures show his department

Crime stats

Rate per 1,000 people drops in most area counties

Overall crime rate

	2001	2002	%chge.
Illinois	42.4	41.7	-1.5
Cook	54.2	52.9	-2.4
NW Suburbs	22.6	21.4	-5.0
DuPage	25.7	24.9	-3.4
Lake	24.3	24.5	1.0
Kane	32.9	31.4	-4.5
McHenry	22.9	22.7	-0.9
Will	28.2	27.7	-1.5

Note: Numbers are rounded
Source: Illinois State Police

Crime doesn't follow trend in economy

From St. Charles to San Francisco, crime fell across America in 2002, new figures show. Contrast that to 2001 when crime rose for the first time in half a decade, and many blamed the economy. But last year, as jobs left the suburbs and police saw their budgets crunched, crime didn't rise. Experts don't know why. See story on Page 6.

Crime in your town

* For a detailed list of statistics, see Page 6.

Experts have trouble explaining drop in crime

June 21, 2003

Northwest suburbs crime statistics

Rates are per 1,000 residents. Numbers are totals; some figures rounded.

Agency	Year	Estimated pop.*	Total incidents of crime	Crime rate	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate	Criminal sexual assault		Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto theft	Arson
							Homicide	Sexual assault						
COOK COUNTY	2002	5,376,741	284,531	52.92	9.93	42.99	729	2,671	20,943	29,058	38,813	157,194	33,688	1,435
	2001	5,376,741	291,589	54.23	10.14	44.09	757	2,612	20,732	30,414	38,661	160,347	36,827	1,438
	% change	0.00%	-2.42%	-2.42%	-2.04%	-2.61%	-3.70%	2.26%	1.02%	-4.46%	0.39%	-1.07%	-8.02%	-0.21%
NORTHWEST SUBURBS	2002	877,036	18,801	21.44	1.05	20.39	6	165	207	541	2,200	14,642	935	105
	2001	877,036	19,795	22.57	1.08	21.49	14	125	226	581	2,242	15,450	1,062	95
	% change	0.00%	-5.02%	-5.02%	-2.98%	-5.12%	-57.14%	32.00%	-8.41%	-8.88%	-1.87%	-5.23%	-11.96%	10.53%
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	2002	76,031	1,542	20.28	0.84	19.44	1	18	18	27	237	1,164	63	14
	2001	76,031	1,796	23.62	0.80	22.82	1	11	21	28	204	1,438	77	16
	% change	0.00%	-14.14%	-14.14%	4.92%	-14.81%	0.00%	63.64%	-14.29%	-3.57%	16.18%	-19.05%	-18.18%	-12.50%
BARRINGTON	2002	10,168	237	23.31	0.30	23.01	0	0	1	2	28	197	7	2
	2001	10,168	286	28.13	0.39	27.73	0	0	1	3	34	236	6	6
	% change	0.00%	-17.13%	-17.13%	-25.00%	-17.02%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	-33.33%	-17.65%	-16.53%	10.67%	-66.67%
BARRINGTON HILLS	2002	9,915	42	10.73	0.51	10.22	0	0	1	1	6	33	1	0
	2001	9,915	54	13.79	0.51	13.28	0	0	1	1	4	47	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-22.22%	-22.22%	0.00%	-23.08%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	-29.79%	0.00%	N/A
BARTLETT	2002	36,706	566	15.42	0.84	14.58	1	2	5	23	57	467	8	3
	2001	36,706	615	16.75	1.14	15.61	0	3	7	32	59	493	18	3
	% change	0.00%	-7.97%	-7.97%	-26.19%	-6.63%	N/A	-33.33%	-28.57%	-28.13%	-3.39%	-5.27%	-55.56%	0.00%
BUFFALO GROVE	2002	42,909	563	13.12	0.30	12.82	0	6	4	3	29	496	23	2
	2001	42,909	631	14.71	0.19	14.52	0	4	0	4	32	570	20	1
	% change	0.00%	-10.78%	-10.78%	62.50%	-11.72%	N/A	50.00%	N/A	-25.00%	-9.38%	-12.98%	15.00%	100.00%
CHICAGO	2002	2,896,016	194,184	67.05	15.88	51.17	648	1,963	18,532	24,842	25,552	96,380	25,245	1,022
	2001	2,896,016	199,832	69.00	16.12	52.88	665	1,976	18,473	25,571	26,026	98,544	27,571	1,006
	% change	0.00%	-2.83%	-2.83%	-1.50%	-3.23%	-2.56%	-0.66%	0.32%	-2.85%	-1.82%	-2.20%	-8.44%	1.59%
DEER PARK	2002	3,102	64	20.63	0.00	20.63	0	0	0	0	10	38	5	1
	2001	3,102	67	21.60	0.64	20.95	0	0	0	2	5	59	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-4.48%	-4.48%	-100.00%	-16.92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-100.00%	100.00%	-35.59%	400.00%	N/A
DES PLAINES	2002	58,720	1,612	27.45	1.28	26.18	0	20	10	45	240	1,144	146	7
	2001	58,720	1,583	26.96	1.50	25.46	1	11	15	61	204	1,113	175	3
	% change	0.00%	1.83%	1.83%	-14.77%	2.81%	-100.00%	81.82%	-33.33%	-26.23%	17.65%	2.79%	-16.57%	133.33%
ELGIN	2002	94,487	2,582	27.33	2.62	24.70	2	43	83	120	447	1,674	183	30
	2001	94,487	2,878	30.46	3.35	27.10	7	41	93	176	508	1,822	208	23
	% change	0.00%	-10.28%	-10.28%	-21.77%	-8.86%	-71.43%	4.28%	-10.75%	-31.82%	-12.01%	-8.12%	-12.02%	30.43%
ELK GROVE VILLAGE	2002	34,727	1,171	33.72	0.98	32.74	1	9	9	15	139	916	69	13
	2001	34,727	1,299	37.41	1.12	36.28	0	9	8	22	151	1,015	91	3
	% change	0.00%	-9.85%	-9.85%	-12.82%	-9.76%	N/A	0.00%	12.50%	-31.82%	-7.95%	-9.75%	-24.18%	333.33%
GLENNVIEW	2002	41,847	854	20.41	1.10	19.31	0	5	9	32	134	644	29	1
	2001	41,847	848	20.26	0.72	19.55	0	6	5	19	111	673	30	4
	% change	0.00%	0.71%	0.71%	53.33%	-1.22%	N/A	-16.67%	80.00%	66.42%	-26.72%	-4.31%	-3.33%	-75.00%
HANDOVER PARK	2002	38,278	783	20.46	1.93	18.52	2	11	11	50	105	558	41	5
	2001	38,278	752	19.65	1.41	18.24	1	7	10	36	126	512	55	5
	% change	0.00%	4.12%	4.12%	37.04%	1.58%	100.00%	57.14%	10.00%	38.89%	-16.67%	8.98%	-25.45%	0.00%
HOFFMAN ESTATES	2002	49,495	1,136	22.95	1.64	21.32	1	17	6	57	142	856	49	8
	2001	49,495	1,131	22.85	1.47	21.38	0	5	10	58	138	863	49	8
	% change	0.00%	0.44%	0.44%	10.96%	-0.28%	N/A	240.00%	-40.00%	-1.72%	2.90%	-0.81%	0.00%	0.00%
INVERNESS	2002	6,749	43	6.37	0.30	6.07	0	1	0	1	9	30	0	2
	2001	6,749	54	8.00	0.15	7.85	0	1	0	0	13	39	0	1
	% change	0.00%	-20.37%	-20.37%	100.00%	-22.64%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-30.77%	-23.08%	N/A	100.00%
MT. PROSPECT	2002	56,265	1,485	26.39	1.97	24.42	0	14	29	68	116	1,195	55	8
	2001	56,265	1,578	28.05	1.97	26.07	0	7	28	76	113	1,283	52	9
	% change	0.00%	-5.89%	-5.89%	0.00%	-6.34%	N/A	100.00%	3.57%	-10.53%	2.65%	-6.86%	-11.29%	-11.11%
PALATINE	2002	65,479	1,865	28.48	1.51	23.92	0	17	21	51	127	1,341	94	4
	2001	65,479	1,648	25.17	1.77	23.40	2	13	35	66	125	1,317	80	10
	% change	0.00%	1.03%	1.03%	-14.56%	2.22%	-100.00%	30.77%	-40.00%	-7.58%	1.60%	1.82%	17.50%	-80.00%
PARK RIDGE	2002	37,775	802	21.23	0.79	20.44	0	5	8	17	129	585	52	6
	2001	37,775	974	25.78	0.79	24.99	0	5	4	21	184	697	60	3
	% change	0.00%	-17.66%	-17.66%	0.00%	-18.03%	N/A	0.00%	100.00%	-14.05%	-24.80%	-16.07%	-13.23%	100.00%

Statistics may tell a false tale, some say

BY DAVE ORRICK
Daily Herald Legal Affairs Writer

For Arlington Heights police Cmdr. Peter Kinsey, it makes as much sense as a crime scene with no witnesses or motive.

Crime fell more than 14 percent in his community last year, but he has little idea why.

"It's a pleasant surprise," Kinsey said of the statistics, released this weekend. "It's amazing considering the economy is still in the dumps. I wish I could point to something to take credit for it, but I'm not sure we've done anything unique."

And Arlington Heights isn't unique.

Despite a sagging economy and unprecedented budget cuts in government, reported crimes throughout the suburbs, state and nation fell in 2002, according to state figures released this weekend and national figures announced last week.

Experts always urge against drawing too many conclusions from such numbers, but what appears to be clear is that crime remains lower now than a decade ago and predictions that America would become more dangerous after Sept. 11, 2001, have yet to be realized.

In general, the Chicago suburbs remain significantly freer of crime than Chicago and other major cities, with crime rates hovering around half the national crime rate.

Statewide, 518,404 crimes were reported in 2002, a drop of 8,071, or 1.5 percent, when compared to 2001 figures. Both violent crimes and property crimes fell.

Nationally, the crime rate remained almost flat, with FBI figures revealing a 0.2 percent drop. Violent crime dropped nationwide, while property crimes remained flat.

Those figures mirror a nearly 1 percent drop in McHenry County, while reported crimes

welcomed the news, which followed a general increase in crime rose since 1996.

Last year, many attributed bump up to the bursting of economic bubble of the 1990s and the new war on terrorism.

At the local level, some police departments believe they know why crime dropped in their community.

St. Charles Police Chief I. Shaw, for example, points to a two-year fall in burglaries, down 41 in 2000 to 14 in 2002.

"What we focused on was our drug addicts, specific heroin addicts," he said of a plan that included assigning two officers to target drug offenders and make use of Kane County's drug court. Kinsey thinks it's made a big difference.

Drug addicts are a big cause of property crime.

But no one claims to have a complete explanation for the 2002 saw across-the-board reductions in reported crime.

And neither beat cops nor analysts are ready to declare victory yet, even though many agree that the oft-cited relationship between unemployment and crime remains an unproven theory.

"I don't think we've seen the complete impact yet of the economic situation," said George Ramker, director of research for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. "The things kind of stagger and only be seen over a number of years."

Denise Nitterhouse, an associate professor at DePaul University who specializes in tracking community police said tighter budgets for police departments may lead not to fewer crimes being reported but also fewer crimes being reported.

"I would guess that a decrease in crime statistics is no means evidence of a decrease in crime, but rather a decrease in reporting and to

After a protracted recession two years ago, crime in the Northwest suburbs returned to its downward path last year, according to new statistics. Major crimes reported to police fell 5 percent in 2002, a path that generally mirrors the rest of the Chicago suburbs but outpaces drops nationwide, statewide and in Cook County as a whole, according to new figures from the Illinois State Police.

Throughout the Northwest, the Cook County-wide rate and well below the national rate, which has hovered around 41 incidents per 1,000 people. Crime in the Northwest suburbs is pretty much on par with crime elsewhere in the suburbs, the data shows. Some types of crime in the Northwest suburbs went up in 2002, while others went down. Six homicides were committed, a drop from 14 in 2001. There were 165 criminal sexual assaults reported last year, 40

statistics provide only a crude barometer to measure crime, but locally, several Northwest suburban police officials are pointing to specific efforts they say are yielding results. Common property crimes, such as theft, auto theft and burglary, dropped — a phenomenon some police say can be traced to better policing. In Wheeling, for example, arrests for burglary and theft were up sharply, and Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said

motor vehicles in the apartment complexes," Hermes said of a trend that began a few years ago. "If you get one (vehicle break-in) in an apartment complex, you're going to get four or five at once, at least. But we were able to break up some of those rings ... through good follow-up work." Mount Prospect Police Chief Rich Eddington said the most recent figures show his depart-

	2001	2002	%chge.
Illinois	42.4	41.7	-1.5
Cook	54.2	52.9	-2.4
NW Suburbs	22.6	21.4	-5.0
DuPage	25.7	24.9	-3.4
Lake	24.3	24.5	1.0
Kane	32.9	31.4	-4.5
McHenry	22.9	22.7	-0.9
Will	28.2	27.7	-1.5

Note: Numbers are rounded
Source: Illinois State Police

America in 2002, new figures show. Contrast that to 2001, when crime rose for the first time in half a decade, and many blamed the economy. But last year, as jobs left the suburbs and police saw their budgets crunched, crime didn't rise. Experts don't know why. See story on Page 6.

Crime in your town
* For a detailed list of statistics, see Page 6.

Experts have trouble explaining drop in crime

June 21, 2003

Northwest suburbs crime statistics

Rates are per 1,000 residents. Numbers are totals; some figures rounded.

Agency	Year	Estimated pop.*	Total incidents of crime	Crime rate	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate	Criminal sexual assault		Robbery	Aggravated Assault/Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto theft	Arson
							Homicide	Sexual assault						
COOK COUNTY	2002	5,376,741	284,531	52.92	9.93	42.99	729	2,671	20,943	29,058	38,813	157,194	33,688	1,435
	2001	5,376,741	291,588	54.23	10.14	44.09	757	2,612	20,732	30,414	38,661	160,347	36,627	1,438
	% change	0.00%	-2.42%	-2.42%	-2.04%	-2.51%	-3.70%	2.28%	1.02%	-4.48%	0.39%	-1.97%	-8.02%	-0.21%
NORTHWEST SUBURBS	2002	877,036	18,801	21.44	1.05	20.39	6	165	207	541	2,200	14,642	935	105
	2001	877,036	19,795	22.57	1.08	21.49	14	125	226	581	2,242	15,450	1,062	95
	% change	0.00%	-5.02%	-5.02%	-2.98%	-5.12%	-57.14%	-32.00%	-8.41%	-6.38%	-1.87%	-5.23%	-11.96%	-10.53%
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	2002	76,031	1,542	20.28	0.84	19.44	1	18	18	27	237	1,164	63	14
	2001	76,031	1,796	23.62	0.80	22.82	1	11	21	28	204	1,438	77	16
	% change	0.00%	-14.14%	-14.14%	4.92%	-14.81%	0.00%	63.64%	-14.29%	-3.57%	16.18%	-19.05%	-18.18%	-12.50%
BARRINGTON	2002	10,168	237	23.31	0.30	23.01	0	0	1	2	28	197	7	2
	2001	10,168	286	28.13	0.39	27.73	0	0	1	3	34	236	6	6
	% change	0.00%	-17.13%	-17.13%	-25.00%	-17.02%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	-33.33%	-17.65%	-16.53%	16.67%	-66.67%
BARRINGTON HILLS	2002	3,915	42	10.73	0.51	10.22	0	0	1	1	6	33	1	0
	2001	3,915	54	13.79	0.51	13.28	0	0	1	1	4	47	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-22.22%	-22.22%	0.00%	-23.08%	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	-29.79%	0.00%	N/A
BARTLETT	2002	36,706	566	15.42	0.84	14.58	1	2	5	23	57	467	8	3
	2001	36,706	615	16.75	1.14	15.81	0	3	7	32	59	493	18	3
	% change	0.00%	-7.97%	-7.97%	-26.19%	-6.63%	N/A	-33.33%	-28.57%	-28.13%	3.39%	-5.27%	-55.56%	0.00%
BUFFALO GROVE	2002	42,909	563	13.12	0.30	12.82	0	6	4	3	29	496	23	2
	2001	42,909	631	14.71	0.19	14.52	0	4	0	4	32	570	20	1
	% change	0.00%	-10.78%	-10.78%	62.50%	-11.72%	N/A	50.00%	N/A	-25.00%	-9.38%	-12.98%	15.00%	100.00%
CHICAGO	2002	2,896,016	194,184	67.05	15.89	51.17	648	1,963	18,532	24,842	25,552	96,380	25,245	1,022
	2001	2,896,016	199,832	69.00	16.12	52.88	665	1,976	18,473	25,571	26,026	98,544	27,571	1,006
	% change	0.00%	-2.83%	-2.83%	-1.50%	-3.23%	-2.56%	-0.66%	0.32%	-2.85%	-1.82%	-2.20%	-8.44%	1.59%
DEER PARK	2002	3,102	54	17.41	0.00	17.41	0	0	0	0	10	38	5	1
	2001	3,102	67	21.60	0.64	20.95	0	0	0	2	5	59	1	0
	% change	0.00%	-19.40%	-19.40%	-100.00%	-16.92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-100.00%	100.00%	-35.59%	400.00%	N/A
DES PLAINES	2002	58,720	1,612	27.45	1.28	25.18	0	20	10	45	240	1,144	146	7
	2001	58,720	1,583	26.96	1.50	25.46	1	11	15	61	204	1,113	175	3
	% change	0.00%	1.83%	1.83%	-14.77%	2.81%	-100.00%	81.82%	-33.33%	-26.23%	17.65%	2.79%	-16.57%	133.33%
ELGIN	2002	94,487	2,582	27.33	2.62	24.70	2	43	83	120	447	1,674	183	30
	2001	94,487	2,878	30.46	3.35	27.10	7	41	93	176	508	1,822	208	23
	% change	0.00%	-10.28%	-10.28%	-21.77%	-8.86%	-71.43%	4.88%	-10.75%	-31.82%	-12.01%	-8.12%	-12.02%	30.43%
ELK GROVE VILLAGE	2002	34,727	1,171	33.72	0.98	32.74	1	9	9	15	139	916	69	13
	2001	34,727	1,299	37.41	1.12	36.28	0	9	8	22	151	1,015	91	3
	% change	0.00%	-9.85%	-9.85%	-12.82%	-9.76%	N/A	0.00%	12.50%	-31.82%	-7.95%	-0.75%	-24.18%	333.33%
GLENVIEW	2002	41,847	854	20.41	1.10	19.31	0	5	9	32	134	644	29	1
	2001	41,847	848	20.26	0.72	19.55	0	6	5	19	111	673	30	4
	% change	0.00%	0.71%	0.71%	53.33%	-1.22%	N/A	-16.67%	80.00%	66.42%	20.72%	-4.31%	-3.33%	-75.00%
HANOVER PARK	2002	38,278	783	20.46	1.93	18.52	2	11	11	50	105	558	41	5
	2001	38,278	752	19.65	1.41	18.24	1	7	10	36	126	512	55	5
	% change	0.00%	4.12%	4.12%	37.04%	1.58%	100.00%	57.14%	10.00%	38.89%	-16.67%	8.88%	-25.45%	0.00%
HOFFMAN ESTATES	2002	49,485	1,136	22.95	1.64	21.32	1	17	6	57	142	856	49	8
	2001	49,485	1,131	22.85	1.47	21.38	0	5	10	58	138	863	49	8
	% change	0.00%	0.44%	0.44%	10.96%	-0.28%	N/A	240.00%	-40.00%	-1.72%	2.90%	-0.81%	0.00%	0.00%
INVERNESS	2002	6,749	43	6.37	0.30	6.07	0	1	0	1	9	30	0	2
	2001	6,749	54	8.00	0.15	7.85	0	1	0	0	13	39	0	1
	% change	0.00%	-20.37%	-20.37%	100.00%	-22.64%	N/A	0.00%	N/A	N/A	-30.77%	-23.08%	N/A	100.00%
MT. PROSPECT	2002	56,265	1,485	26.39	1.97	24.42	0	14	29	68	116	1,195	55	8
	2001	56,265	1,578	28.05	1.97	26.07	0	7	28	76	113	1,283	62	9
	% change	0.00%	-5.89%	-5.89%	0.00%	-6.34%	N/A	100.00%	3.57%	-10.53%	2.65%	-6.86%	-11.29%	-11.11%
PALATINE	2002	65,479	1,685	25.43	1.51	23.92	0	17	21	61	127	1,341	94	4
	2001	65,479	1,648	25.17	1.77	23.40	2	13	35	66	125	1,317	80	10
	% change	0.00%	1.03%	1.03%	-14.66%	2.22%	-100.00%	30.77%	-40.00%	-7.58%	1.80%	1.82%	17.50%	-80.00%
PARK RIDGE	2002	37,775	802	21.23	0.79	20.44	0	5	8	17	129	585	52	5
	2001	37,775	974	25.78	0.79	24.99	0	5	4	21	184	697	60	3
	% change	0.00%	-17.86%	-17.86%	0.00%	-18.22%	N/A	0.00%	100.00%	-19.05%	-29.89%	-16.07%	-13.33%	100.00%
PROSPECT HEIGHTS	2002	17,081	314	18.38	1.17	17.21	0	3	10	7	42	224	25	3
	2001	17,081	378	22.13	1.58	20.55	1	6	7	13	36	269	42	4
	% change	0.00%	-16.53%	-16.53%	-25.93%	-15.24%	-100.00%	-50.00%	42.86%	-46.15%	16.67%	-16.73%	-40.48%	-25.00%
ROLLING MEADOWS	2002	24,604	842	34.22	1.50	32.72	0	4	13	20	101	661	35	8
	2001	24,604	748	30.40	1.54	28.86	2	7	9	20	79	601	29	1
	% change	0.00%	12.57%	12.56%	-2.63%	13.38%	-100.00%	-42.86%	44.44%	0.00%	27.85%	9.98%	20.69%	700.00%
ROSELLE	2002	23,115	366	15.40	1.12	14.28	0	2	2	22	36	266	26	2
	2001	23,115	360	15.57	0.95	14.62	0	1	8	13	61	248	20	9
	% change	0.00%	-1.11%	-1.11%	18.18%	-2.37%	N/A	100.00%	-75.00%	69.23%	-40.98%	7.26%	30.00%	-77.78%
ROSEMONT	2002	4,224	432	102.27	1.66	100.62	0	2	2	3	16	382	27	0
	2001	4,224	457	108.19	2.37	105.82	0	5	5	12	403	32	0	
	% change	0.00%	-5.47%	-5.47%	-30.00%	-4.92%	N/A	N/A	-60.00%	-40.00%	33.33%	-5.21%	-15.63%	N/A
SCHAUMBURG	2002	75,386	3,469	46.02	1.35	44.66	0	14	28	60	363	2,838	149	16
	2001	75,386	3,695	49.01	1.50	47.52	3	10	27	73	443	2,960	163	16
	% change	0.00%	-6.12%	-6.11%	-9.73%	-6.00%	-100.00%	40.00%	3.70%	-17.81%	-18.06%	-4.09%	-8.58%	0.00%
SOUTH BARRINGTON	2002	3,760	66	17.55	0.80	16.76	0	2	1	3	56	4	0	0
	2001	3,760	82	21.81	0.80	21.01	0	0	0	3	10	66	3	0
	% change	0.00%	-19.51%	-19.51%	0.00%	-20.25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	-66.67%	-70.00%	-15.15%	33.33%	N/A
STREAMWOOD	2002	36,407	971	26.67	1.82	25.05	1	16	8	34	91	791	30	0
	2001	36,407	1,050	28.84	1.18	27.66	0	12	15	16	90	877	37	3
	% change	0.00%	-7.52%	-7.52%	37.21%	-9.43%	N/A	33.33%	-46.67%	112.50%	1.11%	-9.81%	-18.92%	-100.00%
TOWER LAKES	2002	1,310	20	15.27	1.53	13.74	0	0	0	2	0	18	0	0
	2001	1,310	17	12.98	1.53	11.45	0	0	0	2	0	15	0	0
	% change	0.00%	17.65%	17.65%	0.00%	20.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00%	N/A	20.00%	N/A	N/A
WHEELING	2002	34,496	804	23.31	0.93	22.38	1	2	5	24	104	840	26	2
	2001	34,496	765	22.18	1.10	21.07	1	7	7	23	90	599	37	1
	% change	0.00%	5.10%	5.10%	-15.79%	6.19%	0.00%	-71.43%	-28.57%	4.35%	15.56%	8.84%	-29.73%	100.00%
LAKE SHERIFF**	2002	121,244	1,817	14.99	1.28	13.71	0	44	19	92	388	1,184	84	6
	2001	121,244	2,006	16.55	1.07	15.47	0	40	18	72	403	1,361	103	9
	% change	0.00%	-9.42%	-9.42%	19.23%	-11.41%	N/A	10.00%	5.56%	27.78%	-3.72%	-13.01%	-18.45%	-33.33%

Wheeling plans again include annexation

June 25, 2003

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A controversial on-again, off-again plan to fill unincorporated gaps in the Wheeling map is on the table again as the village commits to improving itself.

An annexation proposal resurfaced this week among five priorities the village board announced as a result of trustees' first goal-setting session in more than six years.

The basis of all of the priorities remains the familiar concern over Wheeling's image.

In the next year, the village wants to come up with a plan to deal with a cramped senior center and cramped village hall, use annexation to clean up areas along its borders, and also

finish a long list of pending redevelopment projects, property acquisitions and land studies to transform Wheeling into a "community of choice."

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite says the new list of goals will help trustees regain focus.

"I really enjoy working for this board, but one of the challenges is they want to do everything quickly," he said. "Hopefully this gives the board some discipline so that they're not as inclined to toss other projects on the table until we can get some of these other ones cleaned up."

Trustees for two years have been pushing for more aggressive steps to help Wheeling catch up to some of its more affluent neighbors.

During a two-day workshop last week, trustees narrowed a

list from 30 general ideas for improving Wheeling to the final five priorities.

"I think the space problems we have in the village is my main concern," Village President Greg Klatecki said.

It hurts Wheeling's image when developers arrive at village hall and have to meet with staff members in the cafeteria, he said.

"We keep growing in every aspect, but we aren't growing in space to run our business," Klatecki said.

Still, topping the list for many trustees was the annexation plan the village board decided just last week to abandon.

"This annexation has been a goal of the village board for three years," said Trustee Dean Argiris, an annexation propo-

nent on the losing side of last week's split vote.

"One of the big things was: There are a lot of capital improvements in some of the areas, and how do we pay for that?" Argiris said. "But the staff has some hard numbers now, and the revenue generated by these areas will pay for some of these capital improvements."

Public works staff members told trustees it would cost more than \$6 million to provide new sewer, water and other services to portions of four targeted residential areas in unincorporated Cook County.

The cost of annexation would climb higher when police and fire service were added, in addition to infrastructure for commercial areas, officials said.

Douthwaite said the biggest

challenge in revisiting the issue will be determining which services will be required in newly incorporated areas and the total cost of adding up to 4,000 people to the village.

Village staff will spend the next two months, for example, coming up with a clearer picture of which unincorporated areas already receive water from private utilities.

For each of the other four goals trustees announced this week, there are also challenges:

- Addressing village hall space needs will depend largely on the results of pending studies on flooding and redevelopment possibilities in Wheeling.

- Finding a larger senior center will depend on cost and a decision about village hall.

- On a long "finish" list, Wheeling wants to: finish creating a tax-financing district to redevelop Dundee Road; study redevelopment options around Wheeling's Metra rail station; do a flood study for possible redevelopment along Dundee Road; revise its zoning code; and acquire properties to spur redevelopment on Milwaukee Avenue.

- Wheeling also wants Cook County to examine why it assesses commercial and residential properties differently, but it's a highly charged political issue.

"For whatever we don't get done in a year, we should have a plan for most of it," Klatecki said. "I would say by next July 1, 2004, we need to put a report card out on what we did."

Wheeling says bonds won't mean more taxes

OK, so there might be a little concern about Wheeling's latest bond issue.

When a village issues bonds, it doesn't always mean homeowners will pay more taxes.

Wheeling approved the sale last week of \$3.4 million in bonds to help the village pay for improvement projects.

Yet, Wheeling officials say the money to pay the loan back will come from existing sewer and water fees and from money generated by property in a redevelopment district.

"Just so no one gets crazy and thinks they're going to have to pay more with these bonds," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said.

The first loan will pay for general village sewer and water improvements, while the second will be spent in a tax increment financing district.

In a TIF district, money generated by increases in property value are redirected into the district to pay for improvements. It's one of the tools Wheeling is using with hopes of upgrading its image.

Wheeling's contracted financial adviser told trustees "there shouldn't be an effect on the general property taxpayer" from the bond sale.

And if you're the type who's interested in financial stuff, you might want to know that Financial Services, formerly known as Payne Weber, is handling the bond sale for the \$2.25 million sewer and water projects. For the \$1.15 million in bonds for infrastructure improvements, the winning bid came from Harris Trust and Savings of Chicago.

Charity hole-in-one: The folks at Addolorata Villa Retirement Community were proud to tell us they raised more than \$45,000 during their big golf fund-raiser.

Village won't annex trouble

Board decides incorporation could be become expensive

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER
6-26-03

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The unincorporated areas within Wheeling borders include the Inland Drive and Plum Grove Drive neighborhoods just north of Hintz Road off Milwaukee Avenue, the Industrial Drive and Sumac Drive area just north of Pal-

Come In early For Best Selection



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Changes eyed for 10-year-old

Cliatt: Wheeling rotary Club wins award

Continued from Page 1

The 17th annual "Angels with Clubs" golf outing was a bit far away from home last month at the Lake Barrington Shores Country Club, but more than 100 people participated.

The money raised will go into the Continuing Care Fund, which was set up by Addolorata to help residents there whose resources have diminished over the years.

"The fund enables our residents to live comfortably and be reassured that they will never be asked to leave the community," said Maureen Tokar, Addolorata's director of philanthropy.

More kudos: Our congratulations go out to The Rotary Club of Wheeling, which recently received the Rotary International Presidential Citation for club accomplishments for

2002-2003. We're told not all clubs receive the honor, so you might want to give our local Rotarians a pat on the back.

The officers for 2003-2004

are President Judy Abruscato, President-elect Tamiye Meehan, Secretary Bruce Piepenbrink and Treasurer Andrew Ullman. The former president is Erica Young.

Wheeling plans again include

June 25, 2003

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A controversial on-again, off-again plan to fill unincorporated gaps in the Wheeling map is on the table again as the village commits to improving itself.

An annexation proposal resurfaced this week among five priorities the village board announced as a result of trustees' first goal-setting session in more than six years.

The basis of all of the priorities remains the familiar concern over Wheeling's image.

In the next year, the village wants to come up with a plan to deal with a cramped senior center and cramped village hall, use annexation to clean up areas along its borders, and also

finish a long list of pending redevelopment projects, property acquisitions and land studies to transform Wheeling into a "community of choice."

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite says the new list of goals will help trustees regain focus.

"I really enjoy working for this board, but one of the challenges is they want to do everything quickly," he said. "Hopefully this gives the board some discipline so that they're not as inclined to toss other projects on the table until we can get some of these other ones cleaned up."

Trustees for two years have been pushing for more aggressive steps to help Wheeling catch up to some of its more affluent neighbors.

During a two-day workshop last week, trustees narrowed a

list from 30 general ideas for improving Wheeling to the final five priorities.

"I think the space problems we have in the village is my main concern," Village President Greg Klatecki said.

It hurts Wheeling's image when developers arrive at village hall and have to meet with staff members in the cafeteria, he said.

"We keep growing in every aspect, but we aren't growing in space to run our business," Klatecki said.

Still, topping the list for many trustees was the annexation plan the village board decided just last week to abandon.

"This annexation has been a goal of the village board for three years," said Trustee Dean Argiris, an annexation propo-

nent on the losing side of last week's split vote.

"One of the big things there are a lot of improvements in some areas, and how do we pay for that?" Argiris said. "But there has some hard numbers and the revenue generated from these areas will pay for some of these capital improvements."

Public works staff member told trustees it would cost more than \$6 million to provide sewer, water and other services to portions of four target areas in unincorporated Cook County.

The cost of annexation climbed higher when police and fire service were added, Douthwaite said the



Tattooed men are arraigned earlier this

Tattoos are

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BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

6-26-03

The Wheeling Village Board decided that forcibly annexing unincorporated areas is not in its best interest, although it is most likely the only way those areas will be "cleaned up."

Trustees said the added costs of providing services to those areas outweigh the benefits of added property taxes and more revenue from utility taxes.

There are five pockets of land within Wheeling's borders that are in unincorporated Cook County. These areas do not abide by local zoning ordinances, and do not receive village services, such as police and fire protection, or water and sewer mains.

Trustees said some of these unincorporated areas are "polluting" the village's image with various debris and dangerous conditions. Above-ground fuel storage tanks, junk automobiles and garbage can be found lying around in some of the more industrial unincorporated areas.

In some of the residential unincorporated areas, there are many home businesses, where employees park all day and other vehicles used for the business are stored. Residents also use patios for storage and leave garbage on the ground in some of these areas as well.

However, not all unincorporated areas have these issues. Wheeling Fire Chief Keith Mac Isaac noted that some residential areas, like the Plum Creek condominiums, are very well maintained.

These properties carry Wheeling's name, whether we like it or not," Argiris said. "All of those issues there right now reflects on our image. I'm not expecting a drastic change, but we need to start."

The unincorporated areas within Wheeling borders include the Inland Drive and Plum Grove Drive neighborhoods just north of Hintz Road off Milwaukee Avenue, the Industrial Drive and Sumac Drive area just north of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Jackson Drive just north of Hintz Road and west of Schoenbeck Road, Edward Street/Russel Street/Vera Lane just north of Wheeling High School, and Wolf Run Estates west of Wolf Road and south of Hintz.

Should those areas be annexed into the village, the village would need to provide municipal services to them. Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said he would need three more officers just to serve the 1,700 residents of Plum Creek and Hunt Club apartments.

Popadowski also said calls from those areas can be more dangerous for officers. He described one bust at Hunt Club where officers found 73 grams of cocaine, marijuana, a shotgun, a 9 mm handgun, ammunition and \$4,000 cash in one of those units.

Village President Greg Klatecki said he would be more inclined to forcibly annex the areas if the village would "come out even" financially. However, public works officials noted it could cost the village up to \$6 million in order to provide needed infrastructure to the areas.

Trustees Trevor Lehmann and Dean Argiris were the only two who said they favored annexation.

Trustee Michael Horcher said he would not vote in favor of forcibly annexing any property.

"I think if we offered them something, they'd want to join the village," he said. "I will not vote for it."

Changes eyed for 10-year-old bike path plan

BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

6-26-03

Wheeling officials are being forced to alter plans drawn 10 years ago to build a bicycle path along the Commonwealth Edison high-tension power lines, connecting the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove Metra stations.

WHEELING

Tony Stavros, engineer assistant with Wheeling's Public Works Department, said the old plan will not work now that the Cook County Highway Department widened and rebuilt the Lake-Cook Road railroad overpass bridge last year.

Stavros explained there will not be enough room under the bridge for bicyclists to ride when oncoming trains are traveling along the tracks. An earthen slope under the bridge would have to be removed, sheet piling added, and the slope rebuilt, adding an extra \$120,000 to the project.

"This is just an enhancement project to get people from Buffalo Grove and Wheeling," he said. "I don't think it's worth the extra money."

The path is a joint effort between village officials, park district officials and Rotarians from both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is putting up 80 percent of the funding for the path. Construction costs are expected to run about \$1 million.

The project was bid last October and awarded to Thelen Sand and Gravel of Antioch. Thelen was scheduled to begin construction in November 2002, and complete the project by August.

However, Thelen never received a notice to proceed with the project, because of difficulties in obtaining permits from Cook County Highway and the Canadian National Railroad needed to begin construction.

Stavros said IDOT needs to know if the village wants to continue with the plan, or

draft another one by July 7, when local public works and IDOT officials are scheduled to meet.

Stavros outlined two alternatives to the original plan. One would lead bicyclists south along Northgate Parkway from Lake-Cook Road, all the way to Dundee Road and eventually to the Community Recreation Center.

Stavros said the village would have to widen sidewalks along the route to 10 feet and acquire rights of way around the Strong Avenue intersection to make that alternative work. It would also require bicyclists to cross Northgate Parkway twice.

The second alternative would send cyclists south along Lexington Drive from Lake-Cook Road, to McHenry Road, across Dundee Road to Wheeling Road, then east on Town Street to the Metra station. The path would end there and not take riders to the Community Recreation Center.

Stavros said sidewalks and paths would have to be widened along that route as well, and build a pedestrian bridge over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch near McHenry Road. However, he also said he believed if IDOT was still willing to spend the same amount of money, both alternatives could be built.

"IDOT wants a decision," Stavros told trustees at a June 16 village board meeting. "Either pull the plug or continue with the project."

Trustees agreed the best plan was to ask IDOT for both alternatives. Even if IDOT doesn't bite, Trustee Trevor Lehmann said both paths are nearly complete already, and suggested they could be built even without IDOT's money.

Steven Boime, a Wheeling plan commissioner who also works with the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, said he believed both alternatives are better than the original plan.

"I always thought the original plan was a poor one," he said. "I think the alternatives serve neighborhoods of the village."

Wheeling festival to show spirit of America

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's one-day summer festival is gaining a regional reputation, village officials say.

Food fare from Wheeling's renowned Restaurant Row continues to draw residents from across the Northwest suburbs to the July 4 Taste of Wheeling. Bands keep joining the parade from out of state.

This year's theme for the fourth annual Taste of Wheeling, fireworks display and Independence Day parade is "Spirit of America." The day offers food vendors, live entertainment, children's games and radio-controlled stock car racing from noon to 11:30 p.m. on festival grounds in front of the Wheeling Park District's Community Recreation Center.

"We are pleased this year to

have the Miami One World Calypso Band that has the No. 1 record in Key West, Fla.," said Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato, chairwoman of the village's Special Events Commission.

New to the parade this year will be the U.S. Mini Chopper Club, a motorcycle group that raises money for children and disadvantaged families.

Also, the Colt Marching Band will bring its 135 members from

Iowa along with five drum and bugle corps groups.

"Last year we had a band from Colorado," Abruscato said. "And they called this band from Iowa and said, 'If you're going to be in the Chicago area, you have to play in Wheeling.'" An estimated 85 parade entrants will step off at 6 p.m. from Dundee and Wheeling roads.

Entertainment before and after the parade will include the

Jesse White Tumblers, the Alegra Mexicano Dancers from St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church and the Virgil Kane Country & Western Band, the last act on stage after fireworks light up the sky at dusk.

A magician's performance, inflatable rides and basketball toss are some of the activities children can enjoy.

For more information, visit www.vi.wheeling.il.us.

Son, others arrested in Wheeling break-in

7-1-03
BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Shawn Kelly, 19, and Carlos Mendes, 31, both of whom live

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Trustees look to th

BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

July 3, 2003

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State Representative Kathy Kyj for the 59th District

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Robert Anderson Treasurer Salt Creek #93
Robert Anderson, treasurer, at (847) 537-2593, 4696 or Bob Anderson, Sass, chairman, at (847) 272- For more information, call Ed continue this important work. For more information, call Ed eligible, please help us younger members. If you are work, we need new and every year. To continue the II veterans, and we lose some our members are World War

Fourth celebration starts at noon

7-3-03
Wheeling's annual Fourth of July celebration is scheduled to begin at noon Friday, with the parade starting at 6 p.m. and fireworks set to begin at dark.

Entertainment, the Taste of Wheeling and the fireworks will be held at the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road. Medley's in Motion disc jockey Greg Koeppen will be the master of ceremonies all day in the entertainment tent. Performers at the festival will include Calypso act One World, magician J.B. Brash, the Jesse White Tumblers, the Tinkertoy Dixieland Band, Larry Benben Big Band Sound and the Alegra Mexicano Dancers from St. Joseph the Worker Church. Country and western singer Virgil Kane will perform after the fireworks.

Restaurants participating in the event include Tuscany, Sauer's Bakery, Joe's Pizza, Golden Chef, Alamos Tacos, Wa Pa Ghetti's Pizza and I Am Siam. The Knights of Columbus, AMVETS Post 66, VFW Post 7879 and the London Middle School Instrumental League will also be serving food all day.

More than 70 units have signed up for the parade. The Wheeling High School Marching Band will return this year, and the 135-piece Colt Marching Band from Iowa will also play. Other bands expected to perform in the parade are the Cubs band from Wrigley Field and a mariachi band.

Police up DUI enforcement

7-3-03
The Wheeling Police Department will have more officers on patrol looking for impaired drivers over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Extra patrols will be on the road, and the department will also set up a roadside safety checkpoint in the village Saturday. Although the checkpoint is meant to target drunk drivers, all venie codes and traffic laws will be enforced, including the village's seat belt ordinance.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said the enforcement is part of the department's effort to ensure the roads are safe for all families traveling through Wheeling during the holiday weekend.

Funding for the extra patrols and checkpoint come from the Wheeling Safe Communities program with a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety.

Wheeling festival to show spirit of America

CASS CLIAFF
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Son, others arrested in Wheeling break-in

7-1-03
BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three men were charged with stealing computers from the home of one of their mothers in Wheeling, prosecutors said Monday.

Shawn Kelly, 19, and Carlos Mendes, 31, both of whom live at 190 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling, and Kevin Soto, 17, of Arlington Heights were arrested Sunday night after Wheeling police received a tip.

Police special operations officers were watching in hiding as the men ran through a yard to the back of the home of Kelly's mother, on the 800 block of Jenkins Court, authorities said.

Police say the men entered the garage, where prosecutors said Soto took a desktop computer and Mendes and Kelly started stuffing a duffel bag with computers and computer parts before they were arrested.

Soto — who attends Northwest Suburban Academy in Arlington Heights — and Kelly both have charges of theft and trespassing pending against them in an earlier case, prosecutors said.

Kelly was sentenced to 30 months' probation for burglary in March.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Karen Thompson Tobin set bond at \$25,000 for Mendes, \$50,000 for Soto, and \$75,000 for Kelly.

They were scheduled for a court hearing July 23 in Rolling Meadows.

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Trustees look to the future

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

July 3, 2003

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Redevelopment along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road continues to occupy much of trustees' time, but there are other issues confronting the village that deserve attention, officials said.

Village President Greg Klatecki announced the five goals at the board's July 23 meeting. They include annexing areas of unincorporated land within village borders, finding more space for village employees, completing planning projects, building a larger senior center and finding a way to equalize tax assessments on commercial and industrial properties between Cook and Lake counties.

"I wanted to go public with (the goals) to let everyone know what we're working on and what our priorities are," Klatecki said.

Klatecki's biggest priority is to complete a number of planning projects under way in the village. Trustees and members of the Wheeling Plan Commission continue to iron out details on a new comprehensive plan that will guide future development, and they are also waiting on the results of a flood study that could alter or advance plans for new construction. The village also recently established a new tax increment financing district designed to fund improvements along North Milwaukee Avenue, and a town center redevelopment push is on.

"It's my opinion that we not start new projects until we get some stuff done," Klatecki said. "We need to get things done in proper order so we

don't hinder ourselves. We don't want to put the cart before the horse."

Clean up time

Trustees reversed course and agreed to incorporate five areas within the village's borders that are technically in unincorporated Cook County. On June 16, board members agreed by a 5 to 2 poll to leave those areas alone. However, Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he believed some trustees were confused at the time about how much the annexation would cost the village.

The targeted areas include industrial land around Sumac and Industrial Lanes, and apartments and homes, especially those along Jackson Street that are used for home-based businesses. The property owners in those areas do not have to abide by village codes, and trustees agreed that they are "polluting" the village's image because of their appearance.

"We have to work with (those) businesses, and the businesses have to work with us," Lehmann said. "It's a partnership that must exist. I don't want to put people out of business, but I want it cleaned up over there."

Public works officials said providing infrastructure like water and sewer mains to the targeted areas could cost the village as much as \$6 million. Lehmann argued that the village would eventually be able to cover those costs through increased property tax revenues generated after annexation.

"It is a lot of money," Lehmann said. "If we put together a 20-year plan and get more revenue, we can more than cover the costs of the improvements."

(Continued on page 13)

Serving seniors

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she has been talking in earnest about expanding the Pavilion Senior Center for the last two to three years, and she wanted to make sure it got on the list of goals.

"In this day and age, seniors aren't 75 or 80 years old," she said. "People are retiring at 55. We need to update and upgrade our space for those seniors."

The senior population will continue to grow, Abruscato said. And she pointed to many of the village's new multifamily housing developments, like One Milwaukee Place, Park Point and Astor Place, as being attractive to seniors seeking a new place to live.

"I'm not saying (expansion of the Senior Center) is going to get done in a year," Abruscato said. "But we need to have a plan so in a year we can start to dig the hole."

Abruscato said the Pavilion is already in need for more space. There are about 800 center members, and the largest

room can only accommodate 150. The Pavilion has also been expanding its services and now offers a full-time social worker.

An expanded center would most likely entail building a new one, because space on the Pavilion property is tight, trustees said.

Village Hall

Trustee Robert Heer said he wants the Village Hall expansion on the list of goals. As the village grows, Heer said the village must have the facilities it needs to meet the public's demand for services.

"I've been on the board for eight years now, and we've done countless space studies," Heer said. "They've all said the same thing — that we need space. I hope it gets done."

Heer said it reflects poorly on the village that staff members are required to work in rented space off the Village Hall campus and that closets are being used

for offices.

"People come in (to Village Hall) and see that we're trying to improve our community, but the conditions at Village Hall are lacking," Heer said. "What kind of message are we sending?"

Trustees in April eliminated a plan to expand Village Hall from the village's five-year capital-improvement plan. Trustees said they wanted to implement a village-wide capital-improvements program while accumulating a minimum amount of debt.

Tax talk

Trustees Michael and Patricia Horcher want the village to focus on regional affairs by trying to persuade Cook County to adjust its property assessment system.

Cook County residents are taxed at 1 percent of their home's fair market value, while industrial and commercial property owners are taxed at 36 percent of fair market value. In Lake County

7-3-03
The event include Tuscany, Ghetti's Pizza, Golden Chef, Alamos Tacos, Wa Pa Ghetti's Pizza and I Am Siam. The Knights of Columbus, AMVEIS Post 66, VFW Post 7879 and the London Middle School Instrumental League will also be serving food all day.
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Shawn Kelly, 19, and Carlos Mendes, 31, both of whom live at 190 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling, and Kevin Soto, 17, of Adington Heights were arrested Sunday night after Wheeling police received a tip.

Police special operations officers were watching in hiding as the men ran through a yard to the back of the home of Kelly's mother, on the 800 block of Jenkins Court, authorities said.

Police say the men entered the garage, where prosecutors said Soto took a desktop computer and Mendes and Kelly started stuffing a duffel bag with computers and computer parts before they were arrested.

Soto — who attends Northwest Suburban Academy in Arlington Heights — and Kelly both have charges of theft and trespassing pending against them in an earlier case, prosecutors said.

Kelly was sentenced to 30 months' probation for burglary in March.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Karen Thompson Tobin set bond at \$25,000 for Mendes, \$50,000 for Soto, and \$75,000 for Kelly.

They were scheduled for a court hearing July 23 in Rolling Meadows.

ment, crafts, games and food from about 10 vendors. Entertainment begins at noon, includes Gregory Koeppen's Medley in Motion, Larry Benben's Big Band Orchestra, Maraichi Alegra Mexicano Dancers, One World Calypso from Key West and Virgil Kane country band. Restaurants include Tuscany, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza, Golden Chef, Taueria Alamo, Joe's Pizza and Sauer's Bakery. Park at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, and the Wheeling Park District, 333 W. Dundee Road. (847) 459-2605 or www.vi.wheeling.il.us. Parade: 6 p.m. Friday, starts at Wheeling and Dundee roads near train station; east to Wolf Road and then to Heritage Park. Includes Wheeling High School Marching Band. (847) 537-0574. Fireworks: dusk Friday. 7-2-03

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arts at noon 7-3-03

ly celebration is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. and fire-

Wheeling and the fireworks will be at the Senior Center, 333 W. Dundee Road. Gregory Koeppen will be the entertainment tent. Parade: Calypso act One World, matrials Tumbler, the Tinkertoy Band Sound and the Allegheny Joseph the Worker Church. Kane will perform after the

he event include Tuscany,

Golden Chef, Alamos Tacos, Wa Pa Ghatti's Pizza and I Am Siam. The Knights of Columbus, AMVETS Post 66, VFW Post 7879 and the London Middle School Instrumental League will also be serving food all day.

More than 70 units have signed up for the parade. The Wheeling High School Marching Band will return this year, and the 135-piece Colt Marching Band from Iowa will also play. Other bands expected to perform in the parade are the Cubs band from Wrigley Field and a mariachi band.

July 3, 2003
With so much already on their plate, members of the Wheeling Village Board are setting goals to stay focused on the village's future needs.

Redevelopment along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road continues to occupy much of trustees' time, but there are other issues confronting the village that deserve attention, officials said.

Village President Greg Klatecki announced the five goals at the board's July 23 meeting. They include annexing areas of unincorporated land within village borders, finding more space for village employees, completing planning projects, building a larger senior center and finding a way to equalize tax assessments on commercial and industrial properties between Cook and Lake counties.

"I wanted to go public with (the goals) to let everyone know what we're working on and what our priorities are," Klatecki said.

Klatecki's biggest priority is to complete a number of planning projects under way in the village. Trustees and members of the Wheeling Plan Commission continue to iron out details on a new comprehensive plan that will guide future development, and they are also waiting on the results of a flood study that could alter or advance plans for new construction. The village also recently established a new tax increment financing district designed to fund improvements along North Milwaukee Avenue, and a town center redevelopment push is on.

"It's my opinion that we not start new projects until we get some stuff done," Klatecki said. "We need to get things done in proper order so we

Serving seniors

Trustee Judy Abruscato said she has been talking in earnest about expanding the Pavilion Senior Center for the last two to three years, and she wanted to make sure it got on the list of goals.

"In this day and age, seniors aren't 75 or 80 years old," she said. "People are retiring at 55. We need to update and upgrade our space for those seniors."

The senior population will continue to grow, Abruscato said. And she pointed to many of the village's new multifamily housing developments, like One Milwaukee Place, Park Point and Astor Place, as being attractive to seniors seeking a new place to live.

"I'm not saying (expansion of the Senior Center) is going to get done in a year," Abruscato said. "But we need to have a plan so in a year we can start to dig the hole."

Abruscato said the Pavilion is already in need for more space. There are about 800 center members, and the largest

room can only accommodate 150. The Pavilion has also been expanding its services and now offers a full-time social worker.

An expanded center would most likely entail building a new one, because space on the Pavilion property is tight, trustees said.

Village Hall

Trustee Robert Heer said he wants the Village Hall expansion on the list of goals. As the village grows, Heer said the village must have the facilities it needs to meet the public's demand for services.

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Heer said it reflects poorly on the village that staff members are required to work in rented space off the Village Hall campus and that closets are being used

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Trustees reversed course and agreed to incorporate five areas within the village's borders that are technically in unincorporated Cook County. On June 16, board members agreed by a 5 to 2 poll to leave those areas alone. However, Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he believed some trustees were confused at the time about how much the annexation would cost the village.

The targeted areas include industrial land around Sumac and Industrial Lanes, and apartments and homes, especially those along Jackson Street that are used for home-based businesses. The property owners in those areas do not have to abide by village codes, and trustees agreed that they are "polluting" the village's image because of their appearance.

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Public works officials said providing infrastructure like water and sewer mains to the targeted areas could cost the village as much as \$6 million. Lehmann argued that the village would eventually be able to cover those costs through increased property tax revenues generated after annexation.

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(Continued on page 13)

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"People come in (to Village Hall) and see that we're trying to improve our community, but the conditions at Village Hall are lacking," Heer said. "What kind of message are we sending?"

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Tax talk

Trustees Michael and Patrick Horcher want the village to focus on regional affairs by trying to persuade Cook County to adjust its property assessment system.

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Patrick Horcher said the village will have to lobby the Cook County Board of Commissioners for any change. He also would like to see the Northwest Municipal Conference help in the lobbying effort.

"It will be a challenge, because it isn't popular," Horcher said. "I want to start the ball rolling on this. There's nothing wrong with being the guy who will try it."

Claims f

BY CASS CLIAIT 7-9
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Now Open!

Hail: Car dealer's entire stock sustained damaged

Continued from Page 1

July 9-2003
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Insurers said the severity of the hail storm might be second only to the Lake Zurich area storm in 2000. That damage totaled more than \$100 million.

State Farm Insurance and Allstate were among insurance companies sending catastrophe teams this week to process claims.

"On the automobile side the early estimates call for 8,000 claims at a total of \$16 million," State Farm spokesman Joe Johnson said. Claims for homeowners and a handful of small businesses could reach the 7,000 level for a total of \$20.4 million.

The National Association of Independent Insurers estimates that State Farm has about a 30 percent share of the insurance market. So, similar damage projections from other insurers could hike the cost of the storm above \$90 million.

"Clearly this is a multimillion-dollar situation," said Joseph Annotti, spokesman for the national insurers association. "All claims aren't in yet, but to be categorized as a disaster or catastrophic loss, insured damage has to reach \$25 million."

Allstate had processed about 2,000 Illinois claims as of Tuesday for the weekend storms.

"We won't be able to assess

the full damage of this storm for awhile," Allstate spokesman Mike Siemienas said. "We'll get to (customers) as soon as possible, but we have people who have homes that are literally uninhabitable."

Dan Vojacek of US Restorations based in Mount Prospect, said his surveys of the area have revealed individual roof damage alone up to \$12,000.

Local families are keeping their fingers crossed that insurance will pay for their losses.

"If you need a new roof, you're talking \$5,000," Patricia Steilen of Wheeling said. "A lot of us are wondering if it's enough damage to cover our deductible, and that's why we're calling our insurance."

Insurance adjusters were particularly busy Tuesday at unprotected areas such as Wheeling's Bill Stasek Chevrolet, where every car in the lot sustained damage, officials there said.

In Buffalo Grove, 36 police vehicles were pelted by hail.

"It was those cars parked unused in our parking lot, as well as cars that were on patrol," police Commander Mike Soucy said.

Wheeling must repair 53 municipal vehicles that suffered heavy damage and fix some rooftop heating units. The money will come from village insurance and a liability insur-



MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD
Mary Vitaloli assesses the damage after hail shot holes through the corrugated plastic roof of her deck.

ance fund, not taxpayers, officials said.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued a warning Tuesday, telling residents to guard against scam artists preying on people who suffer from storm damage.

All contractors should furnish written contracts, and residents should not pay cash, Madigan said in a statement.

Stormy weather continued Tuesday. Flights at O'Hare International Airport were delayed throughout the day, said Monique Bond, spokeswoman for Chicago's aviation department.

• Daily Herald staff writer Matt Arado contributed to this report.

Wheeling keeps bike path project with Buffalo Grove alive

BY CASS CLIAIT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-9-03

Public outcry prompted Wheeling officials Monday to hold off on ending a 10-year partnership to build a bike path between Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Wheeling trustees unexpectedly decided to wait to get exact figures on how much it would cost to update the design for the \$1 million Regional Greenway Corridor. Bike Path Rotary Club members and Buffalo Grove leaders spoke out against Wheeling's plans to

expand local sidewalks instead of pursuing the project meant to unite the two towns and honor a local activist. "We had the memorial for Bill Simpson go into Denoyer Park," said Erica Young, the Wheeling Rotary's former president. "The bike path was supposed to go through Denoyer Park and now it's not."

Ten years ago, the Rotarians persuaded their towns and park districts to participate in the bike path to honor Simpson, a business activist in both communities. The Greenway path was to pass by the Simpson memorial

completed last year in Denoyer Park along the path's route from Wheeling's Metra station near Dundee Road to Busch Parkway near Buffalo Grove's rail station. Trustees from Wheeling, which took the lead on the project, last month had said it could be \$150,000 cheaper and also safer to scrap a design that would take cyclists under a secluded bridge at Lake-Cook Road. Buffalo Grove and Rotarians protested Monday against Wheeling's plan to create bike lanes on streets and fill gaps in sidewalk instead.

"The project misses the mark, I believe, with regard to its original intent and with regard to overall safety and convenience to riders," said Buffalo Grove Village President William Balling in a letter to trustees. Balling was unable to attend Monday's meeting, but pointed out that Wheeling's plan raises its own safety questions by requiring cyclists to cross an eight-lane intersection on Northgate Parkway. Wheeling will decide the fate of the Greenway design after learning what it would take to update it with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

A plan designed to help Wheeling remake its image is on its way to a final vote — again. Wheeling trustees and plan commissioners this week resolved an ideological dispute by agreeing to open one of the village's last large parcels to a mix of commercial and residential development.

The area bordered by McHenry and Buffalo Grove roads, called the Horcher property, was at first going to be reserved for housing only. But this week's compromise gives Wheeling the option of creating more upscale housing — which members of the plan commission believe the village sorely needs — and pursuing commercial development sought by some trustees.

Plan commissioners, who took the lead on developing the proposed comprehensive plan, originally designated the Horcher land strictly for housing — part of a larger land-use map designed to improve the village's single-family housing stock, develop a town center and otherwise upgrade the village over the next 20 years. Trustees had been on the verge of voting on that comprehensive plan in April, only to realize at the last minute that talks village staff were having with an undisclosed retailer would have immediately con-

tracted it. At a special joint workshop with commissioners this week, trustees agreed to a compromise devised by Community Development Director Daniel Ozanich. "The mixed residential and commercial would leave that area open to what the board decides," Ozanich said. Ozanich also suggested changing the proposed zoning for the less-disputed southeast corner of Lake-C-Milwaukee Aven open space and c The plan con proposed using park space that c nearby forest p ever, trustees sai of a pending flo show there is po generate come Plan Commiss Brady said he u interest in gener

Wheeling to open up land to b

BY CASS CLIAIT July 10, 2003
Daily Herald Staff Writer
Trustees to vote on compromise to make Horcher property mix of housing and com

BY AMES BOYKIN AND JOHN PATTERSON
Daily Herald staff writers

July 9-2003
President George W. Bush Tuesday said he will nominate a prominent Wheeling construction executive with Irish roots as the next U.S. ambassador to Ireland.

James C. Kenny, vice president and owner of family-owned Kenny Construction Co., will need the confirmation of the U.S. Senate to take the post, which has been vacant since December.

Kenny also is president of Kenny Management Services, but he is perhaps best known locally for his and his company's work in 1992 repairing the tunnel break that caused what became known as the Great Chicago Flood.

While Kenny would not comment pending the Senate confirmation, a spokeswoman at the construction firm said he was "honored and humbled."

Kenny is a top Republican fund-raiser and worked as Bush's finance chairman in Illinois in 2000.

He has helped raise funds for several Republican governor candidates in recent years and



James C. Kenny

was a delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention.

Since 1994, Kenny has donated more than \$250,000 mostly to Republican

campaigns, and to some prominent Democrats in state and local politics such as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, state campaign finance records show.

He also served as a member of a transportation advisory committee for Bush when he took office. Last year, Kenny was part of a delegation at the inauguration of the president of Nicaragua.

"Given his experience in business, politics, and civic affairs, Jim Kenny certainly has developed the diplomatic skills necessary to serve as an ambassador," said John McGovern, spokesman for U.S. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, a Yorkville Republican. "It's an exciting appointment for Illinois because so many residents share Irish roots."

State Sen. Kirk Dillard, a

Hinsdale Republican who worked with Kenny during Gov. Jim Edgar's administration, called the nomination an excellent choice that will help Illinois businesses tap into Ireland's burgeoning technological industry.

"From his red hair to his prim and proper dress and demeanor, Jim Kenny will be an excellent ambassador to the country of his heritage," Dillard said.

Kenny Construction has headed some major projects in the Chicago area, including the renovation of Soldier Field. It also worked on the Deep Tunnel project.

Kenny currently serves on the Illinois First Task Force, which distributes money for construction projects statewide.

He also is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and sits on the boards of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Bradley University, his alma mater, Children's Memorial Hospital and the Illinois Business Roundtable.

He was a member of the authority that oversaw expansion at Navy Pier and McCormick Place.

Claims for hail damages could top \$90 million

BY GASS GLIATT 7-9-03
Daily Herald Staff Writer

For only 10 minutes on Sunday, it sounded like the sky opened up and hurled hammers onto Mike Vitaioli's home.

Vitaioli and other residents across northern Cook County and Lake County were still cleaning up Tuesday from the aftermath of one of the area's worst hail storms in

ez Links STORM
7-6-03
dailyherald.com/ez
Bookmark our Web page for hyperlinks to more information

Tips for filing storm claims
Attorney general's storm-repair fraud alert

decades.
Golf ball-sized hail measuring up

to two inches shot holes through roofing, knocked the siding off of homes, dented cars and slashed through trees and landscaping like machetes.

The damage across the area could reach up to \$90 million, insurers estimated.

"It sounded like somebody taking a sledgehammer to the house," Vitaioli said of his home on Wheeling's north side. "My truck got

damaged and my car, and there are other cars in the neighborhood that are like Swiss cheese."

Shoppers in far northern Arlington Heights had to scurry for cover when the hail began to fall around 2 p.m. Sunday.

"You could hear it hitting the pavement, like cracking the cement," said White Hen Pantry



PHOTO COURTESY THE VITAIOLI FAMILY
Hail collected by Mike Vitaioli of Wheeling that pummeled the region Sunday measured as big as golf balls.

See **HAIL** on **PAGE 12**

Hail: Car dealer's entire stock sustained damaged

Continued from Page 1

JULY 9-2003
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MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD

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Bike path project with Buffalo Grove alive

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Wheeling Trustee Judy Abrus-
cato, chairwoman of the village's
Special Events Commission.
New to the parade this year
will be the U.S. Mini Chopper
Club, a motorcycle group that
raises money for children and
disadvantaged families.
Also, the Colt Marching Band
will bring its 135 members from

Iowa along with five drum and
bugle corps groups.
"Last year we had a band
from Colorado," Abruscato said.
"And they called this band from
Iowa and said, 'If you're going to
be in the Chicago area, you have
to play in Wheeling.'" An esti-
mated 85 parade entrants will
step off at 6 p.m. from Dundee
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Entertainment before and
after the parade will include the

Jesse White Tumblers, the Alegra
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Country & Western Band, the
last act on stage after fireworks
light up the sky at dusk.
A magician's performance,
inflatable rides and basketball
toss are some of the activities
children can enjoy.
For more information, visit
www.vi.wheeling.il.us.

Trustees look to the future

By CASEY MORRITT
STAFF WRITER

July 3, 2003

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Wheeling: July Fourth/Taste of
Wheeling next to Wheeling Vil-
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Starts at 11:30 p.m. Admission
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State Farm Insurance and Allstate were among insurance companies sending catastrophe teams this week to process claims.

"On the automobile side the early estimates call for 8,000 claims at a total of \$16 million," State Farm spokesman Joe Johnson said. Claims for homeowners and a handful of small businesses could reach the 7,000 level for a total of \$20.4 million.

The National Association of Independent Insurers estimates that State Farm has about a 30 percent share of the insurance market. So, similar damage projections from other insurers could hike the cost of the storm above \$90 million.

"Clearly this is a multimillion-dollar situation," said Joseph Annotti, spokesman for the national insurers association. "All claims aren't in yet, but to be categorized as a disaster or catastrophic loss, insured damage has to reach \$25 million."

Allstate had processed about 2,000 Illinois claims as of Tuesday for the weekend storms.

"We won't be able to assess

the full damage of this storm for awhile," Allstate spokesman Mike Siemienas said. "We'll get to (customers) as soon as possible, but we have people who have homes that are literally uninhabitable."

Dan Vojacek of US Restorations based in Mount Prospect, said his surveys of the area have revealed individual roof damage alone up to \$12,000.

Local families are keeping their fingers crossed that insurance will pay for their losses.

"If you need a new roof, you're talking \$5,000," Patricia Steilen of Wheeling said. "A lot of us are wondering if it's enough damage to cover our deductible, and that's why we're calling our insurance."

Insurance adjusters were particularly busy Tuesday at unprotected areas such as Wheeling's Bill Stasek Chevrolet, where every car in the lot sustained damage, officials there said.

In Buffalo Grove, 36 police vehicles were pelted by hail.

"It was those cars parked unused in our parking lot, as well as cars that were on patrol," police Commander Mike Soucy said.

Wheeling must repair 53 municipal vehicles that suffered heavy damage and fix some rooftop heating units. The money will come from village insurance and a liability insur-



MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD

Mary Vitaioli assesses the damage after hail shot holes through the corrugated plastic roof of her deck.

ance fund, not taxpayers, officials said.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued a warning Tuesday, telling residents to guard against scam artists preying on people who suffer from storm damage.

All contractors should furnish written contracts, and residents should not pay cash, Madigan said in a statement.

Stormy weather continued Tuesday. Flights at O'Hare International Airport were delayed throughout the day, said Monique Bond, spokeswoman for Chicago's aviation department.

• Daily Herald staff writer Matt Arado contributed to this report.

With project with Buffalo Grove alive

Instead of the project meant to be a memorial for Bill Wheeling, the Buffalo Grove Village Board has approved to go forward with the project along the path's route from Wheeling's Metra station near Dundee Road to Busch Parkway near Buffalo Grove's rail station.

"The project misses the mark, I believe, with regard to its original intent and with regard to overall safety and convenience to riders," said Buffalo Grove Village President William Balling in a letter to trustees. Balling was unable to attend Monday's meeting, but pointed out that Wheeling's plan raises its own safety questions by requiring cyclists to cross an eight-lane intersection on Northgate Parkway.

Wheeling will decide the fate of the Greenway design after learning what it would take to update it with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

A plan designed to help Wheeling remake its image is on its way to a final vote — again.

Wheeling trustees and plan commissioners this week resolved an ideological dispute by agreeing to open one of the village's last large parcels to a mix of commercial and residential development.

The area bordered by McHenry and Buffalo Grove roads, called the Horcher prop-

erty, was at first going to be reserved for housing only.

But this week's compromise gives Wheeling the option of creating more upscale housing — which members of the plan commission believe the village sorely needs — and pursuing commercial development sought by some trustees.

Plan commissioners, who took the lead on developing the proposed comprehensive plan, originally designated the

Horcher land strictly for housing — part of a larger land-use map designed to improve the village's single-family housing stock, develop a town center and otherwise upgrade the village over the next 20 years.

Trustees had been on the verge of voting on that comprehensive plan in April, only to realize at the last minute that talks village staff were having with an undisclosed retailer would have immediately con-

tradicted it.

At a special joint workshop with commissioners this week, trustees agreed to a compromise devised by Community Development Director Daniel Ozanich.

"The mixed residential and commercial would leave that area open to what the board decides," Ozanich said.

Ozanich also suggested changing the proposed zoning for the less-disputed southeast

corner of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue to a mix of open space and commercial.

The plan commission had proposed using that area for park space that could link to the nearby forest preserve. However, trustees said the outcome of a pending flood study might show there is potential there to generate commercial revenue.

Plan Commissioner Kenneth Brady said he understood the intent in generating revenue, but he appealed to trustees to establish housing as a priority.

"People who want to move up to better housing have to leave Wheeling," Brady said. Brady added that most of the people who participated in 18 months of community meetings and hearings to develop Wheeling's first complete land-use plan in 20 years asked for more housing.

Consultants with the Caminos planning firm agreed to add the compromises to the 105-page plan in time for a final July 28 vote.

U.S. ambassador to Ireland

BY AMES BOYKIN AND JOHN PATTERSON

Daily Herald staff writers

July 9-2003

President George W. Bush Tuesday said he will nominate a prominent Wheeling construction executive with Irish roots as the next U.S. ambassador to Ireland.

James C. Kenny, vice president and owner of family-owned Kenny Construction Co., will need the confirmation of the U.S. Senate to take the post, which has been vacant since December.

Kenny also is president of Kenny Management Services, but he is perhaps best known locally for his and his company's work in 1992 repairing the tunnel break that caused what became known as the Great Chicago Flood.

While Kenny would not comment pending the Senate confirmation, a spokeswoman at the construction firm said he was "honored and humbled."

Kenny is a top Republican fund-raiser and worked as Bush's finance chairman in Illinois in 2000.

He has helped raise funds for several Republican governor candidates in recent years and



James C. Kenny

was a delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention.

Since 1994, Kenny has donated more than \$250,000 mostly to Republican

campaigns, and to some prominent Democrats in state and local politics such as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, state campaign finance records show.

He also served as a member of a transportation advisory committee for Bush when he took office. Last year, Kenny was part of a delegation at the inauguration of the president of Nicaragua.

"Given his experience in business, politics, and civic affairs, Jim Kenny certainly has developed the diplomatic skills necessary to serve as an ambassador," said John McGovern, spokesman for U.S. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, a Yorkville Republican.

"It's an exciting appointment for Illinois because so many residents share Irish roots."

State Sen. Kirk Dillard, a

Hinsdale Republican who worked with Kenny during Gov. Jim Edgar's administration, called the nomination an excellent choice that will help Illinois businesses tap into Ireland's burgeoning technological industry.

"From his red hair to his prim and proper dress and demeanor, Jim Kenny will be an excellent ambassador to the country of his heritage," Dillard said.

Kenny Construction has headed some major projects in the Chicago area, including the renovation of Soldier Field. It also worked on the Deep Tunnel project.

Kenny currently serves on the Illinois First Task Force, which distributes money for construction projects statewide.

He also is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and sits on the boards of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Bradley University, his alma mater, Children's Memorial Hospital and the Illinois Business Roundtable.

He was a member of the authority that oversaw expansion at Navy Pier and McCormick Place.

Wheeling to open up land to businesses

BY CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer
July 10, 2003

Trustees to vote on compromise to make Horcher property mix of housing and commercial

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Will the Greenway bike path ever be built?

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-10-03

Some Wheeling trustees don't care who's to blame for the problems that have prevented the bike path between Wheeling and Buffalo Grove from getting built.

Some do, but they agree the delay has been a disappointment.

"I find it somewhat embarrassing in the 11th hour that we seem to be dropping the ball on

this project," Trustee Robert Heer said.

Wheeling, which took the lead on a 10-year partnership with Buffalo Grove to build the Regional Greenway Corridor Bike Path, is awaiting exact numbers on cost and the likely project timeline, before trustees decide whether to continue or abandon the project.

Wheeling is considering creating a pathway loop by expanding its own sidewalk

system instead. Buffalo Grove opposes that option.

"I just want to know who was responsible," Heer said of the Greenway delay.

"Why did someone not go to the county when they were rebuilding Lake-Cook Road and say, 'This is the proposed bike path. Keep this clear?'"

Six municipal and civic organizations in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove agreed in 1993 to secure

about \$750,000 in federal funds to build the \$1 million Greenway path. However, county and state road construction along the intended route over the past 10 years means Wheeling and Buffalo Grove could have to pay \$120,000 to \$150,000 more to update the design.

Wheeling staff told trustees that the village's previous leadership didn't monitor the project. Meanwhile, Wheeling Trustee

Dean Argiris said it's less important to lay blame than it is to find ways to move forward.

But unanswered questions still surround the project, trustees said.

"If there's \$200,000 in extra costs here, I think that has to be shared, not only by the village of Wheeling, but the village of Buffalo Grove and the other park district," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "(But) they may not have the money in their budget."

Truck downs power lines

7/12/03

BY VERONICA GONZALEZ

Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Waste Management garbage truck struck power lines and knocked over a traffic pole, cutting off cable utilities in Wheeling Friday, police said.

The incident occurred about noon at the intersection of Dundee Road and St. Armand Lane, which turns into Schoenbeck Road. A garbage truck's bucket suddenly lifted and snapped power lines running along Dundee Road as it pulled out of St. Armand.

"It heinously tore down every utility wire overhead," said Wheeling police Sgt. Jerry Hermes. "(The driver) heard this horrendous noise."

Wheeling police ticketed the driver of the truck, Hilario Caspeta-Rosas, 49, for driving a vehicle taller than 13 feet, 6 inches, the maximum height permitted by the state, said Hermes. Hermes did not know where Caspeta-Rosas lives.

The downed wires briefly trapped the driver in the truck, he said.

Police shut down all four lanes of Dundee from Elmhurst Road to Buffalo Grove Road for four hours while workers repaired the damaged cable TV



MIKE SEELING/DAILY HERALD

A Comcast cableworker clears downed cable lines from the Waste Management truck involved in the accident at the intersection of Dundee Road and St. Armand Lane in Wheeling.

and electric lines, he said.

After 4 p.m., police opened up the road's two eastbound lanes so traffic could travel in both directions.

About 2,000 ComEd customers lost power for about an hour and half Friday, said spokesman Trent Fager.

By late Friday, hundreds of

Comcast customers were still missing cable TV, phone and high-speed Internet service.

About 2,100 customers had no cable TV, roughly 318 were without high-speed Internet service and 600 had no phone service, said Pat Andrews-Keenan, another spokeswoman for Comcast.

Wheeling opts to ease its sprinkler laws

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-16-03

Wheeling resolved the controversy over its trend-setting sprinkler ordinance this week by relaxing some of its requirements.

The move comes even as Mount Prospect institutes its own new law requiring indoor sprinklers for new homes and townhouses.

Wheeling homeowners planning to add second-story additions to single-family houses can now do so without being required to retrofit their entire home with fire sprinklers.

Picnic shelters, gazebos, detached public restrooms and other detached buildings that meet certain size requirements and are within a certain distance of the main building are now exempt from sprinkler laws that previously applied to almost any commercial structure.

However, Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac insists that Wheeling still leads the Northwest sub-

urbs in having one of the strictest sprinkler codes.

"We've maintained the highest degree of fire safety in the village," MacIsaac said. "The intent of the code is still maintained, but it does it without stifling the smaller additions to some of the smaller houses."

Under the revised code, homes must be retrofitted with indoor sprinklers if they add 110 percent or more of floor space. The previous Wheeling standard was 100 percent.

Renovations of larger homes that include additions to garages and deck space, aside from adding a second story, might still require the retrofitting of sprinklers.

In Mount Prospect, no existing homes have to be retrofitted with sprinklers, even if they're renovated.

Wheeling made changes to its 3-year-old sprinkler law after a debate in February, when some trustees complained the code infringed on civil liberties.

"It is nice to see that we are reworking this ordinance to

bring it to realistic language and make it more logical," said Trustee Patrick Horcher, who thought Wheeling's ordinance was too costly to businesses and homeowners.

"I do not feel it is enough, but I think it's a step in the right direction," Horcher said.

MacIsaac said Wheeling has reached a compromise that will keep residents and firefighters safe, while also removing a block to upgrading Wheeling's housing stock, which trustees promote.

"We are still the trend-setter," MacIsaac said. "There are still other communities following our lead, most recently Mount Prospect."

Barrington, Long Grove, Glen Ellyn and Hoffman Estates are among the other suburbs that have adopted sprinkler laws.

Hoffman Estates also has one of the stricter home sprinkler codes, also requiring retrofitting for some renovated and all new homes. But for commercial buildings, it's limited to those larger than 1,000 square feet.

Wheeling tax break tantalizes MC Steel

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-16-03

Wheeling paved the way for a manufacturing company to move into the village — and out of the path of proposed O'Hare expansion — by offering tax help.

MC Steel of Des Plaines received approval this week to relocate to 4.36 acres on the southwest corner of Northgate Parkway and Allendale Drive in Wheeling.

At the same time, Wheeling trustees agreed to a special Cook County business property-tax classification for the new building site.

The tax classification exemption allows MC Steel to pay taxes at 16 percent of assessed property value instead of the normal 38 percent for properties classified as industrial in Cook County.

"That may seem like a bad idea to some of the other taxing bodies," Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "But that property is currently generating about \$23,000 in property taxes, and after that building goes in there, that property should generate more than \$98,000."

When applying for the tax help, officials at MC Steel told Wheeling leaders the company was considering two other sites, in Lake County and Wisconsin.

Both areas assess lower property taxes than Cook County. MC Steel was looking for the best deal for its required move out of the path of a proposed \$6.6 billion O'Hare International Airport expansion, which would add new runways.

Wheeling's Economic Development Director William Whitmer said he expects strong competition between towns for the businesses that must move to make way for O'Hare expansion.

By granting the tax-class exemption, Wheeling hopes to benefit from more taxes generated by a \$3.5 million facility that plans to add employees in the next 10 years.

MC Steel buys steel coils and then cuts them for use by furniture, refrigerator and vending-machine manufacturers.

Shared bike path plan hits a bump

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
7-17-03

Construction of a new Lake-Cook Road bridge along the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling border may be an improvement for motorists, but it has thrown plans for a proposed bike path off-course.

The path, which is to connect the two villages, has been in the planning stages for a decade. But construction of the new bridge leaves little room for the bike path to run underneath it. Members of the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Rotary clubs want to make sure that any change in the route maintains the safety of bicyclists and also honors a longtime Rotarian. The clubs have pledged \$6,500

Lehmann said a spur could be built to go through Denoyer Park in the future, even if the alternate routes are built.

"A bike path doesn't have to

each toward the cost of the project.

The Wheeling Village Board first discussed a possible route change last month. Trustees said last week they need more information about the cost and the benefits of changing the route before they formally commit to building the path.

Trustees proposed two possible alternate routes — one crossing Lake-Cook Road at the intersection of Northgate Parkway leading cyclists to Dundee Road; and the other following Lexington Drive to McHenry Road, crossing Dundee and ending at the Metra station. The new routes may have to replace an original route taking bicyclists under the Lake-Cook bridge and along the

Commonwealth Edison easement to the Metra station.

The possible change is the result of the Cook County Highway Department not taking the future construction of the path into account when it expanded the bridge last year. Additional work that will now be needed to make way for the path under the bridge is expected to add \$120,000 to \$150,000 to the \$1 million project.

"We're in a situation where we need to find a solution," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "I'm not in favor of going under the bridge at this point, but I want to get all the facts and figures before making a decision."

Rotary desires

The original plan also called for the path to cut through Denoyer Park, where Rotarians built a memorial to Bill Simpson, who was a Wheeling Rotarian and who played an instrumental role in creating the Buffalo Grove Rotary Club.

Rotarians said they did not want to see the path circumvent the memorial, and they expressed disappointment in not being given the chance to look at the alternate routes earlier.

"We're looking for more information," said Erica Young, a member of the Wheeling Rotary Club. "It was supposed to go through Denoyer Park, and now it won't."

(Continued on page 15)

Trustee:

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling trustee said people who have paid ambulance fees out of their own pocket should be reimbursed.

Trustee Dean Argiris said he would like to give back the \$30,566 residents have paid for ambulance service since the village began collecting the fees in June 2002.

"What a screw-up," Argiris said. "It was not designed to get a dime from the residents. How can we take that money?"

ride. Insurance companies paid an average of \$252 per ride; Medicare paid \$217 per ride.

Ambulance fees range between \$315 and \$550, depending on the level of serv-

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Village targets land on Milwaukee Avenue

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
July 17, 2003

The village of Wheeling wants to buy four pieces of property on north Milwaukee Avenue to ensure what officials think will be a quality development on the village's northern border.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the Village Board directed staff to acquire all four parcels in order to create one uniform development. The four pieces of property include the Wedgewood Riding Center, the AAA Auto Sales lot and two pieces of property owned by Tantillo Homes sandwiched between Wedgewood and AAA.

"It's a substantial parcel, and we want to do something nice with it," Douthwaite said.

Douthwaite said the village sent purchase offers to Tantillo and AAA Auto Sales. He would not say what the village is offering to pay, citing the sensitive nature of negotiations.

The village is waiting for an appraisal for the stables before making an offer, Douthwaite said. Village attorneys are handling all negotiations for those properties.

Tantillo Homes has been working on a proposal to build a condominium complex on two lots it owns for about 20 months now. Tantillo

hopes to build on a vacant lot and the former Wonder Bread site to the south.

William Hein, a consultant working with Tantillo, said the developer has little interest in selling the land at this time.

"We received a letter from the Village Board asking us to sell the property to them," he said. "We have a meeting scheduled with the village manager to start talking. ... We're willing to work with staff, the Plan Commission and the Village Board. One way or another, we are going ahead with this project."

Hein appeared before the Plan Commission July 10 seeking another extension for a public hearing on the Tantillo property because of the village's offer. His request frustrated plan commissioners.

"I think we need more direction from the Village Board," said Pam Dorband, Plan Commission chairwoman.

"I feel like we're out of the loop. It would have been nice to see that letter from the Village Board (to Tantillo)."

Plan commissioners said they have a difficult time remembering what they reviewed with Tantillo the last time both parties met in February, and they are not sure what the Village Board (Continued on page 10)

to see on that property.

There comes a point and time where I've got to say, 'Stop!' Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said.

Trustees in the past said they want to see Tantillo's property developed contiguously with the Wedgewood Riding Center, which abuts Tantillo's property to the north. However,

Mark Smith, of Smith Family Construction, has a contract pending to purchase the riding center that won't be executed for about another year.

The Village Board ordered Tantillo and Smith to work together, but Tantillo has no interest in waiting for Smith's contract to be executed before building on its property.

Hein blamed the village for delaying any action on the project.

"It's the village that's holding the project back," he said. "We're just asking for a little leeway."

Commissioners agreed to give Tantillo one more continuation, which is scheduled for Sept. 25.

From logical to creative, Wheeling airs to

By GASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
7-22-03

The sky was the limit

Wednesday for a group considering ways to redevelop the area around Wheeling's Metra train station.

From elevating the train tracks to building new flower shops, and from actually moving the train station to adding teen entertainment to the village, ideas for a future town center varied widely.

A team of consultants invited the public to the special workshop as an early step in developing a Station Area Plan that will help transform 145 acres surrounding Wheel-

ing's train station into a town center.

"If anyone is here as a property or business, we're not here to say you're out," said consultant John Lamotte of The Lakota Group. "We just want to hear from you what the possibilities are."

About 50 residents, village and park district officials, business leaders and representatives from Pace bus service and Metra participated. They crowded around tables to say what they already like about the area, what they don't like and what they want to see. Most agreed on some key elements for a town center:

- Clusters of retail and residential uses around the train station, similar to Mount Prospect or Arlington Heights.
- Rail bridges or grade separation to close a village divide created by the tracks.
- Take advantage of "people traffic" generated by post office, park district, schools and municipal buildings.
- Relocate cement plant and some other industrial facilities.
- "What I would want for the Kmart site and Bill Stasek is for it to look like Mount Prospect," said 22-year Wheeling resident Ellen Butor, referring to a vacant Kmart neighboring a car dealership near Route 83.
- Mount Prospect has all of those shops and they've got

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Trustee: Return ambulance fe

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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Trustee Dean Argiris said he would like to give back the \$30,566 residents have paid for ambulance service since the village began collecting the fees in June 2002.

"What a screw-up," Argiris said. "It was not designed to get a dime from the residents. How can we take that money?"

It's a moral thing (to give it back)."

According to figures gathered by Finance Director Michael Mondschain, the village has collected nearly \$200,000 in ambulance fees since June 2002. The majority of that money was collected from health insurance providers and Medicare.

However, just more than 15 percent of the total was paid by residents who were not supposed to receive a bill at all.

When the Village Board approved the measure to collect ambulance fees, it was under the provision that residents would not have to pay.

The village would only collect what it could from health insurance providers and Medicare. The rest of the bill would be waived.

However, Argiris learned residents were receiving — and paying bills — from Paramedic Billing Service of Elmhurst, the billing agency hired for the program, and paying them. Argiris is angry about that.

"We're working it out," Argiris said. "I'm not going to let it go until it's corrected."

Mondschain said he is not sure how refunds might be distributed if the Vil-

lage Board elects to do so.

"We have to see if we can get information we need from service — their names, how much they paid," he said. "We need to know if we can get it back."

Insurance policies made deductible for services such as ambulance fees, Mondschain said. At that point he is not sure if that information returned to patients.

On average, the resident received a bill paid \$79 per ride. (Continued on page 10)

ride. Insurance companies paid an average of \$252 per ride; Medicare paid \$217 per ride.

Ambulance fees range between \$315 and \$550, depending on the level of service needed.

Mondschain said patients will still receive bills from Paramedic Billing Service.

The first bill asks patients for health

insurance information, which Mondschain said should be filled out and sent back. If a balance remains, Mondschain suggests patients pay that off for now to avoid blemishes on their credit record.

"Until something changes, we continue to pay," he said. "The majority — I'd say about 80 percent — insurance company or Medicare supplemental insurance will

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Daily Herald Staff Writer

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"I don't want to see another condo home," Heiber said. Stephen Friedman of S.B. Friedman & Co., the firm overseeing the train study, said consultants will present solutions and alternatives at another workshop Sept. 23.

"It's going to be at least a couple of years before we see any real development," Friedman said of the process.

Mount Prospect has all of

that Corner Bakery, and it looks great," Butor said. George Heiber, a 42-year resident, also said he would like to see the oft-discussed Kmart developed into a retail mix.

Mount Prospect has all of

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Arlington Heights
Always More to Discover!
A bike path doesn't have to

Shared bike path plan hit

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Construction of a new Lake-Cook Road bridge along the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling border may be an improvement for motorists, but it has thrown plans for a proposed bike path off-course.

The path, which is to connect the two villages, has been in the planning stages for a decade. But construction of the new bridge leaves little room for the bike path to run underneath it. Members of the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Rotary clubs want to make sure that any change in the route maintains the safety of bicyclists and also honors a longtime Rotarian. The clubs have pledged \$6,500

Lehmann said a spur could be built to go through Denoyer Park in the future, even if the alternate routes are built.

"A bike path doesn't have to get you from point A to point B," he said. "It can go through different neighborhoods and different areas."

Safety concerns

Cyclist safety remains a critical factor in whatever route is chosen. The bridge is not well-lit underneath, and it has been tagged with graffiti. More than one Wheeling trustee said they would be concerned if their children rode under that bridge.

Bill Balling, Buffalo Grove village manager, said police officials from both villages were aware of the safety issue "from the get go" and agreed to provide police bicycle patrols along the path. He also said he believed it was safer for bicyclists to cross Lake-Cook Road underneath the bridge as opposed to crossing at an intersection. "It's taken an ungodly long time to get the grant for this project," Balling said. "It's time to get the work done."

The path is a joint effort between Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. The Illinois Department of Transportation is funding about 80 percent of the project. Guy Kolberg, Wheeling public works director, said IDOT will still provide the grant money if one or both of the alternate routes are pursued instead of the original plan.

Wheeling officials say the alternates might even work out better than the original plan. The alternates would create a loop system and better serve village neighborhoods, they said. "The bottom line is the (original) plan doesn't work today," said Trustee Dean Argiris. "We just want the project to work better."

each toward the cost of the project.

The Wheeling Village Board first discussed a possible route change last month. Trustees said last week they need more information about the cost and the benefits of changing the route before they formally commit to building the path.

Trustees proposed two possible alternate routes — one crossing Lake-Cook Road at the intersection of Northgate Parkway leading cyclists to Dundee Road; and the other following Lexington Drive to McHenry Road, crossing Dundee and ending at the Metra station. The new routes may have to replace an original route taking bicyclists under the Lake-Cook bridge and along the

Commonwealth Edison easement to Metra station.

The possible change is the result of the Cook County Highway Department not taking the future construction of path into account when it expanded bridge last year. Additional work will now be needed to make way for path under the bridge is expected to \$120,000 to \$150,000 to the \$1 mil project.

"We're in a situation where we need to find a solution," Trustee Tom Lehmann said. "I'm not in favor of going under the bridge at this point, but I want to get all the facts and figures before making a decision."

Trustee: Refund

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

A Wheeling trustee said people who have paid ambulance fees out of their own pocket should be reimbursed.

Trustee Dean Argiris said he would like to give back the \$30,566 residents have paid for ambulance service since the village began collecting the fees in June 2002.

"What a screw-up," Argiris said. "It was not designed to get a dime from the residents. How can we take that money?"

Insurance companies paid an average of \$252 per ride; Medicare paid \$217 per ride.

Ambulance fees range between \$315 and \$550, depending on the level of service needed.

It's a moral thing (to give it back).

According to figures gathered by Village Director Michael Mondschain, the village has collected nearly \$30,000 in ambulance fees since June. A majority of that money was from health insurance providers and Medicare.

However, just more than 10 percent of the total was paid by residents. The rest were not supposed to receive it.

When the Village Board approved the measure to collect ambulance fees, it was under the provision that the village would not have to pay for

ice needed. Mondschain said patients who receive bills from Paramedic Billing Service.

The first bill asks patients for

Village targets on Milwaukee

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The village of Wheeling wants to buy four pieces of property on north Milwaukee Avenue to ensure what officials think will be a quality development on the village's northern border.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the Village Board directed staff to acquire all four parcels in order to create one uniform development. The four pieces of property include the Wedgewood Riding Center, the AAA Auto Sales lot and two pieces of property owned by Tantillo Homes sandwiched between Wedgewood and AAA.

"It's a substantial parcel, and we want to do something nice with it," Douthwaite said.

Douthwaite said the village sent purchase offers to Tantillo and AAA Auto Sales. He would not say what the village is offering to pay, citing the sensitive nature of negotiations.

The village is waiting for an appraisal for the stables before making an offer, Douthwaite said. Village attorneys are handling all negotiations for those properties.

Tantillo Homes has been working on a proposal to build a condominium complex on two lots it owns for about 20 months now. Tantillo

wants to see on that property. "There comes a point and time where I've got to say, 'Stop,'" Commissioner Stuart Shapiro said.

Trustees in the past said they want to see Tantillo's property developed contiguously with the Wedgewood Riding Center, which abuts Tantillo's property to the north. However,

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Mark Smith, of Smith Construction, has a pending to purchase the center that won't be for about another year. The Village Board Tantillo and Smith together, but Tantillo has interest in waiting for contract to be executed building on its property.

From logical to creative, Wheeling aims to

By CASS CLAYTON
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-22-03

ing's train station into a town center.

"I do

"If anyone is here as a prospect or entrepreneur, we're not here to limit their ability to do business."

denial uses around the train station, similar to Mount Prospect or Arlington Heights.

Step

* Take advantage of "people traffic" generated by post office, park district, schools and municipal buildings.

* Relocate cement plant and some other industrial facilities.

Friedm

"What I would want for the Knarr site and Bill Strasek is for it to look like Mount Prospect."

Ellen Buter, referring to a vacant Knarr neighboring a car dealership near Route 83.

consult

Plan that will help transform 145 acres surrounding Wheeling into a town center.

clusters of retail and residential

those shops and they've got

the development of a town center

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Pioneer Press / ch

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Championship game by a set of 10-2 at Jay Jones baseball in Buffalo Grove. Reds tea members from District 102 & Eli Greenspon, second grad Pritchett; Zachary Novosels second grade, Tripp; Dan Besser, third grade, Pritche Matthew Allen, Evan Kritz a Amaran Sandhu, third grad Tripp. Joey Weber coached t team that had an overall seas record of 22-1.

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"If you're truly talking about no borders, why wouldn't you call it the Greater Northwest area," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said of assigning town names.

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Wheeling native fills director



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Plan: Study will help guide town center ideas

Continued from Page 1

opment in the proposed 145-acre redevelopment area.

"I understand the flood way and the flood plain are a moving target," said Stephen Friedman of S.B. Friedman. "But there's a flood study under way that will fill in some gaps in information at a later date. ... It could add some costs, but we're looking at ideas."

Bill Stasek Chevrolet, north of Dundee Road, and Wickes Furniture, south of Dundee Road, are among sites with the greatest redevelopment potential.

"Bill Stasek has said he is open to moving if he could find a site within Wheeling," said land-use consultant John Lamotte of The Lakota Group.

The consultants will hold another community workshop Sept. 23 to invite comments on development proposals.

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Pioneer Press / chc

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Wheeling native fills director position

BY NAOMI DILLON
Daily Herald Staff Writer
7-22-03

No, this is not a mistake. Your vision is just fine.

Carpentersville has hired a new finance director — again.

Less than a month after Kelly Kline left to head up the finance department for the city of McHenry, Carpentersville village officials have named her replacement.

David R. Kowal, 42, hails from the village of Wheeling, which is becoming somewhat of a drawing pool for Carpentersville.

Village Manager Craig Anderson, who left the Northwest Cook County suburb six months ago, Monday acknowledged relying on old ties to fill the vacancy.

"I got on the phone right away," Anderson said. "I knew just the person who would be interested."

Kowal now is Wheeling's assistant public works director, part of a varied background in municipal government that has ranged from village manager to finance director.

Such a comprehensive knowledge of what it takes to run a town was certainly a big selling point with Anderson, who virtually had full discretionary power when it came to hiring the new finance director. "Besides just knowing him and knowing he's a good worker," Anderson explained, "(Kowal's) strong suit is his expertise in finance and capital projects, two departments that work a lot together in Carpentersville."

Kowal said he was thrilled and honored to have received a phone call from Anderson.

"I've been anxious to get back into the world of finance," Kowal said. "I've never shied away from professional challenge and from what I understand that's what I'm going to get."

Beyond the virtual revolving door that Carpentersville's finance department has become — three finance directors have come and gone since 2000 — its accounting procedures and practices have come under fire.

In November 2000, an independent auditor said the village's finances were in a "crisis situation," saying more than \$3 million could not be accounted for in its books. This hasn't scared Kowal off, who said that when he became Northbrook's finance director, he inherited a situation not entirely dissimilar.

"We ended up getting a AAA bond rating from Moody's and winning just about every award we could," he said.

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Flood issues complicate town center planning

7-23-03
By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's population might make prospects for creating a town center ripe, but the village's flooding issues are still rotten.

A team of consultants helping Wheeling come up with a plan for developing the area around its Metra train station has researched demographics and land issues as a first step.

The consultants presented Wheeling's community profile earlier this month in a workshop seeking public opinion on how Wheeling can build on its pluses and minuses.

Among the findings were figures showing that Wheeling's population has grown faster than in some bordering areas in Prospect Heights, Riverwoods, Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights.

That's a plus.

"The village has been losing the younger population, the 25- to 44-year-old age group," said marketing consultant Tanya Vartivarian of the S.B. Friedman firm overseeing Wheeling's Metra station study.

"But the village has been gaining the 45- to 64 age group, typically the empty nesters."

That's good for Wheeling, Vartivarian said, because

empty nesters tend to buy the condos and townhouses typical of a town center environment.

About 34 percent of Wheeling residents in 2002 were 25 to 44, and 33 percent were 45 and older. Households led by people 45 to 54 continued to grow by a larger annual percentage than any other group over the past decade, at 4.6 percent.

Vartivarian also pointed out

that most of the shopping in Wheeling is neighborhood oriented, rather than "big-box" oriented.

The trend toward flower shops, dry cleaners and other stores that promote foot traffic suits a town center.

However, one major problem is that an extensive flood way and flood plain will limit devel-

See PLAN on PAGE 2

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Wheeling has its Sam's Club, Wal-Mart and Target, for instance, while Buffalo Grove has the Town Center and Jewel Food Store.

"What really bothers me, because you know what's going to happen, is it's going to become the Greater Buffalo Grove Restaurant Row," said Wheeling Trustee Dean Argiris. "Or, worse yet, The Row."

A joint marketing effort with the Prospect Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau has already resulted in the misnomer of "the Prospect Heights Restaurant Row on Milwaukee Avenue" in one Chicago magazine, Argiris said.

Still, Wheeling trustees liked Buffalo Grove's idea of incorporating banners into a marketing campaign. The village hired its own public relations coordinator in March. Wheeling can pursue the banner concept as part of the \$400,000 of taxpayers' money Wheeling already spends on marketing each year, trustees said.

Beyond the virtual revolving door that Carpentersville's finance department has become — three finance directors have come and gone since 2000 — its accounting procedures and practices have come under fire.

In November 2000, an independent auditor said the village's finances were in a "crisis situation," saying more than \$3 million could not be accounted for in its books. This hasn't scared Kowal off, who said that when he became Northbrook's finance director, he inherited a situation not entirely dissimilar.

"We ended up getting a AAA bond rating from Moody's and winning just about every award we could," he said.

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Trustees want options on Horcher, Schwind land

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

7-24-03

More single-family homes might be built in Wheeling, if the village does not get a better offer from commercial developers.

Either form of development would occur on the vacant Horcher and Schwind properties along state Route 83 and Buffalo Grove Road. The parcel represents a unique development opportunity because, at 100 acres, it is one of the largest vacant sites in the village. What the property may become has been part of the discussion leading up to the Village Board's pending vote July 28 on a new comprehensive land-use plan.

Trustees and members of the Plan Commission have been reviewing the plan for months, and one change trustees wanted was to designate the property as mixed-use for single-family homes or commercial development.

"It can be either or," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "We want the best deal for the village."

The Plan Commission, which spent more than a year putting together the draft plan, suggested the property be used for single-family homes. Commissioners said the need for more single-family homes came up repeatedly during interviews with village residents, business owners and civic organizations.

Commissioner Ken Brady said if residents want to "move up" into larger, nicer homes, they have to move out of Wheeling to find them.

Klatecki said he did not disagree with the need for more single-family homes in Wheeling,

but he also said the village needs to keep in mind that residential development can have a broad impact on the entire village.

"Commercial helps our tax base," he said. "If we put (single-family) in there, we'll have to look at a third fire station, more police and the effects on the schools and the library. I don't disagree we need more single-family homes, but if we get a better deal for the village, how can we turn it down?"

Designating the property for a mix of uses gives the village more flexibility in keeping up with development trends.

"If we sit and listen, and everybody tells us (the Horcher property) is not the place for single-family, why would we fight it?" Klatecki said. "That would be crazy."

Trustees also want to designate parts of south Milwaukee Avenue for mixed-use commercial and open space in areas along the Des Plaines River. Commercial development, they said, would complement Restaurant Row further north. Plan commissioners said they recommended the area remain open space because much of the land along south Milwaukee Avenue is prone to flooding.

Plan commissioners also said it might make sense to keep that area open space to provide recreational opportunities along the river and the Cook County Forest Preserve on the other side.

The new comprehensive plan has been in development since December 2001, and will act as a guide for future development for the village.

Village wants trucking firms to pay for roads

By CASEY E. MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

Wheeling officials want trucking companies to start paying for road repairs and maintenance in and around the village's industrial park.

Trustees are considering the establishment of a special service area around Chaddick Drive that, if approved by the businesses located there, would help pay for the road improvements.

Village officials say truck traffic from a number of terminals is increasing, and more is on the way after the Village Board approved Yellow Transportation's request to expand its facility.

Yellow Transportation officials, sensing what may come in the near future, offered to put up \$100,000 cash for road maintenance and repairs as part of the expansion deal. Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said company officials offered to pay the \$100,000 after the Plan Commission recommended the Village Board deny the expansion, largely because of concerns about the roads and an increase in traffic.

Plan commissioners said the additional trucks coming from the terminal would adversely impact the roads and traffic along Wolf Road, Hintz Road and Chaddick Drive. Yellow Transportation representatives said 68 more trucks a day will be coming into and leaving the facility when the expansion is complete. Currently, 176 trucks enter and leave the terminal daily.

Douthwaite said village staff and Yellow Transportation officials worked out the deal for maintenance and repair costs. Steve Roush of Yellow Transportation said the company wants to work out a comprehensive solution to road maintenance and repair costs.

"It's part of being a responsible corporate neighbor," Roush said. "We want to be part of the solution."

Creating a new assessment for all businesses in the area could be part of that solution. Patrick Lucansky, Wheeling's village attorney, said the village

Since the users with heavy trucks create an extraordinary burden on the streets, we can potentially assess for costs of constructing and maintaining the roads.

Village Manager
Wallace Douthwaite

could establish a special service area that would require businesses in the area to pay more property taxes for the specific purpose of maintaining and repairing the roads.

"Since the users with heavy trucks create an extraordinary burden on the streets, we can potentially assess for costs of constructing and maintaining the roads," Douthwaite said.

If the special service area is created, all additional funds would go into a separate fund, which would be earmarked for road maintenance and repairs. Affected business owners will have the final say as to whether the area is established.

"If 51 percent of the businesses don't want to participate, it won't happen," Douthwaite said. "They have the final veto power in this."

Should the special service district be established, Yellow Transportation will receive a \$100,000 credit toward what it would owe, because it already has committed to contributing that amount to the village. Douthwaite said the money will go into a special fund earmarked for road repairs, even if the special service area is not established. The village will receive the \$100,000 from Yellow Transportation when the company receives its occupancy permit from the village.

Yellow Transportation has been in Wheeling since 1973.

Town-center redevelopment kindles community creativity

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

7-24-03

"Anything was the theme for a town-center redevelopment brainstorming session that drew about 40 Wheeling residents, business owners and village officials together last week.

The group met with consultants from S.B. Friedman and Company, the Lakota Group and the Metro Transportation Group, who are seeking ideas about what to include in a new town center that is being planned for about 145 acres around the Metra train station.

"We want you to be creative," John LaMotte, a principal from Lakota, told the gathering. "We want to look at what's there and determine better uses."

The attendees were split into four smaller groups and asked to jot down what they like and don't like about the area, and what improvements they would like to see made.

Despite the variety of the participants, most agreed on the likes and dislikes of the area. Most agreed the Community Recreation Center, Aquatic

Center and anticipated double-tracking of the Metra line were all benefits that could be implemented into the plan.

Dislikes included traffic flow along Dundee Road, which many said is hindered by the railroad crossing and the number of curb cuts that make it difficult to make left turns into businesses along the commercial strip. Other dislikes repeatedly mentioned were the location of the Meyer Materials cement plant near the train station, the vacant Kmart building and the fact that so much of the property lies in potentially flood-prone areas.

Those concerns, however, did not put a damper on ideas to create a bustling, pedestrian-friendly town center. Most agreed that residential and commercial development is needed in order to make the area a success.

Most believe the train station should serve as a focal point of the development. One idea was to bring in service-oriented businesses such as a dry cleaner or florist near the train station that would serve commuters and residents alike.

Another suggestion was to include some kind of "after-dinner entertainment" in the center. Wheeling is obviously known for Restaurant Row, but a common complaint is that Wheeling offers nothing in terms of entertainment after dinner. Ideas ranged from movie theaters to bowling alleys for the town center.

Still others suggested some open space should be preserved to serve as a gathering place for the community, perhaps something similar to Friendship Park at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The group also thought it is important that the area tie in to other areas of town. A free shuttle service, it was suggested, could bring workers from the train station to their jobs in the village's industrial areas just south of the station. Access roads from neighboring subdivisions would also bring more residents into the town center, some said.

The group also tried to address some of the challenges in the area, like burying or mov-

(Continued on page 15)

Kindles

Continued from page 11

ing, high-tension Commonwealth Edison lines and helping some of the heavier industrial uses, like Meyer Materials, move to other locations in the village.

The consultants, who are being paid with a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority, said they will review all the suggestions made at the July 16 meeting and bring back sketches and preliminary plans at a workshop meeting scheduled for Sept. 23. LaMotte said he plans to present proposals that would range from just changing facades of existing buildings to tearing buildings down and replacing them. The planning process is expected to conclude in October.

The land being studied stretches from Village Hall to the eastern border of Jack London Middle School along Dundee Road, south past the Metra station, and north to the intersection of Old McHenry Road and Route 83 for redevelopment.

Stone was one of 224 law enforcement professionals from 49 states, 20 countries, three military organizations, four federal civilian organizations and the District of Columbia to graduate from the 10-week program.

The National Academy program offers advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers with proven records as law enforcement professionals within their respective agencies. Training is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, special agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees. Most are recognized internationally in their specific fields of expertise.

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Village wants trucking firms

One section has soft chairs that can be moved in different configurations so families may sit to... Reshoff said.

"We tried to create a room for a diverse group," Reshoff said.

Northwest's day outpatients procedure.

A second room friends who wait on average four hours for an

operating room a more versatile space for patients' family and

pretty much in a natural look for a cozy atmosphere. It also provides

with ample natural light, eschewing an institutional

"The new waiting room features a larger space and soothing colors. It's more homey."

incorporate the "healing environment" with light

director of the day surgery center. "We've tried to

aesthetics of the facility," said Meaghan Reshoff.

Last year on the waiting response as to the

small incisions. "Instead of

Northwest's day in a woman are

Surgeries to the new space includes 10 pre-operative

said. rooms and recovery areas.

ment surgery he operating room and remodeled the treatment

As surgical the hospital will continue into the fall to add an

Reshoff said. square-foot addition is complete. Renovations at

After nearly a year of construction, a 10,000-

business May 12 at the Arlington Heights hospi-

An expanded day surgery center opened for

and friends at Northwest Community Hospital.

comfortable experience for patients, their family

The waiting faces that can be

the waiting room

STAFF WRITER

By ANDREA L. BROWN

Center coming

Town-center redevelopment kindles community creativity

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

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(Continued on page 15)

Kindles

Continued from page 11

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Ryg to visit Wheeling

State Rep Kathy Ryg, D-59th, will be holding a town hall meeting for residents of Wheeling at 6:45 p.m. Monday in council chambers at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Ryg will talk about the impact of recently passed legislation. Residents and community leaders will also have the opportunity to discuss concerns and consider solutions to local issues. Residents can also learn more about state programs and services available to them.

The Wheeling Village Board will conduct its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m., immediately following Ryg's meeting.

For more information about the town hall meeting, contact Ryg's office at (847) 680-5909.

Public needed for police accreditation

The Wheeling Police Department is scheduled for an on-site assessment as part of a program to achieve reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. Accreditation recognizes that the department meets professional standards.

As part of the assessment, Wheeling residents are invited to meet with commission employees to offer comments at a public information hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 5 in council chambers at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The public is also invited to officer comments over the telephone by calling (847) 520-2025 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Aug. 4. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Officer graduates FBI Academy

Wheeling Police Cmdr. John Stone recently graduated from the FBI National Academy located at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

Stone was one of 224 law enforcement professionals from 49 states, 20 countries, three military organizations, four federal civilian organizations and the District of Columbia to graduate from the 10-week program.

The National Academy program offers advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers with proven records as law enforcement professionals within their respective agencies. Training is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, special agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees. Most are recognized internationally in their specific fields of expertise.

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Cops, kids forge a new friendship

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

7-24-03

Each summer, the Wheeling Police Department invites a handful of 11- to 14-year-olds for a week of summer camp to show them officers know how to have fun, too.

The Police and Children Together Camp is also an intervention program, said Officer John Bonk. The idea is for the kids to get to know the police officers in a fun atmosphere, as opposed to the back of a squad car, and to provide positive role models for the kids.

"The kids that participate, a high percentage of them are more likely not to be involved in police activity (after the camp)," Bonk said. "In the four years I've done this, only four kids have had a negative con-

tact with the police."

The camp, which was held July 7 through July 11, also included a visit to Wheeling High School, where the kids played games with students in the Mildly Mentally Impaired summer program. They all played basketball and volleyball together, or just walked around the track. Afterward, police officers pulled out a pinata.

"Some of the kids don't like sports," Bonk said. "They all love candy."

Bonk said the kids are required to perform one service project during the week's activities, and he chose to work with the high school students. Bonk has regular contact with the students during his regular duties as a resource officer at Wheeling High School during the school year.

"It works well for them and us," Bonk said. "The high school has been very accommodating."

Shelly Manzella, an instructor for the high school program, said her students enjoy their time with the younger kids.

"A lot of our kids are into sports and like other kids who into sports," Manzella said. "They love to get together with other kids."

Manzella said the camp kids have been coming to the high school each summer for the past three years.

The camp begins with a tour of the police and fire stations, and a trip to the Aquatic Center. Another day is spent at a wilderness camp, where the kids build tents and participate in drills that build trust. The campers also take a trip to

Great America, and the camp ends with a graduation ceremony at the police station.

Six police officers work as counselors for the 24 kids in the camp. Bonk said most of the counselors work with the kids during the school year in one capacity or another.

The Police Department received funding for the camp through the Law Enforcement Foundation of Illinois. The grant money allows the officers to outfit the kids with T-shirts and provide breakfast each morning. Bonk said the department relies on the generosity of local businesses to provide lunch for the kids each day.

"Without funding, there would be no camp," Bonk said. "The state isn't providing any funds for it anymore."



Cathryn Scott/Financier Press

Officer Dorann Swanson plays basketball with PACT campers at Wheeling High School.

Talk to new state legislator at Wheeling meeting

7-25-03

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

While many Wheeling residents might be familiar with the name of their state Rep. Sidney Mathias, state Rep. Kathy Ryg is a relatively new face for the village.

Ryg, a Vernon Hills Democrat, hopes to get to know her constituents — and have them get to know her — during a town hall meeting Monday at which she'll

tell residents how new legislation affects them.

She will explain the fate of some transportation projects curtailed by the tight state budget, as well as school, health care and other issues.

"We want to update people on what's going on, so they're aware of the status of their projects," Ryg said. "For example, Wheeling has a project on Wolf Road widening and resurfacing."

Ryg wants to tell residents that, despite facing a \$5 billion deficit, legislators had some "major accomplishments" in protecting transportation projects and protecting suburban school districts from funding cuts.

"And the meeting's also an opportunity for people to share their current concerns or give further ideas about what needs to be addressed," Ryg said.

Ryg will hold her town hall

meeting at 6:45 p.m. Monday at Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, and then stay for part of the village board meeting immediately afterward at 7:30 p.m.

She is touring all of the 19 communities she represents in whole or in part to meet the officials in villages and park and library districts who won election or re-election in April while Ryg was in Springfield.

"It's nice to be home and meet with people," said Ryg, who was raised in Wheeling. "I guess I'm a new face."

Elected last November, Ryg represents Wheeling residents on the east side of Route 83. Mathias, a Buffalo Grove Republican, represents those west of the highway.

Residents wishing to make comments before Monday's meeting can call (847) 680-5909.

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 (5 p.m.-8:30 a.m. and
 weekends) 427-4440.

Wheeling studies second

By CASS CLIATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-22-03

Wheeling could get some tax help in creating a new town center.

Village staff told trustees last week that an area surrounding the Metra train tracks across Dundee Road meets the basic requirements for a new tax increment financing district.

If Wheeling forms the special financing area, it would be the village's second in less than a year as it moves forward with aggressive efforts to upgrade its image.

Homeowners within 750 feet of the boundaries of the proposed district will receive notices informing them of the village's plans, Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney said.

"I want to caution people that this doesn't mean their home is in the TIF area," Rooney said. "It just means they're within 750 feet of the boundary."

Trustee Trevor Lehman gestured that notices in maps of the proposed district so homeowners (don't be alarmed.

The new TIF would encompass the municipal building, Dundee Road and extend to the train tracks past Elm Road and east of the tracks.

The village plans a joint meeting of affected taxing bodi-

Man vows to finish 400-mile charity trek across Wyoming

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-26-03

Endless miles of gravel and parched grass made Jim Plovovich think he was in a desert the day he had to end his charity trek across Wyoming.

The Wheeling police detective knew he had found civilization when he saw a smokestack attached to an abandoned building, blurred in the heat waves of the 100-degree afternoon.

Plovovich limped the last five miles into small-town Glenrock, Wyo., at 5:30 p.m. July 13.

Yet, as grueling as it was, Plovovich said Friday he has resolved to return.

"People signed on with the knowledge or the understanding that I was going to do what I set out to do," Plovovich said, "and I didn't finish that."

Plovovich, 48, of Roselle, walked just under 200 miles of the 400 miles he planned for his "Walk Across Wyoming" to raise money for the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County.

An outpouring of community support helped him raise \$10,000 for the abused kids.

However, Plovovich had to stop on the seventh day of his planned two-week trek because a doctor refused to let him continue after diagnosing a serious



Jim Plovovich

foot infection.

"I don't remember or recall a point in my life that I was quite that low," Plovovich said in his first interview with the Daily Herald since his return.

"I told the doctor that my legs were strong, my mind was strong. But my feet were the problem," Plovovich said.

Plovovich added it would have been easier not to succeed if he hadn't been otherwise capable. He blames the derailment of a trip he planned for a year on a salesman who talked him into buying boots that Plovovich didn't think were well-suited for the trip.

So, Plovovich will set out again. This time, without telling the media or anyone else.

"Without any fanfare, without any hoopla," Plovovich said. "Without any noise made, I would slip out on my own back to Wyoming and pick up where I left off. Finish it quietly and come back home."

Plovovich learned valuable lessons and met wonderful people on his trip, he said. The most memorable is Dr. Gary Butts, who ran Glenrock's only health facility, a clinic.

Butts took a day off of work to drive Plovovich to his destination in Cheyenne, Wyo., when Plovovich thought he was "in a deep hole and didn't see a way to get out."

Plovovich will never forget the final day of his trip, when it was 100 degrees and his feet were bleeding, and he encountered an elderly man on a deserted stretch of road.

"I thought he was going to give me a hard time about walking along the road, like some crotchety man might say," Plovovich said. "He came toward me with two bottles of cold water and said, 'Son, it looks like you're thirsty.'"

Ed Fink and his wife had seen Plovovich walking on their way to church, and then again on their way back. They knew nothing about his mission, and Plovovich never told them.

"I accepted the water and thanked him for his kindness," Plovovich said. "That simple act of kindness choked me up."

The quality of the Wyoming people gave Plovovich a boost that he hopes to find again.

He's still deeply hurt — and, he admits, a bit bitter — from the way his trek ended.

"When everything else is working ... to stop because you got faulty advice, it hurt bad," Plovovich said. "I won't feel fulfilled until it's done."

Cops, kids forge a new friendship

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
7-29-03

Each summer, the Wheeling Police Department invites a handful of 11- to 14-year-olds for a week of summer camp to show them officers know how to have fun, too.

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Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

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BY CASS CLIAFF
DAILY HERALD STAFF WRITER
7-29-03

Wheeling studies second financing district

August and a public hearing in October. The formation of the village's North Milwaukee and Lake-Cook Road area TIF in February prompted outcry from the Indian Trails Public Library District, which objected to the loss of tax revenue. In a TIF, the village can freeze the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years. Properties still pay increases

feet of the boundary. Trustee Trevor Lehmann suggested that notices include maps of the proposed district, so homeowners don't become alarmed. The new TIF would encompass the municipal buildings on Dundee Road and extend west of the train tracks past Elmhurst Road and east of the tracks to the Wheeling drainage ditch. The village plans a joint meeting of affected taxing bodies in

village's second in less than a year as it moves forward with aggressive efforts to upgrade its image. Homeowners within 750 feet of the boundaries of the proposed district will receive notices informing them of the village's plans, Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney said. "I want to caution people that this doesn't mean their home is in the TIF area," Rooney said. "It just means they're within 750

feet of the boundary." Trustee Trevor Lehmann suggested that notices include maps of the proposed district, so homeowners don't become alarmed. The new TIF would encompass the municipal buildings on Dundee Road and extend west of the train tracks past Elmhurst Road and east of the tracks to the Wheeling drainage ditch. The village plans a joint meeting of affected taxing bodies in

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Ryg wants to tell residents that, despite facing a \$5 billion deficit, legislators had some "major accomplishments" in protecting transportation projects and protecting suburban school districts from funding cuts.

"And the meeting's also an opportunity for people to share their current concerns or give further ideas about what needs to be addressed," Ryg said.

Ryg will hold her town hall

meeting at 6:45 p.m. Monday at Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, and then stay for part of the village board meeting immediately afterward at 7:30 p.m.

She is touring all of the 19 communities she represents in whole or in part to meet the officials in villages and park and library districts who won election or re-election in April while Ryg was in Springfield.

"It's nice to be home and meet with people," said Ryg, who was raised in Wheeling. "I guess I'm a new face."

Elected last November, Ryg represents Wheeling residents on the east side of Route 83. Mathias, a Buffalo Grove Republican, represents those west of the highway.

Residents wishing to make comments before Monday's meeting can call (847) 680-5909.

Man vows to finish 400-mile charity trek across Wyoming

BY CASS CLIAFF
DAILY HERALD STAFF WRITER
7-26-03

Endless miles of gravel and parched grass made Jim Plovovich think he was in a desert the day he had to end his charity trek across Wyoming.

The Wheeling police detective knew he had found civilization when he saw a smokestack attached to an abandoned building, blurred in the heat waves of the 100-degree afternoon.

Plovovich limped the last five miles into small-town Glenrock, Wyo., at 5:30 p.m. July 13.

Yet, as grueling as it was, Plovovich said Friday he has resolved to return.

"People signed on with the knowledge or the understanding that I was going to do what I set out to do," Plovovich said, "and I didn't finish that."

Plovovich, 48, of Roselle, walked just under 200 miles of the 400 miles he planned for his "Walk Across Wyoming" to raise money for the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County.

An outpouring of community support helped him raise \$10,000 for the abused kids.

However, Plovovich had to stop on the seventh day of his planned two-week trek because a doctor refused to let him continue after diagnosing a serious



Jim Plovovich

since his return.

"I told the doctor that my legs were strong, my mind was strong. But my feet were the problem," Plovovich said.

Plovovich added it would have been easier not to succeed if he hadn't been otherwise capable. He blames the derailment of a trip he planned for a year on a salesman who talked him into buying boots that Plovovich didn't think were well-suited for the trip.

So, Plovovich will set out again. This time, without telling the media or anyone else.

"Without any fanfare, without any hoopla," Plovovich said. "Without any noise made, I would slip out on my own back to Wyoming and pick up where I left off. Finish it quietly and come back home."

Plovovich learned valuable lessons and met wonderful people on his trip, he said. The most memorable is Dr. Gary Butts, who ran Glenrock's only health facility, a clinic.

foot infection.

"I don't remember or recall a point in my life that I was quite that low," Plovovich said in his first interview with the Daily Herald

Butts took a day off of work to drive Plovovich to his destination in Cheyenne, Wyo., when Plovovich thought he was "in a deep hole and didn't see a way to get out."

Plovovich will never forget the final day of his trip, when it was 100 degrees and his feet were bleeding, and he encountered an elderly man on a deserted stretch of road.

"I thought he was going to give me a hard time about walking along the road, like some crotchety man might say," Plovovich said. "He came toward me with two bottles of cold water and said, 'Sori, it looks like you're thirsty.'"

Ed Fink and his wife had seen Plovovich walking on their way to church, and then again on their way back. They knew nothing about his mission, and Plovovich never told them.

"I accepted the water and thanked him for his kindness," Plovovich said. "That simple act of kindness choked me up."

The quality of the Wyoming people gave Plovovich a boost that he hopes to find again.

He's still deeply hurt — and, he admits, a bit bitter — from the way his trek ended.

"When everything else is working ... to stop because you got faulty advice, it hurt bad," Plovovich said. "I won't feel fulfilled until it's done."

Garbage truck hits power lines 7-17-03

A Waste Management truck drove through the intersection of St. Armand Lane and Dundee Road with its basket up, taking down utility lines and a traffic signal just after noon July 11. Power was cut off to thousands of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove residents until 1 a.m. the next day, said Wheeling Police Sgt. Anthony Cinquegrani. Cinquegrani said the driver of the truck, Hilario Caspeta-Rosas, 49, did not realize the basket was left extended above the truck.

Caspeta-Rosas was trapped under the power lines in the truck for a few minutes but was removed without any injury.

Traffic was blocked on Dundee Road between Buffalo Grove and Elmhurst roads for nearly four hours, Cinquegrani said. One lane of traffic was opened in both directions until 2 a.m., when the road was opened completely. Cinquegrani said Caspeta-Rosas must not have realized the basket of the truck was in an upward position as he drove southbound from St. Armand Lane onto Schoenbeck Road. Caspeta-Rosas was issued a citation for driving a vehicle taller than 13 feet 6 inches.

District 24...

Man sentenced in jeweler's death 7-14-03

The second of three men convicted in the murder of the owner of a jewelry shop in Wheeling almost four years ago was sentenced last week to 36 years in prison.

Raymond Benavidez, 22, who lived in Mount Prospect at the time of the crime, was sentenced July 16 to 30 years in prison for participating in the murder of Emil Risenzon, a Buffalo Grove resident and the owner of Wheeling Jewelry and Repair at 251 E. Dundee Road.

Benavidez, along with Rayon C. Sampson and Shaun W. Fogle, were convicted in the Aug. 17, 1999, beating death of Risenzon. Authorities said the three, who all were 18 at the time, planned to rob Risenzon to get enough money to bail a gang member out of jail. Benavidez and Fogle were sentenced to 30 years in prison for first-degree murder and six more years for armed robbery. Fogle was sentenced in March. Sampson, who was convicted of killing Risenzon by beating him with a pipe, is scheduled to be sentenced today.

Wheeling has no interest in 'Greater Buffalo Grove'

By Casey Moffitt

Staff Writer

July 31, 2003

If more people come to Wheeling to eat, shop or play, it will be because of the village's own marketing efforts.

The Wheeling Village Board rejected an offer from Buffalo Grove officials to work together to promote area attractions in what Buffalo Grove officials labeled the Greater Buffalo Grove Marketing Initiative. The idea behind the proposal is to have villages help promote each other's businesses and entertainment opportunities.

Wheeling officials came to the same conclusion as those in Lincolnshire, who also recently indicated a lack of interest in the proposal.

"Maybe it has something to do with hometown pride, but I think this is something we can do ourselves," Wheeling Trustee Patrick Horcher said.

"I looked at the potential partners, and I think we outshine them with our diversity of assets."

James Lang, Wheeling's public relations coordinator, said Buffalo Grove officials approached him with the idea of joining the partnership. Lang presented the idea to trustees, who in turn said they would rather see the village market itself.

Although the other communities would reciprocate in marketing efforts, trustees said they believe Lang's concentration and time will be better spent promoting Wheeling exclusively.

Lang said Buffalo Grove officials did not present a formal plan and instead wanted to know if

the Village Board was interested in the strategy of joining marketing forces with others.

"I'm asking if we should pursue a working relationship with Buffalo Grove," Lang told the board. "I'd hate to not pursue a working relationship with others."

Ghida Neukirch, Buffalo Grove assistant village manager, said the initiative is designed to pursue a marketing scheme promoting entire regions rather than individual villages, something similar to the strategy adopted by many chambers of commerce.

"Corridors" along Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road stretching through more than one municipality could be designated with names and logos on street banners, and all the destinations along that route would be highlighted, according to the proposal. Other villages that have been approached to join the marketing effort include Arlington Heights, Long Grove and Riverwoods.

"We're trying to break down jurisdictional boundaries," Neukirch said. "There's a lot to offer in the whole area. It's important to work together and promote our assets."

Wheeling Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he was "not excited" with the current proposal and asked Neukirch how the initiative would work for everybody if it's called the Greater Buffalo Grove Marketing Initiative.

"You're still putting up walls while you're trying to take them down," he said.

Others said they were simply uninterested in promoting other villages.

(Continued on page 10)

No interest

Continued from page 8

"I want to see Jim (Lang) promote Restaurant Row and Wheeling," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "I'll be frank with you. I don't care about Buffalo Grove."

Trustee Michael Horcher argued that too many municipalities working together will only slow the process down.

"I look at the airport and see two communities trying to work together, and it's difficult," he said of Wheeling's and Prospect Heights' ownership of Palwaukee Municipal Airport. "With three or four communities, it's just too much government and everything stops."

Trustee Robert Heer, the lone trustee voting in support of the initiative, said the program was only in its infancy and was curious to see a more detailed plan. He said if Wheeling, its assets and special events could be promoted on other villages' Web sites, cable television channels and in newsletters, it might help Wheeling.

"It could increase business coming into Wheeling," he said. "There's a lot to work out, but I'm interested in exploring this idea."

The Lincolnshire Village Board also voted against the concept in June.

— Staff writer Kimberly Fornek contributed to this report.

Wheeling wants coffee sign to stay the same

7-31-03

By Cass Cliatt

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling wanted to be like everyone else and get its own Starbucks.

However, village leaders don't necessarily want Wheeling's coffee shop to look like everyone else's.

The Wheeling Plan Commission put the kibosh on plans by Starbucks to change the signs for the Milwaukee Avenue drive-through shop to make the signs consistent with others across the country.

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Jim Plovanih

Plovanih said he now feels fine physically. His emotional state is improving, too.

Plovanih was forced to stop about halfway through a planned 400-mile

walk across Wyoming after infections in his feet became too painful to continue. He ended in Glenrock, Wyo., July 13, nearly 200 miles into his journey from Sheridan to Cheyenne.

"You get wiser with age and start to follow doctor's orders," he said Monday. "(The doctor) said I would need one or

two weeks to recover.

Plovanih is taking antibiotics and applying ment to curb the infection. He went back to work a week after he returned home after a long drive.

Plovanih said he is better physically each day. He said he was in a golf league July 23, his normal life.

Plovanih said he has been mentally strong.

"After such a devastating experience, it was a relief to get home."

The ride home from Cheyenne was a long one, Plovanih said. He and his child after Gary Butts, a Plovanih in Glenrock, and drove him to Cheyenne. He said

CROSSWORD PUZZLE	B32	IMAGES
DIVERSIONS	B3	OBITUARIES
ENGAGEMENTS	80	OPINION
FOCUS ON YOUTH	81	PEEK AT THE WEEK

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CIRCULATION
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Frank Carlton
(Customer service: normal)

Detective reflection

Continued from page 5

to raise about \$10,600 for the agency, which gives support and services to abused children.

Susan Reedquist, director of development at the CAC, said no one has asked for their pledge money back since Plovanih had to stop.

Although he was able to raise a significant amount of money for an organization that he admires and believes in, Plovanih said his inspiration to make the trip came from a book. When he read "Mountain Man" by Vardis Fisher when he was 18 years old, Plovanih told himself he would one day walk across Wyoming, where part of the novel is set.

Plovanih said he has no regrets about the trip, and he said he would never have been able to get as far as he did without a lot of help from a lot of people.

"I want to thank everybody for everything," he said. "At home, and out there, from the very beginning, people offered their help."

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District 24...

Man sentenced in jeweler's death 7-24-03

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Raymond Benavidez, 22, who lived in Mount Prospect at the time of the crime, was sentenced July 16 to 30 years in prison for participating in the murder of Emil Risenzon, a Buffalo Grove resident and the owner of Wheeling Jewelry and Repair at 251 E. Dundee Road.

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Starbucks wants to switch from an oval "Drive Thru" sign beneath its circular Starbucks trademark to a rectangle on its free-standing pole sign. The company likewise wants to replace a creative wall sign on the actual building with another standard rectangle.

"We're not known as a drive-through company yet, so it's important for us across the country to establish uniformity of our image," said Mike Achim of Starbucks.

Achim added that the original creative design can't be easily translated onto larger signs for similar new shops.

But commissioners decided they liked the original plan so much, they'd prefer that Wheeling remain a standout.

"Anyway, you could paint Starbucks on a piece of plywood and put it on a stick and people would come," Commissioner Ken Brady said dryly.

Commissioners also pointed out that Wheeling just revised its sign code to discourage standard rectangular signs.

"I would prefer to see some creativity," Commissioner Terry Steilen said.

The commission voted unanimously to recommend to the village board that Starbucks be allowed to change the size of the circular shapes on its pole sign but keep its building sign the same.

Plovnar support he received in Wyoming.

"The people out there were very generous," he said. "They really helped me out, and that makes you feel good. Sometimes you forget about that. I know it sounds kind of corny, but it's the truth."

Plovanich also received a lot of help back home. One of his fellow detectives paid for his plane fare out to Wyoming, and others donated a satellite telephone, hiking boots and other supplies.

Plovanich set out on his journey to raise money for the Children's Advocacy Center in Rolling Meadows. He was able

(Continued on page 10)

Wheeling has no interest in 'Greater Buffalo Grove'

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

July 31, 2003

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"I looked at the potential partners, and I think we outshine them with our diversity of assets."

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Continued from page 8

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"It could increase business coming into Wheeling," he said. "There's a lot to work out, but I'm interested in exploring this idea."

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— Staff writer Kimberly Fornek contributed to this report.

Continued

Detective reflects on Wyoming journey

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

7-31-03

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Plovanich said he now feels fine physically. His emotional state is improving, too.

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"You get wiser with age and start to follow doctor's orders," he said Monday. "The doctor said I would need one or

two weeks to recover, and he was right."

Plovanich is taking prescription antibiotics and applying plenty of ointment to curb the infections in his feet. He went back to work July 22, about a week after he returned to his Roselle home after a long drive from Cheyenne.

Plovanich said he had been feeling better physically each day he was off his feet. He said he was able to play in his golf league July 23, and is returning to his normal life.

Plovanich said getting better emotionally has been more difficult.

"After such a disappointment, I'm starting to get over it," he said. "It was devastating. It was depressing."

The ride home from Cheyenne was a long one, Plovanich said. His wife, Concetta, and his children met him there, after Gary Butts, a doctor who treated Plovanich in Glenrock, took a day off work and drove him the rest of the way to Cheyenne. He said the family stopped

only for gas and food during the 15-hour drive back to Illinois.

"I couldn't wait to get home and put that car in the garage," he said. "It was a good feeling to get home."

Plovanich said he is going to resume his training soon in order to get ready to finish the journey that came to such a quick end.

"Dr. Butts said he'd finish with me if I went back out, and I believe him," Plovanich said. "He'll be able to do it."

Butts, as it turned out, is somewhat of an expert in hiking injuries. He has hiked along Mount Everest and served as a medical doctor on other long expeditions. Plovanich said he would be excited to have a partner as he continues the walk.

"The loneliness and solitude really gets to you after a while," he said. "You start to do a lot of thinking about life and the whole bit. You get philosophical with yourself."

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sports during the stay at the

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"I'm asking if we should pursue a working relationship with Buffalo Grove," Lang told the board. "I'd hate to not pursue a working relationship with others."

Ghida Neukirch, Buffalo Grove assistant village manager, said the initiative is designed to pursue a marketing scheme promoting entire regions rather than individual villages, something similar to the strategy adopted by many chambers of commerce.

"Corridors" along Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road stretching through more than one municipality could be designated with names and logos on street banners, and all the destinations along that route would be highlighted, according to the proposal. Other villages that have been approached to join the marketing effort include Arlington Heights, Long Grove and Riverwoods.

"We're trying to break down jurisdictional boundaries," Neukirch said. "There's a lot to offer in the whole area. It's important to work together and promote our assets."

Wheeling Trustee Trevor Lehmann said he was "not excited" with the current proposal and asked Neukirch how the initiative would work for everybody if it's called the Greater Buffalo Grove Marketing Initiative.

"You're still putting up walls while you're trying to take them down," he said.

Others said they were simply uninterested in promoting other villages.

(Continued on page 10)

No interest

Continued from page 8

"I want to see Jim (Lang) promote Restaurant Row and Wheeling," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "I'll be frank with you. I don't care about Buffalo Grove."

Trustee Michael Horcher argued that too many municipalities working together will only slow the process down.

"I look at the airport and see two communities trying to work together, and it's difficult," he said of Wheeling's and Prospect Heights' ownership of Palwaukee Municipal Airport. "With three or four communities, it's just too much government and everything stops."

Trustee Robert Heer, the lone trustee voting in support of the initiative, said the program was only in its infancy and was curious to see a more detailed plan. He said if Wheeling, its assets and special events could be promoted on other villages' Web sites, cable television channels and in newsletters, it might help Wheeling.

to survive.
wild and somehow found a way
sports during the stay at the
year-old grandson, Austin Be-
Verka lost Sky when her 5-

Detective reflects

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

7-31-03

Wheeling Police Det. Jim Plovovich had plenty of healing to do when he returned from his painful trek across Wyoming.



Jim Plovovich

Plovovich said he now feels fine physically. His emotional state is improving, too.

Plovovich was forced to stop about halfway through a planned 400-mile walk across Wyoming after infections in his feet became too painful to continue. He ended in Glenrock, Wyo., July 13, nearly 200 miles into his journey from Sheridan to Cheyenne.

"You get wiser with age and start to follow doctor's orders," he said Monday. "(The doctor) said I would need one or

two weeks to recover, Wheeling Plovovich is taking Countryside antibiotics and applying News Offices ment to curb the infl 291 N. Dunton Ave. He went back to work Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004 week after he returned (847) 797-5100 home after a long drive

Plovovich said he better physically each EDITORIAL Bureau Chief Kathy Catrambone Associate Editor Divisions Editor Robert Loerzel Managing Editor David Kirkpatrick Staff Writers Barbara Bell Kimberly Fornek Casey Moffitt Sports Editor Rich Martin Sports Writers George M. Wilcox Bill McLean

"After such a devastating. It was c The ride home from long one, Plovovich cetta, and his child after Gary Butts, a Plovovich in Glen work and drove him to Cheyenne. He sai

CROSSWORD PUZZLE	B32	IMAGES
DIVERSIONS	B3	OBITUARIES
ENGAGEMENTS	80	OPINION
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Detective

Continued from page 5

to raise about \$10,600 for the agency, which gives support and services to abused children.

Susan Reedquist, director of development at the CAC, said no one has asked for their pledge money back since Plovovich had to stop.

Although he was able to raise a significant amount of money for an organization that he admires and believes in, Plovovich said his inspiration to make the trip came from a book. When he read "Mountain Man" by Vardis Fisher when he was 18 years old, Plovovich told himself he would one day walk across Wyoming, where part of the novel is set.

Plovovich said he has no regrets about the trip, and he said he would never have been able to get as far as he did without a lot of help from a lot of people.

"I want to thank everybody for everything," he said. "At home, and out there, from the very beginning, people offered their help."

Horcher shed controversy continues

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
7-31-03

The controversy surrounding a shed built on the Horcher family farm is still brewing, and the matter may end up in court.

Village staff members have been unable to get the Horchers to comply with village ordinances requiring that a sprinkler system be installed in the shed, which was built in October. The sprinkler, according to village ordinance, is needed if an occupancy permit is going to be issued.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the Village Board will discuss whether to issue a citation and take the matter to court. Two members of the Horcher family, Patrick and Michael Sr., are members of the Village Board.

"We're taking the issue to the board," Klatecki said Friday. "It will come up in the near future."

Klatecki said any board dis-



Pioneer Press File Photo

This shed built on the Horcher family farm violates village code because it does not have a sprinkler system.

cussions about the shed will take place behind closed doors in executive session because they may involve litigation. However, any action such as directing the village attorney to pursue the matter in court, has

to be taken in public.

Trustee Patrick Horcher said his older brother, Michael Horcher Jr., who built and owns the shed, will most likely apply for a variance from the village's sprinkler ordinance. Patrick

Horcher said the well on the farm does not pump enough water to support a sprinkler system, and his brother will claim that as a hardship.

Michael Horcher Jr. did not return telephone calls from the

Wheeling Countryside.

The Countryside first reported about the shed in March, shortly before Patrick Horcher was re-elected to the Village Board. Patrick Horcher said at the time that he knew the shed was being built without a sprinkler system. He said he took no action because he opposed the ordinance that requires a sprinkler in that kind of structure.

Patrick Horcher said precedent could be on his brother's side since a similar variance was granted to the 94th Aerosquadron restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue more than 20 years ago.

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac, however, said the current sprinkler ordinance does not allow for variances. He did say it is possible the Village Board could issue an executive order granting some relief from the ordinance.

Property owners also have

(Continued on page 11)

Condo gets panel's nod for proposal

7-28-03

Wheeling's Chelsea Cove Condominium Association was happy to receive an early thumbs-up last week for a project intended to give the housing development a face lift.

The Wheeling Plan Commission Thursday voted to recommend that the village board allow the association, based at 300 Denoyer Trail, to replace the wood paneling on the Chelsea Cove homes with vinyl siding.

The new design also would add new porch columns, a new gable design and roof improvements.

The condo group has been working for a year on the plan to revitalize the 264-unit development, which is more than 25 years old, said condo association President David Cantwell.

Cantwell is also a plan commissioner, but he recused himself from the vote to present the Chelsea Cove plan.

"It's the biggest reinvention of Chelsea Cove since they built the place," said Cantwell, a resident of the development for 18 years. "And we plan to do it without raising the assessments. We have reserves and we have money from our budget for painting and repairs."

If Wheeling trustees approve the project, Chelsea Cove plans to seek bids immediately and begin building 90 days after that.

"We hope to be done 12 to 24 months after that," Cantwell said. "We don't plan to stop for the weather."

Flood help for vets: We know hail has been the biggest recent storm problem for many Wheeling homeowners and businesses (hence, the "Hail Sale" sign outside of Bill Stasek Chevrolet, and the signs for auto repair from (866) DNT-GUYS next to State Farm's Catastrophe Services tent on Dundee Road).



Cass Clatt
Wheeling

Clatt: Group offers some flood relief to veterans

Continued from Page 1

7-28-03

But flooding was another big problem for many homeowners after the thunderstorms swept through the Midwest. If you're a veteran, there's a little extra help available.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America sent us a notice saying the group is offering disaster relief funds to its members and other veterans with disabilities whose property was damaged by floods.

Veterans can apply for financial assistance through the agency's Vaughan and Kentucky-Indiana chapters.

Veterans who qualify might be eligible for up to \$2,500 per family. They can get money for transportation, food, home repairs, temporary shelter, or modifications that are needed for wheelchair accessibility, medical supplies and prosthetic appliances. Priority is given to members of the paralyzed veterans group.

Founded in 1946, Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered veterans service group dedicated to serving individuals with spinal cord injury or disease.

The group has more than 20,000 members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

To request an application for financial assistance, veterans should call or e-mail one of the chapters: Vaughan chapter at (708) 344-8214 or pvachvaug@mindspring.com; and Kentucky-Indiana chapter at (502) 635-6539 or pvachkind@mindspring.com.

To learn more about PVA, visit www.pva.org.

For more information and tips, call (800) 427-4440; or visit www.dailyherald.com

Ambulance bills sent by mistake

Misunderstanding led company to wrongly send notices to residents

By CASEY MC
STAFF WRITER
7-28-03

A miscommunication between an ambulance company and a billing service has left surprise ambulance bills. The Village Board decided to pass the measure on the Village Board only collect what Medicare would cover. However, those who have needed an ambulance in Wheeling have been receiving bills in the mail.

"The billing company was on the assumption that they would continue billing even after partial billing was paid," said Michael Mordtschain, Wheeling finance director. "We wanted them to drop the balance owed after what was paid (by the insurance company)."

However, the billing company, Paramedic Billing Service of Elmhurst, continued to send bills to patients if their insurance did not pay.

structures are exempt from the sprinkler ordinance, the Horcher shed is not, because it contains its own heating system. The new shed replaced an old structure that sat at the same location on the property. A building permit was not needed for the new shed, because the village building code does not address structures for agricultural use.

The Village Board might seek a court order to bring the building into compliance. Village Attorney Patrick Lucansky said a judge could also issue a fine if the court upholds the citation, but the main purpose for seeking legal action would be to bring the building into compliance with village code.

"The court could enforce compliance with a court order," Lucansky said. "Then, if the offender doesn't comply, they'd be in contempt of court, in which case they'd be in more serious trouble."

Those without medical insurance are not expected to pay the ambulance fee, Trustee Dean Argiris said he heard complaints from residents about receiving the additional bills at the Village Board's July 28 meeting. Argiris was upset to hear the complaints.

"We passed (the fee) on the premise that we would not send a balance bill to residents," he said. "Some residents have paid ... That's not right."

Fest: Street, restaurants in spotlight

Continued from Page 1

little attraction to the area," Lederer said. "We're just trying to promote the street and all the fine restaurants we have."

Since last Friday, banners and fliers have directed people at municipal buildings, participating restaurants and shops to answer questions for the scavenger hunt highlighting Milwaukee Avenue history.

Residents can begin their hunt Sunday or get answers to more questions at restaurants, on the trolleys or at the Restaurant Row Hospitality Group booth at Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park on the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Call (847) 541-0170, or e-mail whchamber@earthlink.net

Youth Soccer: The youth soccer players are participating in the National Team selection, state tournament, and Midwest Regional format. The Illinois ODP, announced by Illinois Soccer. These players will be the "cream of the crop" after an extended selection camp. Under-18 B Carol Stream Zachary Marz

By Casey Moffitt
Daily Herald
Restaurants
festive
shops
in W. High
chef-

needed if an occupancy permit is going to be issued.

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This shed built sprinkler system

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Mail all correspondence to:
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donut eaters? Plenty. The National Highway... didn't eat or drink when... the survey is to point out... missing the point.

Condo gets panel's nod for proposal

7-78-02
 Schauburg Road, Schauburg

Clatt: Group offers some flood relief to veterans

Continued from Page 1

izzle

Big picture - Local focus
 DAILY HERALD

Ambulance bills sent by mistake

Misunderstanding led company to wrongly send notices to residents

By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER
 3-7-03

A miscommunication between Village Hall and a billing service has left some residents with surprise ambulance bills.

The Village Board decided to enact the ambulance fee beginning June 1, 2002. The board passed the measure on the premise that the village would only collect what insurance companies and Medicare would cover.

However, those who have needed an ambulance in Wheeling have been receiving bills in the mail.

"The billing company was on the assumption that they would continue billing even after partial billing was paid," said Michael Mondschain, Wheeling finance director. "We wanted them to drop the balance owed after what was paid (by the insurance company)."

However, the billing company, Paramedic Billing Service of Elmhurst, continued to send bills to patients if their insurance did not cover the entire fee. Ambulance fees range from \$315 to \$550, depending on the level of service a patient needs during the trip. Some insurance companies will only pay a certain amount for ambulance fees. Mondschain said the service was sending three bills to patients before stopping. No collection agencies had been used to collect the balance, Mondschain said.

"I spoke with (Paramedic Billing Service) about three weeks ago and sent them a letter

clarifying what we wanted to do," Mondschain said. "They should stop billing after receiving a payment now."

Mondschain said those who needed an ambulance will initially receive a bill. That bill requires a response to give the billing company insurance information. After the initial response, no bills should be issued.

"If you have coverage, you need to let the service know," Mondschain said. "If you don't respond, they will send out additional bills."

Those without medical insurance are not expected to pay the ambulance fee. Trustee Dean Argiris said he heard complaints from residents about receiving the additional bills at the Village Board's July 23 meeting. Argiris was upset to hear the complaints.

"We passed (the fee) on the premise that we would not send a balance bill to residents," he said. "Some residents have paid ... That's not right."

Argiris asked Mondschain to correct the problem or they would consider eliminating the fee. However, Argiris said he's confident the problem can be solved.

"Things will get fixed," he said. "I'm sure of it."

Mondschain, too, said he believes it should be easy to clarify the village's wishes.

"The billing company will do what we tell them to," Mondschain said.

Summer t

8-7-03

CLASS CLATT
 Staff Writer

Restaurant Row hopes to...
 the suburbs its eateries are...
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 rant Row Summer Sizzle

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 restaurants, hotels and retail...
 lining Milwaukee Avenue...
 feeling and Prospect...
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Soccer

Illinois Youth Soccer: The names of the youth soccer players selected to the Illinois Olympic Development Program State Teams, (Illinois ODP), have been announced by Illinois Youth Soccer. These players are considered the "cream of the crop" in Illinois after an extensive four-day selection camp. More than 1,500 top youth soccer players in Illinois began the Illinois ODP process at district tryouts last July. During the year numerous training sessions and interviews are in participation National Team t against teams 1 states in the Midwest Regiment format. win the tour Under 17 and and Girls ag advance to cor other three U Regional Chan Youth Soccer Championship Under-18 B Carol Stream Zachary Marz

Fest: Street, restaurants in spotlight

Continued from Page 1

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Residents can begin their hunt Sunday or get answers to more questions at restaurants, on the trolleys or at the Restaurant Row Hospitality Group booth at Cole Taylor Bank Friendship Park on the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Call (847) 541-0170, or e-mail wph@chamber@earthlink.net

Summer Sizzle to showcase Restaurant Row

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
7-7-03

Activity on Milwaukee Avenue is expected to heat up Sunday as the Restaurant Row Hospitality Group is getting ready for its first-ever Summer Sizzle event.

The Restaurant Row Hospitality Group, a shared interest group of the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, formed last year and has been working to promote the hospitality industry in the area. It has yet to produce a large-scale promotional event like this.

"It's really coming around," said Jim Lederer, co-chairman of the group. "This is the first real big thing we've done together and we're really excited about it."

About a dozen Restaurant Row establishments will be offering special events, promotions and free food be-

tween noon and 5 p.m. Sunday. A handful of hotels and other retail shops are also participating.

Lederer said the idea to host the event came about last year during the Classic Car Show sponsored by Stasek Chevrolet and the Wheeling Park District. A number of restaurants were at the show selling food.

"We figured since a lot of restaurants couldn't sell a lot that day, we're piggy-backing on (Stasek's) affair."

This year, the Summer Sizzle is being held a day after the Classic Car Show.

"It's a reason to stop onto Restaurant Row and another reason to visit Wheeling," Lederer said.

The special events and promotions promise to be as diverse as the food offerings on Restaurant Row. Musical acts will be prominent up and down Milwaukee Avenue. Don Roth's is sponsoring Biff and the Waybacks, who will be performing in the Friendship Park gazebo.

The Wingate Inn in Prospect Heights will have a Blues Brothers tribute band and miniature golf indoors. Benihana will have Elane Dame and Quartet performing in its outdoor garden.

Many of the restaurants will be offering free food, specialties and cooking demonstrations. Tuscany will have a variety of special appetizers on its patio and Starbucks will have samples of frozen drinks. Pear Tree Catering will host a cooking demonstration at Friendship Park.

Other participants will be holding special events and attractions. Buca Di Beppo will have a 25-foot rock climbing wall outside. Bob Chinn's Crabhouse will be serving its famous mai tais during a Hawaiian luau. Pete Miller's Seafood and Prime Steaks is offering free billiards during the afternoon. The Weber Grill will be serving a variety of beers, and root beer for the kids, in its beer garden.

The Ram Brewery and Restaurant will be giving brewery tours during the day and Edwardo's Natural Pizza will also have kitchen tours, as well as family entertainment with its mascot Pete Zza.

Hold-overs from the Classic Car Show will be parked up and down the street and Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza will be selling pizza along the avenue as well.

The Restaurant Row Hospitality Group will have a special booth set up in Friendship Park during the day where raffles will be drawn. A special "dine-and-stay" raffle will be held, with the grand prize worth over \$500 in food and hotel stays. A special scavenger hunt raffle is also being held, where historical questions about the street's businesses will have to be answered in order to enter.

This year marks the 80th anniversary that Milwaukee Avenue was paved, and (Continued on page 11)

the raffle is designed to tie into that bit of historical trivia.

Those attending the Summer Sizzle will be able to park at any of the participating restaurants, or at Cole Taylor Bank, and take a free trolley or Pace bus to the other restaurants all afternoon to make parking easier, Lederer said.

Lederer said the idea behind the Summer Sizzle is to show off what Restaurant Row has to offer and hopefully bring new people into Wheeling.

"There's no downtown here in Wheeling like in other communities, but we still have a lot to offer," Lederer said.

"We're looking at reaching out with the restaurant part of (Milwaukee Avenue).

The village has been a big supporter and President (Greg) Klatacki has also been a good supporter of the area."

Lederer said the group is excited about the event, and hopes to expand it in the coming years.

"It should be bigger and better next year," he said. "We're looking at a three-day event next year and combining it with the show and all at Stasek's."

Ryg meets with Wheeling seniors

By JAMES FULLER

Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-8-03

State Rep. Kathy Ryg told a small gathering of Wheeling senior citizens recently that help with prescription drug costs is on the way — one highlight of her first session in office.

The Vernon Hills Democrat said seniors in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove should call her office for updates on the state's new prescription drug card. The new cards will take effect Jan. 1 and will give seniors access to any state-negotiated breaks in

drugs costs with pharmaceutical companies. The savings won't come for free, though. The card itself costs \$25 to help defray the administrative costs of the new plan.

Ryg also pitched an upcoming summit that will bring together leaders of Metra, PACE, the Illinois Department of Transportation and others to discuss a group approach to suburban transportation.

Ryg assured residents that funding for the next stage of improvements to Route 22 will be available. Improvements on

Wolf and Willow Roads will also receive funding, she said. However, any improvements to Route 53 will require a regional consensus to receive funding. That consensus does not currently exist, Ryg said.

"That's the fastest way to lose your federal dollars," she said. "We have to have a very strong plan." That plan would include how the Route 53 improvements would occur, what they would look like and paid for.

Ryg will host similar community forums in Riverwoods and Lincolnshire in coming weeks.

Builder wants \$7.5 million in village aid

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
8-14-03

A new level of luxury could come to Wheeling if the Village Board is willing to gamble on a condominium project on north Wolf Road.

Trustees said they want assurances the village will see a return on its investment should they choose to grant \$7.5 million in tax increment financing incentives for the Prairie Park condominium development.

The developer, Mark Smith of Smith Family Construction, said he needs \$6 million of the \$7.5 million in incentives up front to purchase the Simmerling Fence property near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue on Wolf Road and to pay for infrastructure improvements.

Smith said he is having difficulty with his lender in acquiring the money he needs to buy the land. The rear 11 acres of the 17.7-acre site are in a flood plain, limiting the value of the property, he said.

Trustees said they like the project, but a few are fearful of granting the incentive. The village would have to borrow the \$6 million because the TIF district, formed in February, has no money. The future increase in property tax dollars the development would generate would help pay off the bond. But if the development is not built on schedule or generates less property tax revenue than expected, the village will have a more difficult time paying off the loan.

(Continued on page 8)

Village

Continued from page 5

"I love the project. I always did," Trustee Dean Arpitis said. "There are a lot of ifs. Whatever we can do to minimize the risk — I'm all for it. Six million up front is an issue. We've got to be very careful."

Builder's plans

Smith has outlined what he calls a "very aggressive" schedule for the project. He expects it will take him three years to finish the 306-unit development. Since the project will be built in phases, and his lender has agreed to a revolving line of credit, a significant number of units will have to be sold during construction in order to complete the project on schedule.

Smith said he has already sold 15 units without turning a shovel of dirt.

Smith originally requested \$10.5 million in TIF incentives. After Stephen Friedman, president of S.B. Friedman and Co., and a consultant hired by the village, reviewed the request, village staff and Smith reached the \$7.5 million compromise.

Friedman said the price of high-quality construction materials account for the bulk of Smith's costs for the \$100 million project. Units are expected to sell at \$210 per square foot. In comparison, One Milwaukee Place sold units at \$150 per square foot. Smith's Park Point sold at \$170 per square foot, and Kimball Hill Homes' units at Astor Place are selling at \$160 per square foot.

"(Prairie Park) is higher than anything Wheeling has ever seen before," Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said. "The upside are very up. We will be able to push the envelope of higher-end housing, but I don't want to minimize the risks."

Friedman suggested that a

Village

Continued from page 8

units at a price above \$210 per square foot.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling finance director, said a successful Prairie Park should generate enough property tax revenue to allow the village to recover the \$7.5 million in 12 years. Mondschain said the village could see a \$15 million return during the lifetime of the TIF, which is 23 years.

"If it's successful, the increment should be able to pay (the bond) back more quickly," Mondschain said.

Trustees agreed to let village staff continue negotiations with Smith. Any incentive will have to be approved by the Village Board. Smith has said in the past that he cannot develop the property without TIF money.

"The buzzword around here has been 'upper-end housing,'" Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "Sometimes you have to pay for it."

Village President Greg Klatacki said he was more inclined to grant the incentive because Smith is a Wheeling resident and businessman, and would most likely not put himself, his business or the village at risk. He also said granting the incentive could also be a way to improve the village's image.

"If we don't take the step do this," he said, "the image of the community won't change."

Other trustees are more interested in ensuring the village's investment is protected, and less concerned about image.

"I don't think this project is going to define who we are," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "I don't think this project will change the way people think of Wheeling."

Klatacki admitted the decision is "a tough one" and he urged staff and Smith work out an agreement.

"As you can see, there's a lot of fear up here," Klatacki said to Smith. "The only way to eliminate that fear is for both sides to work hard on this."

This year marks the 80th anniversary that Milwaukee Avenue was paved, and (Continued on page 11)

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BY JAMES FULLER
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-8-03

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■ Village

Continued from page 5

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Smith said he has already sold 15 units without turning a shovel of dirt.

Smith originally requested \$10.5 million in TIF incentives. After Stephen Friedman, president of S.B. Friedman and Co. and a consultant hired by the village, reviewed the request, village staff and Smith reached the \$7.5 million compromise.

Friedman said the price of high-quality construction materials account for the bulk of Smith's costs for the \$100 million project. Units are expected to sell at \$210 per square foot. In comparison, One Milwaukee Place sold units at \$150 per square foot. Smith's Park Point sold at \$170 per square foot, and Kimball Hill Homes' units at Astor Place are selling at \$160 per square foot.

"(Prairie Park) is higher than anything Wheeling has ever seen before," Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said. "The upsides are very up. We will be able to push the envelope of higher-end housing, but I don't want to minimize the risks."

Friedman suggested that a market study be conducted before granting the incentive. Since Wheeling has never offered such highly priced condominiums, it is difficult to know if the village can attract buyers, he said. A market study would help predict that.

Village safety nets

There are ways the village can protect itself from the risk of the development's failure. The village can negotiate a lien on parts of the property. However, the village will most likely only be able to put a lien on the common areas — the detention pond and streets through the development — since the primary lender would be reluctant to give up its lien on the buildings.

The village could also request Smith pay back the money if he is able to sell the

■ Village

Continued from page 8

units at a price above \$210 per square foot.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling finance director, said a successful Prairie Park should generate enough property tax revenue to allow the village to recover the \$7.5 million in 12 years. Mondschain said the village could see a \$15 million return during the lifetime of the TIF, which is 23 years.

"If it's successful, the increment should be able to pay (the bond) back more quickly," Mondschain said.

Trustees agreed to let village staff continue negotiations with Smith. Any incentive will have to be approved by the Village Board. Smith has said in the past that he cannot develop the property without TIF money.

"The buzzword around here has been 'upper-end housing,'" Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "Sometimes you have to pay for it."

Village President Greg Klatecki said he was more inclined to grant the incentive because Smith is a Wheeling resident and businessman, and would most likely not put himself, his business or the village at risk. He also said granting the incentive could also be a way to improve the village's image.

"If we don't take the step do this," he said, "the image of the community won't change."

Other trustees are more interested in ensuring the village's investment is protected, and less concerned about image.

"I don't think this project is going to define who we are," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "I don't think this project will change the way people think of Wheeling."

Klatecki admitted the decision is "a tough one," and he urged staff and Smith work out an agreement.

"As you can see, there's a lot of fear up here," Klatecki said to Smith. "The only way to eliminate that fear is for both sides to work hard on this."

Food pantries feel the need

By J.T. MORAND
AND CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITERS

Those who run local food pantries are staring at cupboards that are beginning to go bare.

The Wheeling Township Food Pantry is having a hard time keeping stock on its shelves, even though people are still in need of its services during the summer months.

Thelma Talamantes, Wheeling Township's director of general assistance, said the summer is a slow period for donations, but the need is still great.

"We're struggling right now," Talamantes said. "We have a very active food pantry, and the food goes quickly."

Inventories are low, Talamantes said, and it's gotten to the point where volunteers for the food pantry have gone to the grocery store themselves to try to meet some of the demand.

Many area schools and civic organizations send a steady stream of donations to the pantry, but Talamantes said there are few "high-volume" donators for the program this time of year.

The food pantry has a need for some very essential items, including canned soups, pastas, fruits, vegetables, meats and tuna fish. Other items the pantry needs are boxed cereals, peanut butter, cake mix, rice, jellies, cooking oil, spaghetti, dry beans, cookies, bottled juice, tomato sauce,

(Continued on page 11)

pay for the study.

■ Pantries *Continued from page 5*

paper products, shampoo, hair conditioner, detergents, diapers, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

"We are always in need of constant donations," Talamantes said. "With the economy where it is, we are definitely very active. We give away a lot of food."

Inventory at the Vernon Township pantry is also running low, which is typical for this time of year, said Township Supervisor William Peterson.

Food is being brought into the pantry, but it's less than is donated during the winter holiday season, he said. Fortunately, the demand for food from the Vernon Township pantry during the summer months is not as great as it is during winter months, Peterson said.

"People are using funds they have to pay utility bills" during the winter, he said.

However, food is needed now, especially with fall and winter approaching.

Peterson said canned foods like fruits,

soups and vegetables are needed most.

"Something that's easily prepared and served," he said, adding soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and tooth brushes are always in great demand.

The Vernon Township Food Pantry, located at 3050 N. Main St. in Buffalo Grove, hands out 400 to 500 food and other donations to hundreds of people every year in Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire, Long Grove, Riverwoods, Vernon Hills and unincorporated parts of Lake County.

Anyone interested in making a donation to Vernon Township should call (847) 634-1600. Donations are accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Donations may be made at the Wheeling Township office building at 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Maintenance staff is available to help with large donations until 2 p.m. each day.

Village: Current stores play role in future plan

By CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

8-14-03

A town center redevelopment project proposed for the area around Wheeling's train station should not force existing businesses to leave the village.

That is the stance a special committee has adopted as its members study the future look of the Wheeling and Dundee roads intersection. The plan is to create a town center with new housing, retail shops and perhaps offices near the Metra train station. Wheeling officials believe improving the underutilized land around the station could revitalize the village.

Village officials want to create a pedestrian-friendly town center, where people can live and easily find the services they need. Metra is also planning to build a second train track through Wheeling, which will increase the number of trains heading to and from downtown Chicago, making its service more convenient for commuters.

The special committee members — village elected officials and staff, and business leaders — agreed they must make it known that many businesses already calling the area home will still be welcome.

"We don't want to force people out of town," Village President Greg Klatecki said. "Our attitude should be, 'We want to improve so your business is better.'"

That does not mean all the businesses will be able to stay, however. Many of the industrial businesses, like Meyer Material, will have to be moved to other areas of town for the project to work, officials said. But the committee believes many of the retail businesses will most likely be able to stay in the town center area. They will just be housed in different buildings.

"Communication is going to be critical," Klatecki said of the planning process. "We don't

want to try to hide anything."

Committee members recognize that some people will be unhappy with the plan, but they also said that deciding on a redevelopment plan and sticking to it will be critical.

"There are going to be a few people who won't be happy," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "We are going to see some resistance, but we need to keep focus."

The plan also includes redeveloping and improving access to the retail shops along Dundee Road.

"The retail needs some modernization and improvement," said Dan Ozanich, Wheeling's community development director. "Dundee Road is a great area. We should focus on keeping the businesses there and helping them get refreshed."

There are many other hurdles to overcome to make the project work. Much of the area is in a flood plain. Burke Engineering is scheduled to complete a flood study next month, which should outline different ways the village can create more water detention. Committee members agreed that the results of the flood study will determine the direction of redevelopment.

"So much hinges on (the study)," said Jan Buchs, executive director of the Wheeling Park District.

"Without it, we're a ship out of water," Klatecki said.

Linking all aspects of transportation will also be important to the project's success. Dundee Road is notorious for heavy traffic during the morning and evening rush hours, and some suggested asking the Illinois Department of Transportation to better synchronize the street lights to improve traffic flow. The Dundee Road railroad crossing also creates traffic problems.

The nine-member committee met Aug. 6 to re-

(Continued on page 9)

Wheeling fine-tunes system for major projects

By CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-15-03

Wheeling is doing some housekeeping to improve the way the village handles its roadwork, sewer repairs and other major projects.

The village has reorganized its public works unit, creating a separate engineering department to oversee capital projects.

"Engineering designs and

supervises construction of streets, public works plows them, clears them and patches them," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

The move to create separate public works and engineering departments follows a decision last year to expand the engineering staff to enable Wheeling to design, construct and inspect its streets, water mains and sewers in-house.

Trustees signed off on the plan after Guy Kolberg, who was then public works director, told them in June that Wheeling could hire 1½ engineers for the same \$107,000 it cost to pay one engineering consultant for a 10-week project.

Wheeling hired three engineers in late November and early December.

Kolberg has been renamed Wheeling's engineering director,

and the village has begun a search for a new public works director.

"We have a lot on our plate in respect to the next five years," Douthwaite said, "and if we're going to make this work, we have to make sure our design department in relation to these projects is operating without a hitch."

The creation of separate departments should help infra-

structure projects run more smoothly and be completed faster, Douthwaite said.

Also, the change shouldn't cost the taxpayers more money to hire a new public works director. The new director will fill a vacancy left by the resignation of the assistant public works director, Douthwaite said.

David R. Kowal took a job last month as Carpentersville's finance director.

Food pantries feel the need

By J.T. MORAND
AND CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITERS

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■ Pantries *Continued from page 5*

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STAFF WRITER
8-14-03

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(Continued on page 9)

Senior Center at (847) 459-2670.
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 at 1 p.m.
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 desserts will be served.
 strate his skills draw a po
 and other jazz standar
 form at the celebration, singing
 items and desserts.
 s gearing up to celebrate its 19th

■ Builder

Continued from page 5

view input it gathered from the public on the project and to fine-tune its philosophy and direction for the plan. Consultants from the Lakota Group, S.B. Friedman and Associates, and Metro Transportation Group are helping in the process. Representatives from Metra, the Regional Transportation Authority and Pace also are taking part.

The village was able to acquire a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to pay for the study.

Wheeling fine-tunes system for r

By CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-15-03

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"We have a lot respect to the Douthwaite saying we have to make department in projects is open hitch."

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Board OKs food sales at Wheeling parks

BY CASEY MORRITT
STAFF WRITER

Heritage Park on south Wolf Road. "It was devised as another service," said Mark Harrison, director of parks and planning for the park district. "We wanted to offer food and refreshment to people before, after or during a game or practice." The park district also received permission to operate stands at Chamber, Horizon and Childerley parks. The park district operated a village-approved stand in Heritage Park this summer, and closed it about two weeks ago. Harrison said Heritage Park should be the only park to have a stand next year. "We figured as long as we were going after a special permit, we might as well get it for the three other parks for the future," he said. "We don't intend to put district approved a village-approved stand in the other three parks) in the near future."

played down the profit motive and said the park district expects to make money comparable to profits generated by a Village Board meeting when trustees granted the park district approval. Harrison, who couldn't say how much profit the concessions stands might generate, said the village board unanimously approved the stands at its meeting without any discussion. (Continued on page 14)

them at least 200 feet away from any residence. "Whether the stand is open will depend on what's going on at the field," Harrison said. "If there's nothing going on, then obviously it won't open." Harrison said park district officials decided to focus concession sales at Heritage Park because it is the park district's main athletic field complex. The other parks chosen for the stands are larger than most of the district's other neighborhood parks, and most host special events or ballgames. "The Historical Society is at Chamber Park, and they might have an event where they would want to use (the stand)," Harrison said. "Horizon Park is about as big as a neighborhood park, but there are two or three ball parks there where they play games." A handful of residents appeared at a July 24 Plan Commission meeting to protest the stands. Most said they were concerned about the odors and garbage the concessions might generate. Jack Caldwell, who lives near Childerley Park, said the park district does not need to engage in more commercial enterprises. "I think they should be more concerned with green grass, peace and quiet and tranquility, and things like that," he said. "The fact is, I don't think the parks need a more commercial- (Continued on page 90)

Volunteers needed to paint homes
Volunteers are needed to paint homes of seniors and the Paint-A-Thon sponsored by the village of Wheeling. Skilled and unskilled workers can play the part in this unique partnership designed to help area needy who are over 60 years, have a permanent disability or who are unable to do the work themselves. Homeowners must earn \$25,000 or less annually. Applications are available by calling Cindy Gunderson at 5500; Sue Burtini at Wheeling Township, (847) 259-7730; or Nancy Janssen (847) 459-2670. If you or your company wants to volunteer, call the Volunteer Center at Northwest Suburban Chicago (847) 228-1320.

Wheeling trying to reimburse residents for ambulance fees
BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-21-03
Wheeling hopes to find a way to reimburse residents who have been shelling out cash for ambulance fees, officials said. The village has collected about \$30,000 in fees it never meant to collect from residents when trustees approved the ambulance user fee in May 2002, Trustee Dean Argitis said. The company hired to collect Wheeling's fees has been sending bills to residents when insurance or Medicare doesn't pay the full amount. The village is exploring giving that money back. "This thing was not designed to collect one single dime from residents," Argitis said. "What ever we were supposed to collect from the insurance companies was supposed to be it, so we have to correct this." "We're trying to make an administrative fix. We're in the process of collecting information right now." Patients using Wheeling ambulance services in the future shouldn't receive bills, Argitis said.

Wheeling trying to reimburse residents for ambulance fees
BY TOM O'KONOWITZ
Daily Herald Staff Writer
The need to widen Route 20 through Elgin's far-west side likely will grow as quickly as the traffic tie ups that will come with thousands of new houses planned for the area. And several deadly Route 20 accidents in recent years show the stretch of highway on the city's east side needs to be realigned to make it safer, Elgin officials argue. Besides being charged with residential burglary, both were also charged with criminal trespass to vehicle and unlawful consumption of alcohol, police said. The juvenile police caught after the foot chase was also charged with resisting a peace officer. Both were taken to the DuPage County Juvenile Detention Center. Police said the second juvenile was taken into custody at his home a short time later.

Final convict sentenced for jeweler's killing
BY DAVE ORR
8-22-03
Wheeling hopes to find a way to reimburse residents who have been shelling out cash for ambulance fees, officials said. The village has collected about \$30,000 in fees it never meant to collect from residents when trustees approved the ambulance user fee in May 2002, Trustee Dean Argitis said. The company hired to collect Wheeling's fees has been sending bills to residents when insurance or Medicare doesn't pay the full amount. The village is exploring giving that money back. "This thing was not designed to collect one single dime from residents," Argitis said. "What ever we were supposed to collect from the insurance companies was supposed to be it, so we have to correct this." "We're trying to make an administrative fix. We're in the process of collecting information right now." Patients using Wheeling ambulance services in the future shouldn't receive bills, Argitis said.

Thousands pack Palwaukee to see vintage planes

BY EILEEN O. DADAY
Daily Herald Correspondent

The P-51 Mustang that made its name in World War II flying missions over the skies of Europe and in the Pacific drew enthusiasts of all ages Saturday at the Palwaukee Municipal Airport open house.

Organizers of the ninth annual open house say the mix of private, corporate and vintage planes on display helped to draw record attendance, estimated at more than 5,000 people.

But it was youngsters who

received the real treat: a chance to climb in the cockpit of the Mustang fighter plane. They also got to see 30 more aircraft on display.

Owner Chuck Greenhill of Mattawa was one of several private owners who flew in to participate. He enjoyed describing the 1940 aircraft produced by North American Aviation, as he helped children operate some of the controls.

"The kids get such a kick out of it, climbing in a real fighter airplane," said Greenhill, who had his antique Stearman biplane parked next to the P-51.

Young Jimmy Kobler of Buffalo Grove was one of those lucky youngsters, leaving his father, Jim, and grandfather, John Weber of Arlington Heights, to merely watch and snap photos.

The draw for the three generations was simple, they said.

"It's just all the airplanes," Jim Kobler said. "You usually see Cessnas a lot, but you don't get to see airplanes like this close up like this very often."

Both the Mustang and the Stearman headlined the static display of war birds and other vintage aircraft, positioned at

the southeast corner of the airport, one of several exhibit areas open free to the public.

Other classic planes included a T-6 Texan used to train thousands of pilots in the 1930s and '40s, as well as an amphibious Grumman Goose.

"I'm just a fan of aviation from the '40s," said Brandon Snyder, 23, of Buffalo Grove. "It took so much ingenuity to make these engines, and the pilots could do so many amazing things in these."

Trolleys took fans on a contin-

See PLANES on PAGE 10



Jim Rieckenberg, left, and his parents, Evelyn and Arnold, all of Rolling Meadows, take a look at a Grumman Goose G21 Alpha amphibious aircraft.

Fly into airplanes' past

Palwaukee open house shows off old aircraft

BY CASS CLIATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer
8-21-03

Ever since Chuck Greenhill was a kid, he salivated over the P-51 Mustang World War II fighter plane.

Some pilots lust for the glam and gloss of the newer jets, but the 69-year-old Greenhill is among those who used to build model planes that favored the legacy behind antique aircraft.

So when Greenhill had a chance 10 years ago, he bought a restored P-51 Mustang painted in the color scheme of a famous WWII flying ace.

The Mustang will be among several antique planes making a return Saturday to Palwaukee Municipal Airport's annual open house.

The free open house offers visitors a chance to see classic and modern aircraft, look over radio-controlled planes, take discounted introductory flight lessons and let kids take free airplane rides.

Greenhill and other owners of the antique planes that will be on display say they see the open house as an opportunity for residents to get a taste of history.

"I just love to see people interested in World War II," said Greenhill of Mattawa. "It's my



COURTESY OF PAUL FRIES

This Stearman biplane owned by Paul Fries of Buffalo Grove will be one of the antique planes making a return this weekend to Palwaukee Municipal Airport's annual open house.

way of cultivating a period in history that I love and want people to read about and think about."

One of Greenhill's greatest pleasures is to let children sit in the cockpit of his Mustang and view the controls of a plane often called "a Cadillac in the sky," he said.

Paul Fries of Buffalo Grove feels just as affectionately toward the Boeing Stearman that he'll display at the open house.

The phrase "Don't fence me in" is written across the engine of Fries' WWII training plane. Flying the 1943 aircraft gives Fries a sense of freedom while also tying him to a storied history of flight, he said.

If you go

What: Palwaukee Municipal Airport's annual open house

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Where: 1020 S. Plant Road, Wheeling; display and food tents along Milwaukee Avenue on east side of airport; additional viewing areas at Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road.

Includes: Trolley rides, exhibits, display of 15 aircraft, helicopter rides (for a fee), free food, introductory flight lessons (\$49)

Free rides: For ages 7 to 17; call Young Eagles at (847) 883-8388

Visit: www.palwaukee.org

Call: (847) 537-2580

"It's a nostalgic airplane, and they're becoming fewer and fewer," Fries said. "I've flown a lot of planes, but it's the only airplane I've ever owned."

About 10,000 Boeing Stearman planes were made for WWII. They were used for

See AIRPLANES on PAGE 3

Continued from Page 1

training pilots as close as the Navy facility in Glenview.

"But after the war, they were sold and used primarily by crop dusters," Fries said. "But they're wonderful planes. They were in the Chicago air show. They do a great aerobatics show."

Aviation amateurs might recognize the Stearman biplane as the type of aircraft that crashed during a chase scene in Alfred Hitchcock's movie "North by Northwest."

Showing the Stearman and other antique planes fits in with one of Palwaukee's goals of the open house, which is to offer an educational glance into aviation.

"Our yearly open house is an opportunity to share what happens on a daily basis at Palwaukee Municipal Airport with our neighbors, as well as offering a firsthand education on the past, present and future of aviation through the different aircraft on display," said Jason Feldner, an airport spokesman.

Greenhill's P-51 Mustang, built in 1944 by Gruman Goose, is a two-engine seat plane produced for the U.S. Coast Guard.

It whizzes through the sky at 505 mph and is Greenhill's "hot-dog plane" — one of about six planes he owns that are in various stages of restoration.

In addition to the Mustang, Greenhill's 1944 Gruman Goose, a twin-engine amphibian plane that travels on land and water, also will be displayed at Palwaukee.

Palwaukee officials also are waiting to hear if there will be an appearance by an antique Boeing B-17 used in the filming of "Memphis Belle," a 1990 film about the historic bomber plane.

The famed Memphis Belle B-17 Flying Fortress is known for carrying the first crew to return from 25 combat missions during World War II.

Visitors to the open house interested in beginning their own adventures in flight can visit representatives from the airport's flight schools for a \$49

lesson.

Airways Flight Services, American Flyers, The Flight

Center, Flight World, Palwaukee Wings and Windy City Flyers will be on hand.

...s workers aren't be working until 9 y, because village re construction, to daily, officials told received a previous at was supposed to n earlier phase of

how dare Pighini extend the ban,

the late hours," Argiris said. "Get one. You guys are en you're not. You

...tion and I get the calls coming to me," Dorband told Pighini. "I have a suggestion for you: why don't I come to your house and stand over your bed and bang pots and pans?"

Now, every time Wheeling police have to respond to a violation, they'll issue a citation, Trustee Bob Heer told the Greco representative.

"And it's not just if they get a call," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "If our police go by there and see a violation, there should be a ticket."

Thousands pack Palwau

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PERGO CARIL
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Planes: Rides a popular attraction for the children

Continued from Page 1

uous loop of the airport.

Stops included a display of the traffic helicopters set up near the airport's service center, a display of corporate jets in front of Signature Flight Support, and the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program, offering children a chance to experience their first flight.

More than 250 children pre-registered for the rides, with another 100 on the waiting list, said Peggy Cooney, open house coordinator.

"This is a chance for us to welcome our neighbors to come in and see the airport on a one-to-one basis," said spokesman Jason Feldner, "rather than just driving by it all the time."

Fly into airplanes' past

Palwaukee

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Showing the Stearman and other antique planes fits in with one of Palwaukee's goals of the open house, which is to offer an educational glance into aviation.

"Our yearly open house is an opportunity to share what happens on a daily basis at Palwaukee Municipal Airport with our neighbors, as well as offering a firsthand education on the past, present and future of aviation through the different aircraft on display," said Jason Feldner, an airport spokesman.

Palwaukee officials also are waiting to hear if there will be an appearance by an antique Boeing B-17 used in the filming of "Memphis Belle," a 1990 film about the historic bomber plane.

The famed Memphis Belle B-17 Flying Fortress is known for carrying the first crew to return from 25 combat missions during World War II.

Visitors to the open house interested in beginning their own adventures in flight can visit representatives from the airport's flight schools for a \$49



rated times unless accompanied by an adult. Admission begins at 6:15 p.m., the movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

"War Against the Weak": Edwin Black, author of the revealing "IBM and the Holocaust," will discuss his new book "War

care for the plants that thrive about selecting, planting and garden at 7 p.m. Sept. 10. Learn summer garden with a lush fall garden, master gardener, will explain how to replace a

Create a fall garden: Tom Herrmann, master gardener, will

Public license: For vintage cars, registration is required and limited to 1 p.m. Saturday. Registration is required and limited to 1 p.m. Saturday. Registration is required and limited to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Journey Through West Africa: Sadari and Amber, a mother-daughter duo, will take participants on a journey of stories through West Africa, the Caribbean and into the United States at 1 p.m. Saturday. Registration is required and limited to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Hispanic heritage: Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage first Thursday of the month. The workshop will meet on the first Thursday of the month.

Wheeling gets tough on roadwork early, late in day

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-27-03

Wheeling is fed up with the contractors working on Route 83.

Village trustees Monday put a representative from Greco Construction Co. on notice that workers will be cited if they're caught working too late or too early, disturbing residents.

No more warnings. The Illinois Department of Transportation has contracted with Greco Construction for an estimated \$9 million project to widen Route 83 from Dundee Road to Lake-Cook Road. The work is supposed to be done by October, but the project has met with several delays.

Ron Pighini of Greco Construction appeared before trustees Monday to ask the village for a five-day suspension of a ban that limits the hours the company can work on the road.

Pighini asked if the village

would be willing to extend an evening ban from the supposed 9 p.m. to midnight, or even as late as 2 a.m. "to avoid delaying the project."

Pighini didn't expect the angry response he got from trustees.

Absolutely not, said Village President Greg Klutecki, because residents neighboring that area will flood the village with phone calls, "and they vote for us, you don't."

Also, Greco's workers aren't supposed to be working until 9 p.m. anyway, because village codes require construction to end at 7 p.m. daily, officials told Pighini. He received a previous extension that was supposed to cover only an earlier phase of the project.

And lastly, how dare Pighini even ask to extend the ban, they told him.

"Forget the late hours," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "Get the project done. You guys are there and then you're not. You

guys are like the Phantom."

Pam Dorband, president of the Brookvale Townhome Condominium Association, rallied against Greco for "invariably violating the rules."

Workers begin construction before the 5 a.m. limit, sometimes at 6 a.m. in an area with small children, Dorband said. They wait for a complaining resident to leave and then resume work, she said.

"I'm president of my association and I get the calls coming to me," Dorband told Pighini. "I have a suggestion for you: why don't I come to your house and stand over your bed and bang pots and pans?"

Now, every time Wheeling police have to respond to a violation, they'll issue a citation, Trustee Bob Heer told the Greco representative.

"And it's not just if they get a call," Trustee Trevor Lehmann said. "If our police go by there and see a violation, there should be a ticket."



Judy Fidkowski/For Pioneer Press

Bill Steffenhagen of Grayslake talks to Gervase Brown of Wheeling about the PT17 airplane that Steffenhagen is helping display during the open house at Palwaukee Airport. Brown flew a PT17 in 1943 during World War II.

Group chronicling Palwaukee's progress

Aug 28, 2003

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council is seeking help in putting together a comprehensive chronicle about how the airport has evolved.

PACE members are looking for any photographs, memorabilia or even film footage of airport operations and its history. The council hopes to display the items publicly when the project is completed.

"It's part of the educational process that we're trying to present to the community," said Jason Feldner, PACE assistant coordinator. "It has a community focus, too, showing how the community and Palwaukee have developed together."

Council member Michael Haupt has taken the lead in gathering information and memorabilia for the project. Haupt said he has always had an interest in history, and his schedule was the most flexible of the group's, allowing him to do a lot of the research.

Haupt said his efforts have proved fruitful so far. He has received help from people around the airport and the Wheeling Historical Society, and he has been gathering information by looking through microfilm files of old newspapers.

"There's a lot of people who have stuff," Haupt said. "They just don't know who's interested in the information."

Haupt said he has come into contact with plenty of old pilots, flying instructors and aviation authors, all of whom have things to contribute to the project. A man who ran a flying school at Palwaukee in the 1940s and early 1950s was able to provide photos and film footage.

Haupt said he has also learned a lot of interesting things about the airport in his research. Palwaukee, he said, once had a blimp hangar in the 1930s that was built before the Century of Progress World's Fair held in Chicago in 1933. The blimp was used to ferry people from Palwaukee.

IDOT knew they were exempt, "That kind of restriction on they should have let us know."

waukee to Northerly Island, where the fair was being held.

Palwaukee was also a training ground for pilots during World War II. Many private pilots from the area volunteered their time and their planes to teach the recruits the basics of flying before they went off for more rigorous training.

Haupt said the earliest indication of Palwaukee's beginning as an airport is in the mid-1920s, but few know how long airplanes have actually flown from the area when most of Wheeling was farmland. Haupt said he has so far been able to gather airport-related materials that date back to 1930.

Rob Mark, PACE coordinator, said the council is excited about the project, mainly because it's so much fun to look at how the airport has changed — and how much hasn't. A few original buildings are still standing, including a hangar on the east side of the airport.

"We dug up a photo with a biplane in front of that hangar," Mark said. "You look out there now, and there's a Gulfstream (corporate jet) sitting in front of it."

Mark said others are excited about the project, too. The council plans to show the finished work in various public places in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, including the libraries, lobbies of village halls and in some airport buildings. It will also travel to the public schools. PACE showed off part of the project during Palwaukee's open house Saturday. Council members are not sure when the finished project will be ready for viewing.

"We're already taking reservations (for the traveling display) well into next year," Mark said. "We never envisioned something like this would happen, which is pretty cool. It's really taken on a life of its own."

Haupt said anyone with Palwaukee memorabilia who wishes to donate it to the project should contact him at (847)297-2020 or send an e-mail to airporthist@yahoo.com.

Villages approve mutual aid agreement

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The Wheeling Fire Department has agreed to send an engine to Long Grove when that department needs assistance with fires. 7-4-03

Wheeling could enact tough smoking ban



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Wheeling

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Daily Herald Staff Writer 7-1-03

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today on the village campus and at Buffalo Grove's annual festival concludes Buffalo Grove Days

To the editor: Gov. Blagojevich to District 26 schools Restore full funding

Buffalo Grove Sherril Loeb do on a regular basis. and thank them for all that they strangers like you and me. Stop lives at risk everyday for perfect are the people who put their community, remember, these a worthy cause, or just out in the see your firefighters collecting for give generously. Next time you



Wheeling could enact tough smoking ban



fastest way to do it? Teaching is not the way to do it, unfortunately, the report draws its latest findings from the 2000-01 school year

I should be New Year's Day. And that's why September every September or failed, I got a new chance But, whether I succeeded with greater discretion abandoned, I used it again, but chair gag was just too good to However, that tack-on-the-cold turkey I did quit eating paste, potential in math. wondered, perhaps the teacher overrated my but not in others — though, I always I lived up to my potential in some classes, Sometimes. And I succeeded. new beginning, a fresh start. This was a new September, a new year, a No, I would no longer be that kid. to talk to ... the kid whose parents the teachers wanted spent a lot of time sitting in dark classrooms

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Noisy roadwork causes discord in Wheeling

By Cass Cliatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has another think coming if it thinks it can write tickets to Route 83 road workers who disobey noise laws. Officials at the Illinois Department of Transportation say they were just being good neighbors when they initially agreed to stick to a Wheeling law limiting late-night working hours while widening Route 83.

Now that the work is progressing toward its Oct. 31 completion date, IDOT maintains the state agency and its contractors don't have to abide by Wheeling's noise ban. "The legalities of it are that IDOT is not controlled by local noise ordinances," spokesman Steve Kulm said. "Our legal department is going to talk to Wheeling to work out any confusion because there are just some construction

operations where we might have to do some late-night activities," Kulm said. The village put an IDOT contractor on notice Monday that there won't be any more warnings if workers on Route 83 are found working before 8 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Police would write tickets. Greco Construction Co. was appearing before the board to ask to work as late as 2 a.m. on noisy concrete cutting when it

got the unexpected warning. Craig Mitchell, IDOT's area regional construction supervisor, explained that workers must pour concrete and use a type of circular saw to cut it, just as it sets, to avoid cracks. If the cutting isn't done quickly — whether it's at 7 p.m. 11:30 p.m., or even 2 a.m. — the concrete has to be replaced. "People expressed concerns

See ROADWORK on PAGE 4

Continued from Page 1
about getting us out of here," Mitchell said of residents' frequent complaints. "Having to do replacing only makes delays and puts us out here longer." Wheeling Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said IDOT's contractors should have made it clear they didn't intend to abide by Wheeling's laws. Instead, workers flout the rules by stopping after police arrive, and then resuming after police leave, he said. IDOT and Greco Construction "implicitly agreed" to the noise condition set out in the Route 83 contract, Douthwaite added. "That kind of restriction on

contractors is fairly common," he said. "We'll have to consult with legal counsel to see if there's anything we can do." IDOT plans its first late-night concrete cutting Sept. 8. Workers expect to do it four more times over the next four weeks. Douthwaite acknowledged IDOT's argument that five nights of late-night work eventually will leave Wheeling residents with a new road, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. "The greater good notwithstanding, I believe there is some obligation for them to honor the rules that were established at the time of the contract," Douthwaite said. "If Greco or IDOT knew they were exempt, they should have let us know."

Village to commemorate 9/11

Village officials plan to remember the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, with a small, solemn ceremony at 8 a.m. next Thursday in front of Village Hall. The public is invited to attend the service, which is scheduled to include words from the chaplains of the Wheeling police and fire departments and a wreath-laying ceremony to be performed by Village President Greg Klatecki at the flagpole in front of Village Hall. The flag will be lowered to half-staff while "Taps" is played. Klatecki is expected to sign an official memorial proclamation and invite the public to the ceremony during the Village Board's regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 8.

Villages approve mutual aid agreement

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Wheeling trustee says teamwork is needed

By Cass Cliatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

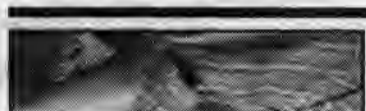
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BY CASS CLIATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer 8-30-03

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Continued from Page 1
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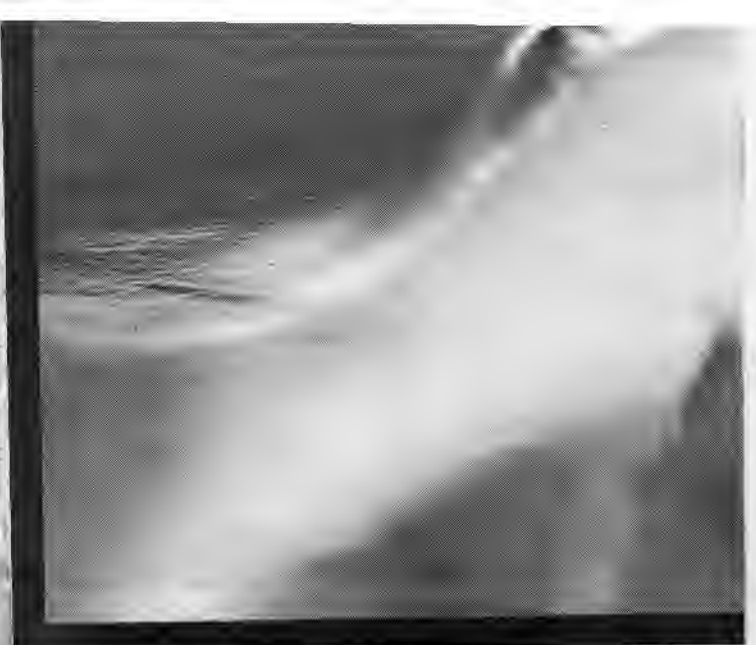
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 "Just like in Prospect Heights, the fire district serves the same community," Lehmann said. "The (Wheeling) chief can give Long Grove the message."



fastest way to do it? Teaching is and mold the country's image of teachers. Updated every five years, the report draws its latest findings from the 2000-01 school year for teachers in 2001 was

Census could help pay for annexation

Wheeling leaders considering special count

BY CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer 9-2-03

The promise of \$185,000 a year in tax revenue has Wheeling taking another look at a controversial annexation plan.

The village board today will discuss the on-again, off-again proposal to clean up blight and improve Wheeling's housing stock by taking over seven unincorporated areas.

To do it, trustees will consider a special census that would allow the village to collect more than \$185,000 in state income tax and other revenue from annexed residents, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

The hope is that the village could use the money to offset the costs of serving newly

annexed residents.

"If we annex these parcels, we get state revenues based on our population," Douthwaite said. "Because the regular census wouldn't be done until 2010, we could take advantage of this new population by paying to do a special census."

A split board had previously abandoned the annexation plan, saying it would cost the village more than \$5 million to supply water, sewer, police, fire and inspection services to new areas.

Trustees revived the plan in late June as part of a goal-setting session geared toward improving the village's image. They directed village staff to

See CENSUS on PAGE 6

find a way to make it affordable.

Wheeling is considering taking over two residential areas west of Route 83; an area of smaller homes and businesses south of Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road; the Plum Creek and Hunt Club condominiums and apartments east of Milwaukee Avenue; and industrial areas along Milwaukee Avenue.

Douthwaite said Wheeling's finance director has estimated a special census for annexing the proposed apartments and condominiums alone would bring the \$185,000 to the vil-

"If we didn't do a special census, we'd make about \$56,000 a year more," Douthwaite said. "So we're telling trustees it may well behoove us to do it."

The extra money would help pay for the additional rental inspector and three additional police Wheeling would need to serve the annexed area.

"The other component is infrastructure," Douthwaite said. "If we were to go in there immediately and get everything up to snuff — sewers, storm drainage, bring the streets up to par, landscaping — there would be significant

costs. But our attorney has advised us we're under no legal obligation to do that."

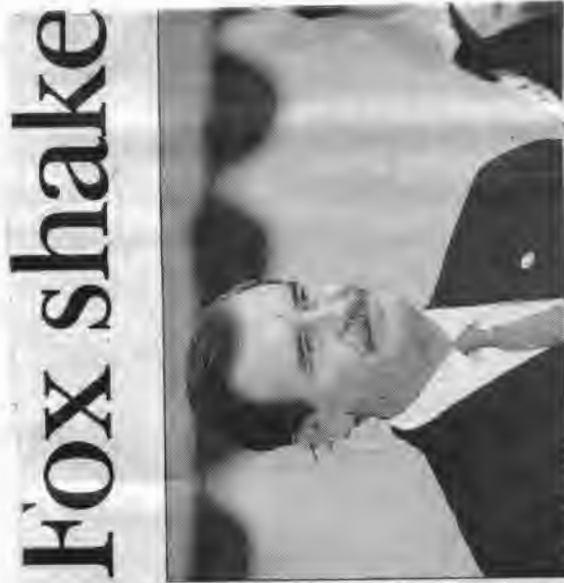
Residents have lived without the amenities until now, Douthwaite said.

If they decided they wanted them, Wheeling could create a special service area to limit the costs of new amenities to the residents benefiting from them.

"But it's very expensive," Douthwaite said.

"I ran the numbers, and it's probably \$45,000 per house."

Trustees will explore all of the options at their meeting 7:30 p.m. today at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.



Art cinds ath

ived in June

sentences

Fueled by trustees' anger and indignation, Wheeling's proposed smoking ban went up in flames Tuesday.

The Wheeling village board issued an order for the Wheeling Health Board to cease and desist its efforts to draft the strictest anti-smoking measure in the state.

Meeting for the first time expect this Wednesday.

Crabhouse, said even the separation of smoking areas has its disadvantages.

"The smokers have a table in the restaurant, and then they come in here to smoke, and I don't like that," said Roberts of Northbrook.

"Let them ban it."

Still, Wheeling trustees think restaurants do a sufficient job

of monitoring the needs of their patrons, they said. The village board voted unanimously to block the ban.

"The truth is, money makes the world go round," Klatecki said.

Neither Wheeling's health officer nor members of the seven-person health board attended Tuesday's meeting.

Land Continued from page 5

Village driving toward land purchase

Acquisition of four parcels could pave way for large retail center on north side

9-4-03
BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board wants to acquire four properties near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road for a large-scale redevelopment of the area.

Trustees agreed to purchase or condemn one of the parcels, the former Wonder Bread outlet store, at an Aug. 25 meeting. They said they are willing to condemn the property at 597 N. Milwaukee Ave. if the property owner and the village cannot reach agreement on a sale price.

Village President Greg Klatecki said the board is also looking to acquire the vacant lot north of the Wonder Bread property, the Wedgewood Riding Center and AAA Auto Sales, just south of the Wonder Bread parcel.

Klatecki said the board's goal is to put all four parcels together for one major development.

The Wonder Bread property is owned by Tan-

tillo Homes, which has been trying to get approval for a condominium project for that parcel and the vacant lot to the north for nearly two years. Tantillo architects have drawn and redrawn their development plans a few times, none of which have impressed the Plan Commission.

Tantillo purchased the Wonder Bread property June 16 for \$225,000.

"We want to go in a different direction than (Tantillo)," Klatecki said. "That's unanimous with the board."

The four properties are part of a new tax increment financing district the board created in February. The village will use money generated from the TIF district to pay for the purchase of the land.

William Hein, working as a consultant for Tantillo, said the board should offer direction to the developer instead of trying to tackle the project itself.

(Continued on page 11)

Village takeover

The Village Board has elected to purchase or condemn the former Wonder Bread property and has similar intentions for the Wedgewood Riding Center, the vacant lot to the south and AAA Auto Sales. The board is seeking to create one development on all four parcels.

Source: Village of Wheeling

Planet Press / d/c

...it can become a reality, and if that's the direction (the board) wants to take, then I'm not going to fight it."

Census could help pay for annexation

Wheeling leaders considering special count

BY CASS CLATT

Daily Herald Staff Writer 9-2-03

The promise of \$185,000 a year in tax revenue has Wheeling taking another look at a controversial annexation plan.

The village board today will discuss the on-again, off-again proposal to clean up blight and improve Wheeling's housing stock by taking over seven unincorporated areas.

To do it, trustees will consider a special census that would allow the village to collect more than \$185,000 in state income tax and other revenue from annexed residents, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said.

The hope is that the village could use the money to offset the costs of serving newly

annexed residents.

"If we annex these parcels, we get state revenues based on our population," Douthwaite said. "Because the regular census wouldn't be done until 2010, we could take advantage of this new population by paying to do a special census."

A split board had previously abandoned the annexation plan, saying it would cost the village more than \$5 million to supply water, sewer, police, fire and inspection services to new areas.

Trustees revived the plan in late June as part of a goal-setting session geared toward improving the village's image. They directed village staff to

See CENSUS on PAGE 6

find a way to make it affordable.

Wheeling is considering taking over two residential areas west of Route 83; an area of smaller homes and businesses south of Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road; the Plum Creek and Hunt Club condominiums and apartments east of Milwaukee Avenue; and industrial areas along Milwaukee Avenue.

Douthwaite said Wheeling's finance director has estimated a special census for annexing the proposed apartments and condominiums alone would bring the \$185,000 to the vil-

"If we didn't do a special census, we'd make about \$56,000 a year more," Douthwaite said. "So we're telling trustees it may well behoove us to do it."

The extra money would help pay for the additional rental inspector and three additional police Wheeling would need to serve the annexed area.

"The other component is infrastructure," Douthwaite said. "If we were to go in there immediately and get everything up to snuff — sewers, storm drainage, bring the streets up to par, landscaping — there would be significant

Wheeling extinguishes anti-smoking proposal

Trustees nipped by health board's attempt to ban cigarettes at restaurants

BY CASS CLATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer
Sept 3, 2003

Some eateries famed Restaurant pledged to fight it would send the neighboring town Trustees agree Wheeling would Restaurant Row helps give the village "It would be a state or a Village President See 1

the health board would research and move toward a final draft without consulting village officials. "I already heard comments on Thursday and Friday and Saturday of people saying, 'Now I can't go to this Wheeling restaurant, or that restaurant,'" Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "We have to stop this."

anyone who's 25 feet away from an entrance or ventilation system, that's ridiculous," Trustee Dean Argiris said. The volunteer health board last week began preparing a final draft of a local law that would have banned smoking in all Wheeling restaurants, bars, public places, village vehicles and within 25 feet of the

since learning of the ban proposal, trustees also said there will be no public hearing Sept. 23 to discuss the issue because whoever came up with the idea "needs a lesson in common sense and accountability." "During these hard economic times, to put restrictions like that on our restaurants and expect this village to police

Fueled by trustees' anger and indignation, Wheeling's proposed smoking ban went up in flames Tuesday. The Wheeling village board issued an order for the Wheeling Health Board to cease and desist its efforts to draft the strictest anti-smoking measure in the state. Meeting for the first time

of monitoring the needs of their patrons, they said. The village board voted unanimously to block the ban. "The truth is, money makes the world go round," Klarecki said. Neither Wheeling's health officer nor members of the seven-person health board attended Tuesday's meeting.

Crabhouse, said even the separation of smoking areas has its disadvantages. "The smokers have a table in the restaurant, and then they come in here to smoke, and I don't like that," said Roberts of Northbrook. "Let them ban it." Still, Wheeling trustees think restaurants do a sufficient job

said. "But why are we punishing ourselves?" The proposed ban appealed to some nonsmokers who complained that "smoke eater" ventilation systems in bars simply redirect smoke. Kevin Roberts, a non-smoking bar patron at Bob Chinn's

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Land Continued from page 5

"TIF money is designed to be used when you cannot develop, or need help to develop, a blighted area," Hein told the board at its Aug. 25 meeting. "That is not the situation here. There are people with the money, the will and the knowledge to do it."

Hein suggested the board should save its money and tell Tantillo what it would like to see at that location, one of the most highly traveled intersections in the village.

"We can make it a wonderful project," he said. "We don't need your condemnation. We need your cooperation."

Tantillo is scheduled to appear before the Plan Commission Sept. 25, when it intends to unveil a new proposal for the area. Hein would not go into detail on the new plans, but he indicated it would have a more distinct retail aspect.

Smith Family Construction has a contract pending to purchase the Wedgewood Riding Center. Mark Smith, the firm's president, said he would not stand in the village's way of acquiring the stable

"It should be a high-end retail center with a restaurant or an entertainment venue," Smith said. "If it's going to be anything like that, I'd be happy to help make it a reality."

Smith said he was not surprised to hear the board wants to combine the parcels into one development package. Trustees at one point asked Smith and Tantillo representatives to try to make both developments compatible, but talks between the two broke down.

"I think what the village is saying is that there are too many entities at work here," Smith said.

Smith said he would only support the Village Board if its intentions are to build a retail center at the intersection. Smith said the location is perfect for a retail center, considering the traffic count there is close to 80,000 cars a day.

"It would fill a void we need in this town," he said. "It would be a great thing. I hope it can become a reality, and if that's the direction (the board) wants to take, then I'm not going to

CLASSIFIED ADS	C1	IMAGES	13	SPORTS
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	B34	LETTERS	13	SOUND
DIVERSIONS	B3	OBITUARIES	14	SPORT
FOOD	71	OPINION	12	MARCY
FILM CLIPS	B12	PEEK AT THE WEEK	18	VIEW F

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Wheeling extinguishes anti-smoking proposal

Trustees miffed by health board's attempt to ban cigarettes at restaurants

BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some eateries on Wheeling's famed Restaurant Row had pledged to fight the ban, saying it would send their business to neighboring towns.

Trustees agreed, asking why Wheeling would jeopardize the Restaurant Row attraction that helps give the village its identity.

"It would be different if this were a state or a regional effort," Village President Greg Klatecki

See **SMOKE** on **PAGE 1**

entrance or ventilation systems of such places.

The health board planned to review the final draft at its public meeting Sept. 23 before sending it to the village attorney and then to trustees.

Trustees said Tuesday they were shocked to learn from the newspaper, radio and even national TV news last week that

the health board would research and move toward a final draft without consulting village officials.

"I already heard comments on Thursday and Friday and Saturday of people saying, 'Now I can't go to this Wheeling restaurant, or that restaurant,'" Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

"We have to stop this."

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"The truth is, money makes the world go round," Klatecki said.

Neither Wheeling's health officer nor members of the seven-person health board attended Tuesday's meeting.

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Land *Continued from page 5*

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Continued from Page 1

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HOOOL YEAR

When we reach the twilight of our years, there's one thing you should ask: In the labor that we all call life, did you somehow fill the task? Did you put some footprints in the sand, did you run and jump and fly? Did you at least climb up the hill, if the mountain seemed too high? Did you also take somebody's hand, So they'd make that extra mile?

Did you make a really funny face, To help some children smile? Did you let somebody in your line, Step up ahead of you? Did you ever stand and sing out loud, Just because you wanted to? When you walk along the street of life, Through the darkness of the night,

Try to leave some mark of kindness, Try to make a spot of light, Put someone on your shoulder, So they'll have a better view, Cause you leave an everlasting mark, With each nice thing that you do.

Leave a Mark

Ten students from W. Kim Tae Kwon Do in Palatine participated in the Jr. Olympics in Orlando, Florida. These students had placed first, second or third in the Illinois State competition in March earning the right to compete at the Jr. Olympics in Orlando. Special congratulations go to those students who also earned medals at this national event. Jeff Ross won a silver medal in sparring and a bronze medal in poomse, Joseph Kim won a silver medal in sparring, and Hunter Ori earned a bronze medal in sparring. W. Kim Tae Kwon Do is extremely proud of all of their students. Pictured are, back row left: Master Dae in Kim, Michael Halm, 13; Steven Mlynarczyk, 14; Jeff Ross, 15; Brent Steffens, 15; Cora Torres, 12; and Master Tae Hyun Kim, Front row left: Hunter Ori, 9; Emily Basten, 8; Joseph Kim, 10; Samantha Litson, 9; and Chase Ori, 7.



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Chief: Hermes responsible for behind-the-scenes work

Sept 8, 2003
Continued from Page 1
shift, if you didn't have three or four bar fights along Milwaukee Avenue each night, it was a slow night," Hermes said.
He said police departments are now more community oriented than they used to be.
"You didn't see things like the Rockin' With the Cops, Citizens on Patrol and the Neighborhood Watch groups," Hermes said.
"There's more interaction with the police department and people getting involved."
Much of that is thanks to Hermes, his colleagues say.
Part of Hermes' job was to reach out to the community to let them know that teens could spend an evening of food and games at Rockin' With the Cops to learn that police are people.
The goal was to show youths they can approach officers with their problems, rather than facing the potential of a later run-in with police for a crime.
"The

Rockin' With the Cops, the PACT camp each year, by using the media, it educates people that we're not just responsive, we're proactive," Commander William Benson said.
Benson added that Hermes' job is important "because he's our first line of communications."
Behind the scenes
Most Wheeling residents might not know Hermes if they saw him on the street, but his work was key in managing the police budget, personnel issues and a host of other tasks that kept the department running smoothly, officials said.
Commander John Stone, who worked for Hermes for 15 years, said one thing most people don't know about Hermes is he had a tremendous sense of fairness.
"He would look to keep the department and the village in mind first before making decisions," Stone said.

Commander Jim Kuzynowski of the investigations unit added that Hermes had the foresight to have confidence in his staff.
"You have to manage, but in this career people want to have power to do their jobs," said Kuzynowski, who worked with Hermes for 26 years.
"People like to work under him, so that's extremely important."
Leaving a legacy
What makes Hermes most proud was his work to make the Wheeling Police Department one of the first accredited forces in the state, he said.
"In 1990, I was appointed the first accreditation manager for the village," Hermes said of the process to win recognition for national quality standards.
"On Nov. 17 of 1990, we became the 166th accredited agency in the nation."
Hermes has enjoyed his work, but wants to spend more time with his family, he said.

"I'm definitely going to miss it," he said. "A sense of humor and camaraderie on this police department existed from September of 1967 when I started, to September of 2003 when I'm leaving."
The police department will have a retirement party for Hermes at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Wellington of Arlington, 2121 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights.
Tickets cost \$40 per person for an open bar, dinner and gift and should be purchased by Tuesday.
Send checks payable to Wheeling Police Benevolent Association, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090.
The retirement event is open to the public because Hermes had a reputation across the suburbs, police said.
"I know he's extremely respected," Kuzynowski said. "There's not too many police officers in the Northwest suburbs who don't recognize the name Hermes."



PAUL BEATY/DAILY HERALD

Wheeling police's Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes is all smiles on his last day of a 36-year career in the department.

Voice of Wheeling police

Deputy chief retires after 36 years

BY CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Every police department needs a voice.

Someone to tell the public that police have arrested the burglar, the con artist or the rare murderer who victimized a neighborhood.

Someone to tell the public they can sleep easy at night because state grants will help with crime-fighting efforts.

Just someone to let the community know that police are more than simply the guys who pull cars over to write traffic tickets.

For almost 20 years, that voice for the Wheeling Police Department was Deputy Chief J. Michael Hermes.

A 36-year veteran of the Wheeling police force, Hermes helped pioneer outreach to the community. He retired last week, leaving behind a department that hopes to continue his work.

"Hermes had a unique ability to talk to and get along with the media," Police Chief John Popadowski said. "He was probably cutting edge back when everybody was debating on whether or not to cooperate, and what to say and what not to say with the press."

Many police departments two decades ago were tight-lipped with information, believing contact with the media would jeopardize investigations, Popadowski said.

Working as the department's media relations coordinator, Hermes realized that working with the media in a careful way could help locate witnesses and spread the word about dangerous suspects.

"He's kind of developed that into an art form," Popadowski said about Hermes. "The cooperation between the news media and the Wheeling Police Department has definitely benefited from his expertise."



PAUL BEATY/DAILY HERALD

Hermes wraps up some of his duties with staff secretary Sheila Griffith on his last day at the police department.

Hermes, 61, of Buffalo Grove has worked his entire career in Wheeling. He served first as a patrol officer, working his way up to sergeant and finally to deputy chief in 1983.

He remembers the days when

he patrolled the streets of a smaller, blue-collar town. He's proud to say Wheeling has changed for the better.

"On a weekend on a midnight

See CHIEF on PAGE 3



DAILY HERALD FILE PHOTO, FEBRUARY 1992

At the 25-year mark in 1992, Hermes, above, considered all of his awards as part of his history of service. At left, Hermes in 1994 shows the media a gun that police confiscated after a gang fight.

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"The I... the sions," Stone said.

work, he wants to spend more time with his family, he said. uros who don't recognize the name Hermes."

Wheeling plans commemoration to mark Sept. 11
9-8-03

Wheeling will join Americans across the country at 8 a.m. Thursday in memorializing one of the darkest hours in our nation's history.

The Wheeling police and fire chaplain will deliver a memorial message before a wreath-laying ceremony to recall the hour of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks of 2001.



Cass Clatt
Wheeling

The public is invited to stand with village officials in observing a moment of silence as a trumpeter from Wheeling High School plays taps.

Also, in anticipation of the memorial, Village President Greg Klatecki will sign a "Day of Remembrance" proclamation at today's board meeting.

The village intentionally planned a low-key memorial to underscore the solemnity of the anniversary, said James Lang, Wheeling's public relations coordinator.

"Obviously, this is a date that is forever etched in America's mind, reminiscent of Pearl Harbor or Kennedy's assassination," Lang said in a statement. "Each of us who is old enough remembers where we were and what we were doing when those aircraft struck the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania."

The memorial will be in front of Wheeling's village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Late-night IDOT: So there seems to be a recurring question about IDOT's plans to work late at night on the Route 83 widening project.

To recap if you've missed the back-and-forth with the Illinois Department of Transportation: The village says its laws prohibit roadwork between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.; IDOT asked to work as late as 2 a.m. on noisy concrete cutting near homes for five nights while completing the project; Wheeling warned that police would cite workers; and IDOT insists the state agency isn't bound by local laws.

We keep hearing from residents, "I still don't understand why IDOT can't pour the concrete during the day."

According to engineers at the Illinois Department of Transportation, the pouring isn't the problem.

In news reports, we avoided getting too technical about why workers have to wait late for the concrete to set, but some folks want more information.

"It's a linear production," said Craig Mitchell, IDOT's area construction supervisor for the region. "Once they get one area complete, they move further along."

So, workers pour concrete in one area, wait for it to set, use a circular-saw type of tool to cut it, and then move on to the next stretch.

Day as an honor to the deputy chief's dedication and service to the village.

Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said Hermes will be greatly missed. Popadowski said Hermes has been a great resource to him and the department.

"He's been around here ever since I've been here," Popadowski said. "He's been part of the history of the department."

Painting with a passion

Volunteers grab brushes, buckets to help others in community

9-10-03
BY EILEEN O. DADAY
Daily Herald Correspondent

The old adage that many hands make light work plays out every year during the annual Paint-A-Thon.

On Saturday more than 700 volunteers from all walks of life fanned out across the Northwest suburbs to paint 34 homes of senior and disabled homeowners.

"I've talked to several homeowners and they're just thrilled with the results," said Maureen Statland, Paint-A-Thon chairwoman. "They marvel, as do I, at this huge number of people who are willing to give of their time."

Teams included volunteers from corporations, schools, churches, civic groups and teen groups, amounting to more than 40 in all. Sometimes they had to combine just to cover one house.

That was the case with an Arlington Heights home. In the week leading up to paint day, students from Forest View Alternative School and Stevenson High School came out to prep the house for painting, including scraping and priming.

On paint day volunteers came together from Valspar Corporation in Wheeling, the Daily Herald, Catholic Charities in Arlington Heights, and even two



Bill Wildeboer, a volunteer from Valspar Corporation in Wheeling, works on the Arlington Heights house.

PHOTOS BY JOE LEWNARD/DAILY HERALD

Eagle Scout candidates who had read about the project in the paper and volunteered that day.

Both C.J. Peterson, a Wheeling High School sophomore, and David Pelon, a Buffalo Grove High School sophomore, are members of Boy Scout Troop 65, sponsored by the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Arlington Heights.

"We're both working on our Eagle Scout projects, but this wasn't tied into that," Pelon said. "We just like to help out."

They painted a two-story house, said Carolyn Niemerg, of the accounting department of Valspar Corporation.

"It always seems like a huge undertaking when we get there in the morning," she said, "but

everyone pulls together and by the end of the day we step back and say, 'We did it!'"

Even before they get to paint day, a spirit of cooperation prevails. A total of 64 sponsors work with Catholic Charities and the Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago to pull off the event.

Catholic Charities processes

See PAINT on PAGE 2



David Pelon, left, of Wheeling and C.J. Peterson of Buffalo Grove were among the volunteers working on an Arlington Heights home. Both are working toward their Eagle Scout awards.



Roger Decilio, a Valspar Corporation volunteer, spent much of his Saturday on a ladder working for the Paint-A-Thon.

lage zoning ordinances or other municipal codes. They do not pay property taxes to the village, and do not receive village services. They do, however, pay property taxes to taxing bodies other than the village.

Since they do not conform to local codes and ordinances in terms of appearance and use, trustees say some of the properties need to be under village control and given access to village services in order for them to be improved.

nately residential: Jackson Drive, the block created by Vera Lane and Edward and Russel streets, the Wolf Run Estates subdivision and the Plumb Creek and Hunt Club multifamily housing areas.

Officials said the most blighted of the unincorporated areas is the industrial area of Industrial Lane, Sumac Lane and Plant Road just north of Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Trustees suggested they may create a tax increment financ-

(Continued on page 9)

deputy chief 7-11-25

Village Board honored Michael 36 years of service with the Poed last month.

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Property owners in the unincorporated areas will soon be notified of the village's intention of annexing their land. Klatacki said the Village Board is committed to annexation, either voluntarily or otherwise, annexing all the land, officials

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Annexing of land attempt to improve village's image

Four of the seven areas eyed for annexation are predominantly residential: Jackson Drive, the block created by Vera Lane and Edward and Russell streets, the Wolf Run Estates subdivision and the Plum Creek and Hunt Club multifamily housing areas. Officials said the most blighted of the unincorporated areas is the industrial area of Industrial Lane, Sumac Lane and Plant Road just north of Palwaukee Municipal Airport. Trustees suggested they may create a tax increment financing to be improved.

Trustees agreed that the village should pay the costs, even though the village could charge property owners exclusively for the improvements. "If you do the numbers for the units, it's not fair," Village President Greg Klatacki said. "It could cost \$44,000 per house on Jackson Drive. If you look at Plum Creek and Hunt Club, it would cost only \$2,200 per unit." Annexing the areas also could bring more revenue into the village. Finance Director Michael Mondschain estimated the village could receive an additional \$220,000 annually in assorted taxes and other revenue if the areas were incorporated. The village would also receive an undetermined amount of revenue through property taxes.

Members of the Wheeling Village Board honored Michael Hermes Monday night for his 36 years of service with the Police Department. Hermes retired last month. Hermes' last day on the force was Aug. 29. He joined the Police Department in 1967 and was promoted to the rank of deputy chief in 1983. Village President Greg Klatacki officially proclaimed Tuesday as John Michael Hermes Day as an honor to the deputy chief's dedication and service to the village. Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski said Hermes has been a great resource to him and the department. "He's been around here ever since I've been here," Popadowski said. "He's been part of the history of the department."

Trustees also suggested that the area could be used as airport land or for complementary airport uses. It could prove a costly investment if the properties are brought into the village. Wheeling Police Chief John Popadowski estimated he would need three more police officers to patrol the areas at a first-year cost of \$197,160, which includes officer training. Community Development Director Dan Ozanich estimated he would need one additional municipal code inspector at a cost of \$69,690 a year. The village also could face about \$5.5 million in costs for new water mains, sewer mains, sidewalks, street lights and other improvements. Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the village was under no obligation to provide such infrastructure improvements, but he recommended the village invest the money as an incentive to property owners to agree to annexation.

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Call (630) 227-0528 to receive a free report on the 10 most important questions when choosing a baseball or softball instructional facility, and the right questions to ask when attending camps for private instruction.

Paint: Owners had choice of colors

Continued from Page 1

all of the applications from needy homeowners, while the Volunteer Center recruits the teams of volunteers. Valspar

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Late-night IDOT: So there seems to be a recurring question about IDOT's plans to work late at night on the Route 83 widening project. To recap if you've missed the back-and-forth with the Illinois Department of Transportation: The village says its laws prohibit roadway between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.; IDOT asked to work as late as 11 p.m. on the concrete cut-

Obviously, this is a date that is forever etched in America's mind, reminiscent of Pearl Harbor or Kennedy's assassination. Lang said in a statement. "Each of us who is old enough to remember where we were and what we were doing when those aircraft struck the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania." The memorial will be in front of Wheeling's village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

High School plays taps. Also, in anticipation of the memorial, Village President Greg Klatacki will sign a "Day of Remembrance" proclamation at today's board meeting. The village intentionally planned a low-key memorial to underscore the solemnity of the anniversary, said James Lang, Wheeling's public relations coordinator. "Obviously, this is a date that is forever etched in America's mind, reminiscent of Pearl Harbor or Kennedy's assassination. Lang said in a statement. "Each of us who is old enough to remember where we were and what we were doing when those aircraft struck the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania." The memorial will be in front of Wheeling's village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The chairwoman of Wheeling's Board of Health said she will continue to push for some kind of smoking ban in the village, even though elected officials resoundingly rejected an initial proposal that would have imposed the strictest smoking rules in the state.

Jackie Goldberg said the quick action by the Village Board to stifle such legislation surprised and disappointed her.

"I feel they should give us a chance," she said of the board's efforts to propose smoking laws. "We were hoping to get

statistics from other municipalities and states with the ban and show there is no decline in business. We were hoping to present that to the Village Board, too. This is a huge health issue, and we're willing to change the draft."

Trustees shot the proposal down last week, citing concerns about the impact such laws would have on local businesses, particularly those on Restaurant Row.

"In these economic times, to put this kind of a restriction on our restaurants is ludicrous," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "This is nuts."

Trustees also expressed their anger about not being informed about the proposal before finding out about it

through the media. The Board of Health's proposal called for a ban in all public places in Wheeling, including its restaurants and bars. The proposal also included a ban on smoking in village-owned vehicles and within 25 feet of a building entrance or ventilation system, making it one of the strictest bans in the state.

"I had no knowledge of what was going on," Argiris said of the Board of Health's proposal.

One trustee said neither Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite nor Village President Greg Klatecki knew the health board was considering such a ban. Any proposal from the Board of Health would have to be approved by

trustees. Klatecki said he received numerous telephone calls from residents over the Labor Day weekend about the proposal, and he believed the Village Board needed to make a statement about it at its Sept. 2 meeting to let the public know it was not an initiative from trustees. "I think whoever originated this needs to be educated in common sense and sensibility," Trustee Michael Horcher said.

None of the seven trustees supported the ban, and asked the Board of Health to stop the process in its tracks.

"Let's make it clear — there will be no public hearing on Sept. 23 about this," (Continued on page 10)

Wheeling counts on resident honesty for ambulance fees

Sept 17, 2003
BY CASS GLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has decided to rely on the honesty of its residents to say whether they've paid ambulance fees they weren't supposed to.

To compensate for a mistake that sent bills to people who used Wheeling ambulances since June 2002, the village will

Continued from Page 1

bills for service.

"I knew upfront that some people would have to pay out-of-pocket," Mondschain said. "Individuals that don't have insurance, individuals on Medicare who don't have supplemental insurance, individuals who have insurance, but haven't satisfied their deductible."

Still, Trustee Judy Abruscato criticized the billing company, saying Paramedic Billing Ser-

vice should have used its expertise to point out Wheeling's mistake.

"I don't view it as our place to tell you what to do for your own community," the company's Georgie Westerdahl said.

The village board agreed to institute the new colored bills to clarify waivers for residents, in addition to contacting former ambulance riders to solicit requests for reimbursements.

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See PAYBACK on PAGE 11

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9-11-03
BY CASS GLIATT
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ideas residents, village leaders and business professionals shared at a similar workshop in July to find ways to develop the area around Wheeling's train station.

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Residents helped develop an ideal for a town center for consultants to shape into a practical plan for Wheeling.

"It was a very good meeting we had last time, so I think people should look at their calendars and plan to go," Trustee Judy Abruscato said of this month's meeting. Described as a "listening workshop," the Sept. 23 meeting will allow participants to hear a review of how their earlier ideas might work, and then offer further comment.

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Trustees expect later this month to set an Oct. 8 date for the joint review board meeting for affected taxing bodies. The public hearing would likely follow in November.

"It's in the taxing bodies' interests to attend because this could conceivably cost them money for the life of the TIF," Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said of the review board meeting. "They essentially are forgoing incremental property taxes so we can use those monies to spur redevelopment."

In a TIF, the village can freeze the amount of property taxes paid to local taxing bodies for 23 years. Properties still pay increases in property taxes, but money generated by appreciation in property value in the district can be used to pay for improving the properties within the district.

"Some of the residents can be affected because one of the allowable activities we can undertake under the TIF is the acquisition of property," Douthwaite said. "There were some concerns raised last year when we established the North (Milwaukee Avenue) TIF by some business owners saying, 'Hey, you aren't going to buy me out and throw me out, are you?'"

The village plans to address those concerns, officials said.

The joint review board meeting for taxing bodies is tentatively set for 10 a.m. Oct. 8 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney suggested that residents and business owners reserve their attendance for the later public hearing, though the time and date has yet to be set.

Volunteers sought for bike task force

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and village officials are trying to find ways to make the community more friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians by creating a special task force to come up with some recommendations.

The task force is seeking volunteers who will be asked to develop a plan to improve bicycling opportunities and make the village safer for pedestrians. The plan will be forwarded to village officials and other governmental entities.

Similar task forces have been instrumental in creating plans for neighboring Arlington Heights and Northbrook, and organizers are hoping for similar results.

Those interested in volunteering for the task force should contact Steve Boime by calling (847)571-6173 or by sending an e-mail to sjboime@biketraffic.org. 9-18-03

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The consultants were hired after the village received a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to study the area for possible redevelopment. Village officials are also trying to create a tax increment financing district in the area to help spur development. The study area includes parts of Dundee Road and Wheeling Road.

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9-11
By CASEY B
STAFF WR

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How to get in touch with us:

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Obituaries

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797-5103

Rich Martin Sports
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Arlington Heights, IL 60004-5903
To send your news by fax, call 797-5151.
Send e-mail to arlington@pioneerlocal.com

Ban *Continued from page 5*

Argiris said.

Goldberg said she was surprised to learn trustees were unaware of the proposal, considering her board had its first discussion on the ban in January. The item had also been posted on subsequent Board of Health agendas.

"It was not a secret," she said. "(The trustees) must get the (Board of Health) minutes, but I don't know if they read them or not."

Goldberg said she is not sure what options remain for the Board of Health in proposing another smoking ordinance, but she is hopeful there is still room for negotiation.

"I would like to pursue it," she said. "We have to find out if there's a way to go forward

with it."

Trustees said they believed restaurateurs should be able to impose their own smoking restrictions. They also expressed concerns that a ban would send patrons to neighboring towns.

"I don't think it's up to us to dictate, 'no, you can't' and maybe have some businesses not continue in Wheeling, which is not good," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "We don't need to dictate it."

According to its bylaws, the Board of Health has the right to draft local health-related ordinances, but they must be approved by the Village Board to become ordinances.

Westerners held as prisoners

By C. Associated Press
Daily Herald

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — Six people claiming to be American and two who say they are British are in U.S. custody on suspicion of involvement in attacks on coalition forces, an American general said Tuesday.

They would be the first Westerners reported held in the since the U.S.-led

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guerrilla attacks. She did not identify them but said they were being interrogated by military intelligence in Baghdad, where they were being held.

"We actually do have six who are claiming to be American and two who are claiming to be from the U.K. We're continuing the interviewing process. The detainees become sketchy and their sta-

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W. Dundee Road.

It follows closely on the heels
of the regularly scheduled
meeting of the Metra Station
Area project committee, which
has been changed to 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 at the park district.

At that meeting, elected offi-
cials, village staff, business
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leaders who sit on the Metra
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Wheeling's Metra train station.

The second meeting will be a
public hearing geared to resi-
dents and businesses that would
be affected by the tax financing
district.

The new TIF would encom-
pass the municipal buildings on
Dundee Road and extend west
of the Metra train tracks past
Elmhurst Road and east of the
tracks to the Wheeling drainage
ditch.

Trustees expect later this
month to set an Oct. 8 date for
the joint review board meeting
for affected taxing bodies. The
public hearing would likely
follow in November.

"It's in the taxing bodies' inter-
ests to attend because this could
conceivably cost them money
for the life of the TIF," Village
Manager Wally Douthwaite said
of the review board meeting.
"They essentially are forgoing
incremental property taxes so
we can use those monies to spur
redevelopment."

In a TIF, the village can freeze
the amount of property taxes
paid to local taxing bodies for 23
years. Properties still pay
increases in property taxes, but
money generated by apprecia-
tion in property value in the
district can be used to pay for
improving the properties within
the district.

"Some of the residents can be
affected because one of the
allowable activities we can
undertake under the TIF is the
acquisition of property," Douth-
waite said. "There were some
concerns raised last year when
we established the North (Mil-
waukee Avenue) TIF by some
business owners saying, 'Hey,
you aren't going to buy me out
and throw me out, are you?'"

The village plans to address
those concerns, officials said.

The joint review board meet-
ing for taxing bodies is
tentatively set for 10 a.m. Oct. 8
at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee
Road.

Assistant Village Manager
Mark Rooney suggested that resi-
dents and business owners
reserve their attendance for the
later public hearing, though the
time and date has yet to be set.

Welcome to Wheeling?

Thursday, September 18, 2003

Owners weigh in on their future if officials annex their property into village

By Casey Moffitt
Staff Writer

Residents and business owners whose properties are targeted for annexation have mixed reactions about Wheeling's desire to bring them into the village.

Village officials plan to annex several areas in an effort to improve their appearance and gain more control over development. They said they are willing to extend public services to the areas and improve water and sewer mains, street lights and roads at no cost to property owners.

But those who would call Wheeling home after a lengthy legal process that will most likely take years would have to pay property taxes and additional utility costs that all residents and businesses pay. Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said property owners can expect to see about an 8 percent to 10 percent increase in property taxes once they are annexed.

"It would be dependent on their utility bills and what they're property is assessed at," Douthwaite said.

The village does not provide any services to the targeted areas now, nor does it collect property taxes on the land. Trustees said some of the areas, like those around Palwaukee Municipal Airport, need cleaning up because they give the village a poor image. Some trustees have called the area a "cesspool" or complained about the "dreck" there.

Old news

Wayne Chmiel, owner of Rugged Equipment Design on Industrial Lane, said it's no sur-



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Industrial Lane is one of the streets that might be annexed into the village Wheeling.

prise to him to hear village officials talk about annexing his property and others around him.

"They've talked about it for years," said Chmiel, whose company repairs heavy construction equipment. "I really don't know if they want to buy us out or make more restrictions for us."

Chmiel said he would prefer to keep his business in unincorporated Cook County rather than be annexed into the village. He said he specifically bought his property thinking it would be easier to run a successful business because of fewer regulations regarding use and appearance.

Chmiel believes the village

would likely make him pay to shield the equipment he repairs from public view. He also dislikes the idea of paying more in property and sales taxes, and higher utility fees.

"There are a lot of small businesses in the area, and I'm one of them," he said. "I don't know how many will be able to keep going (if annexed)."

Chmiel said he would rather see the village buy his property "at a fair price" than be annexed into the village.

However, not all businesses in the Sumac and Industrial lanes area would mind being annexed and seeing their neighbors forced to clean up their properties.

Dave DeVries, president of

SET Environmental on Sumac Lane, said he would like the "added convenience" of better roads, water and sewer service.

"We want to maintain our property values," he said. "Wheeling has changed a lot in the 17 years I've been here, and the whole area around Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road looks great. I can see why they would want to improve."

DeVries said he is not overly concerned about the look of Sumac Lane, especially since corporations like Motorola have invested a lot of money in aircraft hangars and other buildings adjacent to Palwaukee. However, he said, Industrial Lane to the north "is a little different."

Mike Williams, owner of Saturn Signs on Industrial Lane, had similar sentiments. He said he is not surprised to hear village officials talk about annexation, but he would like to have a better understanding of their intentions.

"I'm a little scared of the future," he said. "I hear they're going to condemn us, but I don't know for sure. It wouldn't be the first time we've moved, so I'm not really worried about it."

Williams also said there is no big advantage to owning a business in unincorporated Cook County, other than a lack of regulations regarding building appearance.

(Continued on page 12)

renovate his kitchen and build an addition, and he has to go to Chicago to talk to Cook County officials about permits and fees to get that done.

"The bureaucratic maze down there is unbelievable," he said. "I have to go to the Daley Center, ask about four or five people who I need to talk to, and finally I talk to the right person. Then I get home, and realize I didn't talk to who I needed to talk to. I've been pretty frustrated by it."

But not all of Jacobs' neigh-

Helen Roubas, also a Vera Lane resident, said she sees no need for the village to annex her land. She would prefer to see her taxes stay where they are, and she has never had a problem with services or her neighbors in the 35 years she's lived there.

"I have not seen any houses that are a mess or anything like that," she said. "Everybody cuts their lawn and keeps their homes neat."

67 S. Milwaukee Ave. property. Trustees want to beautify the aging area through demolition and restoration, but decided to find out first if the Wheeling Park District might want the building. The district has considered relocating buildings to establish a historic village on park land. Some members of the Wheeling Historical Society this summer asked if trustees would save buildings — some 70 years old — on the 60 block of South Milwaukee Avenue for that purpose or preservation's sake.

who being improperly billed in Wheeling. The Village Board approved the fees with the stipulation that the only money to be collected was to come from Medicare or insurance companies.

However, Paramedic Billing Services was still sending bills for any remaining balance after receiving payment from the insurance carriers. The last statement patients received indicated the balance was past due and threatened collection if the bill was not paid.

About 100 Wheeling residents and many non-residents, fearing their credit record could be damaged, sent money to the billing service, even though the company had no intention of sending the information to a collection agency. The village collected about \$30,000 through the unnecessary payments, with residents paying about \$16,000 of that total.

Trustees were angry to learn people were paying the bills, and demanded they be reimbursed.

The fact that the village will have to rely on the honesty of its residents in determining who should be reimbursed didn't phase members of the Village Board.

"The burden should not be on the residents. It should be on us," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "We learned a \$30,000 lesson, and now we have to eat it."

Mondschain said the new notices residents receive from the billing service will make it clear that no money is due.

"The billing service will put a colored insert with the bill stating Wheeling residents are not responsible for paying out of pocket," Mondschain said. "It should be real clear that we don't want them to send payment. That should resolve the problem."

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Those interested in volunteering for the task force should contact Steve Boime by calling (847) 571-6173 or by sending an e-mail to sboime@bikeing.org.

Input sought on town center

Village-hired consultants are seeking public input as part of their presentation on how Wheeling can develop a new town center around the Metra train station.

S.B. Friedman and Company, the Lakota Group and Metro Transportation Group consultants will unveil what types of development might be appropriate for the area and how the streets and roads would connect with the rest of the village.

The consultants were hired after the village received a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to study the area for possible redevelopment. Village officials are also trying to create a tax increment financing district in the area to help spur development. The study area includes parts of Dundee Road and Wheeling Road.

The workshop will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Wheeling Park District's Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.



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IMAGES 21 ROLL CALL 16 VIEW FROM THE CAR POOL 101

Annex *Continued from page 5*

Sept 18, 2003
"I know some towns have strict appearance committees," he said. "Cook County is a little less (restrictive) about things like that."

Effect on homes

Some residents also live in the areas targeted for annexation. Homeowner Mark Jacobs said he would like to see his Russel Street home brought into the village.

"It all sounds reasonable to me," he said. "The improvements sound good, and I think it would be an advantage if I wanted to sell — not that I'm planning on selling."

Jacobs said annexation could also be a great relief when he wants to make improvements to his home. Jacobs has been trying to renovate his kitchen and build an addition, and he has to go to Chicago to talk to Cook County officials about permits and fees to get that done.

"The bureaucratic maze down there is unbelievable," he said. "I have to go to the Daley Center, ask about four or five people who I need to talk to, and finally I talk to the right person. Then I get home, and realize I didn't talk to who I needed to talk to. I've been pretty frustrated by it."

But not all of Jacobs' neigh-

bors feel the additional taxes would be worth any added convenience or enhanced services.

Ernest Emery said he's had no problems living without village services for the last 20 years in his Vera Lane home, and he would prefer to save his money.

"I pay \$4,500 in taxes now, and if I lived in Wheeling it would be worse than that," he said. "The taxes will kill you."

Emery has never needed the services of the Wheeling fire or police departments, and he said Cook County Sheriff's Police respond to the area in about 30 minutes, which is fine with him.

"(Criminals) are out before the police get here anyway," he said.

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Residents to receive ambulance fee refunds

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Sept 25, 2003
Wheeling residents who paid out of their own pocket for ambulance rides in the past 15 months should expect to see a check in their mailboxes in a matter of weeks.

EDITORIAL
PAGE 16

The Wheeling Village Board instructed Finance Director Michael Mondschain to return all money Wheeling residents paid to Paramedic Billing Services for ambulance rides since the board passed an ordinance creating ambulance fees beginning June 1, 2002.

Mondschain said a miscommunication between the village and the billing service led to bills being improperly mailed to some residents who needed an ambulance in Wheeling. The Village Board approved the fees with the stipulation that the only money to be collected was to come from Medicare or insurance companies.

However, Paramedic Billing Services was still sending bills for any remaining balance after receiving payment from the insurance carriers. The last statement patients received indicated the balance was past due and threatened collection if the bill was not paid.

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Trustees were angry to learn people were paying the bills, and demanded they be reimbursed.

"It's an embarrassment," Trustee Tom Leif Heer said. "I never thought we'd be in this position on Sept. 15 talking about this."

Other trustees said it is unethical to keep the money.

"The money is not ours, and we should give it back," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "Hopefully the billing is very clear now. Let's get the money back and move on."

Mondschain said the village knows who paid with their own money and how much. Residents paid an average of about \$79 in out-of-pocket expenses for ambulance services that varied in cost from \$315 to \$550. But he also said it would be difficult to know who paid and was later reimbursed by their insurance companies. Residents who paid the fee were asked to sign a letter stating they have not already been reimbursed for the fee.

The fact that the village will have to rely on the honesty of its residents in determining who should be reimbursed didn't phase members of the Village Board.

"The burden should not be on the residents. It should be on us," Trustee Dean Argiris said. "We learned a \$30,000 lesson, and now we have to eat it."

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9-23-03

Village delays wrecking ball:

Wheeling has decided to delay a decision to demolish a building that some long-time residents say is among historic sites that should be preserved. Trustees Monday tabled a measure that would have finalized a contract with Albrecht E. Enterprises of Des Plaines to demolish the 65-67 S. Milwaukee Ave. property. Trustees want to beautify the aging area through demolition and restoration, but decided to find out first if the Wheeling Park District might want the building. The district has considered relocating buildings to establish a historic village on park land. Some members of the Wheeling Historical Society this summer asked if trustees would save buildings — some 70 years old — on the 60 block of South Milwaukee Avenue for that purpose or preservation's sake.

Klatecki asks trust

BY CASS CLIAFF

Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-23-03

An unexpected spark re-ignited Tuesday under a controversial plan to ban public smoking in Wheeling.

Village President Greg Klatecki told members of the Wheeling health board he would ask trustees to meet with them in a special session to discuss the smoking measure that thrust the village into an

unwanted national spotlight.

Klatecki agreed to set up the joint session after a heated exchange during which some health commissioners blasted trustees for canceling a public hearing on the smoking ban that was supposed to take place during Tuesday's meeting.

It was the first opportunity the health board had to air its frustrations since trustees Sept. 2 issued an impromptu order for the health board to cease

gang members, including a couple of good players," face deportation after a federal immigration sweep through Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and Rolling Meadows, authorities said.

The men, all Mexican nationals, were arrested Thursday and Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. They are in federal custody pending expulsion hearings. The arrests were announced Tuesday by federal officials. Thanks to a 1996 federal law that allows administrative deportations for illegal immigrants with criminal records,

Arlington Heights police Cmdr. Jerry Lambert said last week's arrests were the first such sweep this year by immigration agents.

"They're trying to be very pro-active, doing gang sweeps," Lambert said. "We got a couple of good players. They all have gang affiliation ... and they're known to us through our intelligence as active gang members."

Lambert said the feds came to the local police department and asked if they have a gang problem, and whether there was anything they could do to help.

Smoking ban shows some signs of life

BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

After dousing calls for a smoking ban in all of Wheeling's public places that one elected official called "nuts" and "ludicrous," the Village Board is showing some interest in discussing the controversial proposal with the Board of Health.

Village President Greg Klatecki attended a Board of Health meeting last week in an effort to mend fences and show a degree of support for a possible smoking ban that would not harm business but still address health issues.

The meeting came about three weeks after trustees vehemently dismissed a Board of Health initiative to ban smoking in all public places, including along Restaurant Row. Klatecki told the Board of Health he is willing set up a workshop meeting between trustees and health commissioners to talk about different ways to decrease the risk of second-hand smoke to nonsmokers.

"I'm offering a discussion with the trustees," Klatecki told the Board of Health at its Sept. 23 meeting. "But you can't go in there, drawing lines in the sand, and butt heads."

Health commissioners told Klatecki they believed the Village Board acted improperly when trustees demanded an immediate end to all talks about the ban. Trustees ordered that a Board of Health public hearing on the idea be canceled.

"I hope the trustees reconsider," Health Commissioner Perry Wells said. "This is an important health issue, and (a ban) was rejected before we could even make a recommendation. This is an issue that has such detrimental effects to public health. To ignore this issue would be irresponsi-

ble for this board or any other board that decided not to take it up."

Health board members expected the Village Board to make changes to their recommendations. What they didn't expect was a complete dismissal of discussion of any smoking regulations. Commissioners said they were "insulted" by the trustees' actions.

Part of the controversy focused on the fact that trustees did not know the Board of Health was even considering such a controversial proposal. The Board of Health began discussing the ban in January, and commissioners said trustees would have been aware of the proposal if they had read Board of Health meeting minutes.

Klatecki said he was "embarrassed" that neither he nor any of the trustees noticed the discussions in the minutes, and he suggested trustees meet with the Board of Health regularly to talk about issues and upcoming proposals. Health commissioners suggested at least one trustee be assigned to read all Board of Health minutes and report their findings to the rest of the board.

Community Development Director Dan Ozanich, who oversees the village's health department, stepped in to calm the sometimes heated discussions between Klatecki and Board of Health members.

"The problem is not how we got here, but how to get to where you want to go," Ozanich said. "(Klatecki is) offering a workshop to discuss it. It's probably your best opportunity."

The meeting ended with no date being set for the workshop between the Village Board and the Board of Health.

Village to test soils of targeted sites

BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

9-25-03

Wheeling officials want to make sure Milwaukee Avenue land they are targeting for purchase and redevelopment has not been contaminated from businesses that once occupied the sites.

Mark Rooney, Wheeling's assistant to the village manager, is searching for a consultant who will help test soil conditions on the properties and help secure state grants to pay for the testing and some of the cleanup. The state provides money for testing and cleanup through its Illinois Brownfields Redevelopment Grant program to bring the land into compliance with federal and state environmental standards. The consultant will not be paid unless the grants are received, Rooney said.

Rooney said the village will be in a better position to negotiate price if officials have a clear understanding of how badly certain properties are contaminated.

"We want to ensure when we purchase property, we know the full value of the property,"

he said. "We need to assess problems before we purchase."

The program will also make it easier to market the properties to potential developers.

"We want to get the sites ready for development," Rooney said.

A brownfield is defined as any site that has actual or possible contamination and a potential for redevelopment. Rooney said the village is mostly concerned with contamination from petroleum products.

He said there are a number of sites that once served as gas stations and auto repair shops that the village wants to purchase. Some of those stations and shops operated well before current environmental standards were adopted, and no one really knows what is in the soil on those sites.

Rooney said the village purchased the site of a former gas station that was contaminated more than officials had suspected.

"We knew there was petroleum there, but not to the extent that it was," Rooney said. "We don't want to repeat that mistake."

Bridge work delayed until summer 2004

BY CASEY MOFFITT

STAFF WRITER

9-25-03

The pedestrian bridge spanning Dundee Road between Field Elementary and London Middle schools will stand as is for another year.

The Wheeling Village Board elected to wait until next summer to tear the bridge down and replace it after bids came in higher than expected. The village was expecting to replace the bridge this fall.

"We budgeted \$280,000 for this project, and the bids were significantly higher," Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said.

The lowest bid came in at more than \$326,000 from Structural Concrete Restoration of Lemont. John Ambrose, of the engineering firm Woodman and Baxter, said the cost may have been driven up because contractors expressed difficulty in finishing the project by the end of November, which village officials requested. The contractors were given an opportunity to put new bids together for next summer in order to compare costs.

"Prices were all over the place," Ambrose said. Structural Concrete noted that delaying the project until next summer would cost the

village an additional \$30,000. But one contractor, Belvidere Construction of Belvidere, reduced its price by the same amount, bringing its bid to \$315,000.

Trustees agreed the money saved is worth postponing the project until next summer.

Although the construction cost is greater than what the village had expected, Tony Stavros, engineer assistant for Wheeling's Public Works Department, said there is enough money in the village's capital improvements budget to cover the costs. Stavros said other project bids came in under budget this year, leaving enough money to cover the additional costs for the overpass.

Officials said the bridge is structurally sound enough to help children cross Dundee Road to get to and from London Middle School for the year. The village applied for a \$100,000 grant from the Illinois First program that they hope will partially fund the bridge improvements. Douthwaite said the village is still waiting to hear if the grant is awarded.

Trustees were expected to pass a measure hiring Belvidere Construction to fix the bridge during a meeting Monday.

Senior center director preparing for future

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

9-25-08

It is only a matter of time before village officials take a serious look at expanding the Pavilion Senior Center, and the director of the facility wants to make sure she is prepared when that day arrives.

Senior Center Director Nancy Janssen has been taking Trustee Michael Horcher and Mark Rooney, assistant to the village manager, on tours of senior centers in neighboring communities to get ideas of what might be included in a new facility in Wheeling.

"Should the opportunity arise in the future that a new center is on the agenda, we want to be prepared with suggestions," Janssen said. "I thought I needed to do some education with the staff, and Mike is the (Village Board) liaison to senior services."

Janssen said space at the Pavilion is "not good," and she expects the situation to worsen as the number of seniors seeking services grows and more



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

The parking lot at the Pavilion Senior Center is once again filled to capacity, forcing seniors visiting the facility to park on the street.

older residents move into newly built condominiums in the village.

The Pavilion was built 18 years ago, when about 50 to 60 seniors in the Senior Citizens Club evolved into the full program it is now. Currently, there are about 800 Pavilion members who use the facility for reg-

ular programs or for specific events. So many members mean crowded rooms and too few parking spaces, forcing many seniors to park on the street when they attend functions.

The Village Board recognizes the need for more space, and trustees listed a new center

as one of five village priorities they outlined in July. That initial show of support for a new center encouraged Janssen to set up the visits.

Horcher said he is not sure when the board will next discuss the issue, but he is certain the future plans for the center will come up before too long.

"They don't have enough space," he said. "But everybody in the village has that burden. If we could give everybody the space they wanted, it would make everybody happy, but we can't burden the tax-paying citizens like that."

Finding ways to fund the
(Continued on page 13)

construction and operation of a new senior center is one reason the trio of Janssen, Horcher and Rooney toured the Ela Township Senior Center in Lake Zurich, the Round Lake Senior Center, a privately owned center in Grayslake and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff center now called Dickinson Hall.

Each center the trio toured is unique in how it is operated and funded. The Ela Township center is a cooperative with the YMCA, Metro Health Care and OMNI Youth Services. The Round Lake center is located in

a park district building. The Grayslake center is in a subsidized housing project for the elderly, and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff center has been established as a not-for-profit corporation.

"Funding is something that always has to be paramount," Rooney said. "We want to look at different funding sources and methods. And we also want to see how (the centers) function."

Janssen said some of the centers have received grants that helped pay for building im-

provements or programming. The Round Lake facility received a grant that helps pay for a nutrition program, activities and transportation. The Lake Forest/Lake Bluff center received a \$750,000 grant from the state to help pay for renovating Dickinson Hall.

Rooney said the village will most likely have to secure grant money to help pay for a new center. Officials have said in early discussions that they may have to find a new site on which to build because the current site on First Street is small and

surrounded by development.

"Given the size of the project, with land acquisition and building costs, it will be quite expensive," he said. "We'll look at state money and private money. That, plus (local) tax money, will probably be the end result."

Janssen, Rooney and Horcher are expecting to visit three more centers in Evanston, Northfield and Chicago. Rooney said he expects the three will give a report on their findings to the full Village Board in three or four

Anti-smoking episode could prompt changes

9-26-08
By CASS CLIATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The face-off between Wheeling's trustees and its health board over a smoking ban proposal could provide a lesson on how the village deals with its advisory boards.

Village President Greg Klatecki said this week the village could have avoided the "embarrassment" of the public drama that unfolded around the smoking ban if the village board paid more attention to what commissioners are doing.

Klatecki admitted he rarely has time to read the minutes from the health board, plan commission, economic-development commission and other bodies that recommend policy changes to the village board.

His comments came Tuesday

as Wheeling health commissioners questioned why they were publicly denounced for doing something they were never told was wrong.

Trustees early this month criticized the health board for its work developing a proposal for the strictest smoking ban in the state.

The ban would have prohibited smoking in all village vehicles, restaurants, bars, public places and within 25 feet of their entrances, but trustees ordered the health board to remove it from its agenda.

"This raises issues to me of, 'Why are we here,'" Health Commissioner Perry Wells said. "Where's the validity?"

Community Development Director Daniel Ozanich told the health board Tuesday they should have set up a meeting

with trustees to "test the waters" about the ban before beginning to develop it.

"We did the nail salon thing and that got adopted without a workshop," Wells said. He referred to an ordinance the health board developed earlier this year to establish sanitation rules for nail salons. It sailed through the village board.

"Why is this different?" Wells asked.

Village President Greg Klatecki admitted the smoking issue was handled differently because it's more political.

He agreed with health commissioners who said Wheeling might need to establish guidelines that lets commissioners know how they should propose local laws.

"We as a board tend to get engrossed in our areas and not

pay attention to the commissions until something comes up," Klatecki said.

This week was the first time any member of the village board attended a health board meeting.

Klatecki and Ozanich attended Tuesday's meeting to explain why the health board was ordered not to continue discussions for developing the smoking ban.

Commissioners recommended that the village board assign a trustee to act as a liaison to each commission, or at least be assigned to read a commission's minutes so trustees know how their boards are spending their time.

"I am insulted that the time I spent on this was worthless

See SMOKE on PAGE 3

Smoke: Emotions run high

Continued from Page 1

and it's not going to go on the agenda," Commissioner Ricki Reznick said of the smoking ban.

Commissioner Pat Drewes, the lone board member to oppose the smoking ban, said she wasn't insulted, but rather embarrassed that the entire drama over the ban played out in the media.

"If you say you feel embarrassed, I think everyone with the village does," Klatecki said. "And the embarrassment is what triggers the emotional response."

Klatecki will try to set up a meeting between trustees and the health board to iron out differences, he said.

Horchers appeal for sprinkler in 's

For students who can not be...
 Special schools
 NNSSEO...
 The Kirk program alone jus-
 tifies the existence of the coop-
 erative, District 21's Ellis said.
 "If you have children with
 very intensive needs, it is very
 costly to provide programs for
 just a few children," she said.
 "The children at Kirk, for ex-
 ample, are given a full range of
 services and for the district to
 provide for them is not just the
 skills teach them is not just the
 time, how to do a time card and
 endurance, sticking with a job
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 School principal Ken Wis-
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Wheeling company cited for two safety violations

BY LAURA GRANDT
 Daily Herald Business Writer
 10-5-04
 Wheeling-based Durable Packaging International has been fined \$114,300 for alleged safety violations, the U.S. Labor Department said.
 Brad Mitchell, department spokesman, said Durable, an aluminum pan maker, was cited for a lack of operation guarding and lockout/tagout devices.
 Operation guarding protects fingers and limbs from being amputated by the moving parts of machines. Lockout/tagout devices essentially keep machines inoperative during maintenance or repairs. The device prevents workers from being injured if a machine is unexpectedly turned on.
 The Labor Department accused Durable of not having lockout/tagout devices on some machines. The willful violation is for not training staff to use the devices the company does have, Mitchell said.
 Durable Chief Financial Officer Michael Rabin said the company disagrees with the citations, and plans to contest them.
 An investigation into the company began in April, when the department received an anonymous complaint.
 Of the citations, 16 are considered serious violations, which means the problems cited could cause serious injury or death. The other citation is considered a willful violation, which has the same criteria, but includes employer knowledge of the problem and lack of corrective action.
 Rabin said the company, which began in 1948, has not had one complaint of injury. Mitchell, however, said this is not the first time the depart-
 ment has cited the company. Prior to 1988, Durable was known as Industrial Precision Products Co., which was based in Schaumburg. Under that name, the department issued four violations for similar reasons, three of which were considered serious.
 Mitchell said both types of the current violations are fairly common and can possibly stem from a lack of information or inattention to safety.
 According to the state Department of Public Health, in 2002, the latest published data available, 19 manufacturing workers were killed in Illinois because of occupational injuries.
 The same year, 680 out of every 10,000 full-time manufac- turing workers in Illinois were injured or had work-related illnesses, the Public Health Department said.

Village gets glimmer of town center vision

By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER
 OCT 2, 2003
 Plans to create a bustling town center in Wheeling are beginning to take shape.
 Wheeling-based consultants unveiled some ideas at Oct. 1 that the new center would look like over the course of two recent meetings, one of which held Sept. 23, allowed the public to weigh in on the proposal.
 Consultants from the Lakota Group of Chicago unveiled their preliminary plans for new homes, retail shops and other commercial endeavors around the Metra train station.
 "This is what we call transit-oriented development, which means it's clustered around the train station," said John LaMott, a Lakota Group representative. "It will include a mix of uses where people can work, shop and live."
 Lakota consultants drew a half-mile around the train station and used it as the focus of the plan. The area includes Dundee Road around the former Kmart building and extends to London Middle School.

the town center area, including the demolition or renovation of existing retail stores and strip malls. Most of the new retail stores would be focused along Dundee Road, but some would also be located on the first floor of condominium buildings that would be built on Wheeling Road near the train station.

"This is what we call transit-oriented development, which means it's clustered around the train station. It will include a mix of uses where people can work, shop and live."

John LaMott, Lakota Group representative

The size of the condominium buildings was not specifically addressed, but many residents said they would not oppose building heights of up to 10 stories, so long as they were offset by shorter buildings of about six stories.
 Plans varied for the triangle created by Dundee Road, Old McHenry Road and Route 83. Most of the public, however, preferred to see a large "anchor" type store to take the place of the former Kmart building, with some smaller retail stores in front of it. Many also favor improved parking and more landscaping at the strip malls across the street on Dundee Road.
 All of this change, however, is dependent on the village being able to reduce the potential of flooding in the area. Much of the land has flooded in the past, and massive amounts of new water storage would be needed to prevent future flooding.

How much?

It is too early in the process for anyone to provide a fixed price on the redevelopment. But Stephen Friedman, a representative of consultant S.B. Friedman and Associates, said the new buildings could cost anywhere from \$100 million to \$350 million. That does not include the costs of purchasing land, relocating existing businesses and creating the water detention areas.
 Friedman said it could take between 10 and 15 years before the project is complete.

The Village Board expects to formally adopt a redevelopment vision within the next month.

A new look

Residents and business owners agreed the industrial uses along Wheeling Road would have to be relocated if the area is to reach its full potential. One version of the Lakota plan calling for increasing some light industry to complement what's already there was rejected by the public.
 Plans call for major changes in and around

Chicago since many of his customers are from the North Shore and Wisconsin, and he has reduced his commute from about an hour to 15 minutes.
 "It started to get too expensive," he said of his old Wabash Street location. "Parking, taxes, rent, gas, food for lunch... everything got more expensive."
 This is the first time Shifrin and his partner, Alex Babitsky, have owned their own business.
 "We decided it was time to open our own store," Shifrin said. "We think it's a winning combination to have the manufacturing and the retail in one place."
 The display cases in the store showcase a variety of styles and wide range of materials. Customers can find rings and pendants made of yellow jade encrusted with diamonds, and rings set with a rose gold. Unusual combinations like

Wal-Mart, Sam's help police buy bulletproof vest

OCT 9, 2003
 The Wheeling Police Department received a \$750 grant from Wal-Mart and Sam's Club as part of the stores' \$213,000 grant program that includes other Illinois fire and police departments.
 The grant will be used to purchase a bulletproof vest for the department. The Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Foundation awarded the grant in late September. The foundation helps pay for public-safety projects through the Wal-Mart Good Works community involvement program.

to shine

customers one-stop service



North Shore Jewelry's Boris Kats displays some of the shop's unique pieces. The Wheeling store opened in May.

Cathryn Smith/Staff Photographer

Horchers appeal need for sprinkler in 'shed'

By Casey Moffitt
STAFF WRITER

OCT 9, 2003

Members of the village's Fire Sprinkler Appeals Board found themselves in the uncomfortable position last week of having to conduct a hearing that pits elected trustees against each other.

One trustee who is a member of the appeals board regretted the fact that he had to sit across from two members of the Horcher family who also serve as trustees.

The board heard Michael P. Horcher's contention that the village's fire sprinkler ordinance does not apply to a building on the family's McHenry Road property. His father, Michael Horcher, and his brother, Patrick Horcher, sit on the Wheeling Village Board with two members of the three-person appeals board.

"This puts us in a very awkward position," said Trustee Robert Heer, a member of the appeals board. "I've known the Horchers for a long time."

Wheeling Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac has been trying since July 2002 to get the family to install a fire sprinkler system in the 800-square-foot building the family says will be used as a storage shed. The village first learned of the shed being built that month.

However, Jason Orth, the attorney representing Michael P. Horcher, said the shed does not need a sprinkler, according to the village's ordinance. Orth said the shed is used to store records for the family's farming business and Michael P. Horcher's landscaping business. According to the ordinance, storage sheds, detached garages and other buildings considered to be incidental uses do not need sprinkler systems.

"This is used to store records and files," Orth said. "There is no public access. There is no business conducted in there."

But MacIsaac said the building is more than a shed. Upon an inspection in March, the fire

chief said he saw a foyer, an office and a full bathroom in the building. The building is also heated and has its own electrical system. The building, according to Michael P. Horcher, also has a second office.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who also sits on the appeals board, said he was "confused" by the description of the building as a shed after hearing what is inside.

"You said yourself they put a desk in there and it is used as an office," Klatecki said to Orth. "An office is not a shed. An office is not storage. An office is used for business, so I get confused when you use the word 'shed.'"

Orth said the desk is used to lay out business records for viewing. He also noted there is no definition of a shed in the ordinance. Orth also argued the Horchers were told the building would not need a sprinkler.

Trustee Michael Horcher said MacIsaac himself said the building would not need one. MacIsaac said his words must have been misinterpreted.

"I said it was up to the (Village Board), and if (the Horchers) wanted to appeal I wouldn't stand in their way," MacIsaac said. "There are several written documents that state compliance (with the ordinance) was expected."

Orth said the cost of sprinkling the shed, which is estimated between \$10,000 and \$15,000, would prove to be a financial hardship for the family. He said the building cost \$18,000 to build.

Appeals board members decided to continue the hearing until Oct. 23. Board members wanted to inspect the building themselves, and one left town days after the Sept. 30 hearing. The appeals board will make a decision within 14 days from the end of the hearing. Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite is the third appeals board member.

— E-mail Casey Moffitt at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

'This puts us in a very awkward position. I've known the Horchers for a long time.'

Trustee Robert Heer

'which means it's clustered around the train station. It will include a mix of uses where people can work, shop and live.'

John LaMott, Lakota Group representative

Created by McHenry Road and Route 83. Most of the public, however, preferred to see a large "anchor" type store to take the place of the former Kmart building, with some smaller retail stores in front of it. Many also favor improved parking and more landscaping at the strip malls across the street on Dundee Road.

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Friedman said it could take between 10 and 15 years before the project is complete.

The Village Board expects to formally adopt a redevelopment vision within the next month.

Wheeling company cited for two safety violations

10-5-04

Company Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Violations
Industrial Precision	988 Durable	Wheeling	WV	26002	304-241-1111	1. Failure to maintain safe working conditions. 2. Failure to provide adequate safety training.
...

Wal-Mart, Sam's help police buy bulletproof vest

OCT 9, 2003
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to shine

customers one-stop service



Cathryn Scott/Staff Photographer

North Shore Jewelry's Boris Kats displays some of the shop's unique pieces. The Wheeling store opened in May.

A new look

Residents and business owners agreed the industrial uses along Wheeling Road would have to be relocated if the area is to reach its full potential. One version of the Lakota plan calling for increasing some light industry to complement what's already there was rejected by the public. Plans call for major changes in and around

Chicago since many of his customers are from the North Shore and Wisconsin, and he has reduced his commute from about an hour to 15 minutes.

"It started to get too expensive," he said of his old Wabash Street location. "Parking, taxes, rent, gas, food for lunch ... everything got more expensive."

This is the first time Shifrin and his partner, Alex Babitsky, have owned their own business.

"We decided it was time to open our own store," Shifrin said. "We think it's a winning combination to have the manufacturing and the retail in one place."

The display cases in the store showcase a variety of styles and wide range of materials. Customers can find rings and pendants made of yellow jade encrusted with diamonds, and rings set with a rose gold. Unusual combinations like

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Trustee Robert Heer

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North Star hopes to shine

New jewelry store and workshop offers customers one-stop service

By Casey Moffitt
STAFF WRITER
10-7-04

After spending 13 years in downtown Chicago, a Russian-born jeweler and his business partner have moved their shop and opened a new store in Wheeling.

North Star Jewelry opened in May in the new North Star Plaza on Milwaukee Avenue just north of Dundee Road. Vladimir Shifrin owns the store and runs an upstairs workshop, Club Jewelry Manufacturing, where a majority of the store's pieces are made.

Shifrin said it made a lot of sense to move to Wheeling from downtown Chicago since many of his customers are from the North Shore and Wisconsin, and he has reduced his commute from about an hour to 15 minutes.

"It started to get too expensive," he said of his old Wabash Street location. "Parking, taxes, rent, gas, food for lunch ... everything got more expensive."

This is the first time Shifrin and his partner, Alex Babitsky, have owned their own business.

"We decided it was time to open our own store," Shifrin said. "We think it's a winning combination to have the manufacturing and the retail in one place."

The display cases in the store showcase a variety of styles and wide range of materials. Customers can find rings and pendants made of yellow jade encrusted with diamonds, and rings set with a rose opal. Unusual combinations like turquoise set in white gold and lined with green sapphires are also offered. Pearls — black and white — are also a specialty used for pendants and earrings.



Cathryn Scott/Staff Photographer

North Star Jewelry's Boris Kats displays some of the shop's unique pieces. The Wheeling store opened in May.

However, some of the traditional stones and combinations are still some of the best-selling items at the store. "Diamonds are number one," said

Boris Kats, a store employee. "Especially if they're combined with white or yellow gold."

Shifrin said he is still "feeling out the market" for the new store.

"With Christmastime coming, we'll see what's in demand," he said.

Unique workmanship

Shifrin said he plans to continue designing unique pieces with the dozen or so other jewelers that work for him. The other jewelers in the shop each have their own specialty, whether its setting stones, engraving, finishing or polishing. Each also has a unique sense of style.

"We have people from 10 different countries," Shifrin said. "They're from the United States, Russia, Poland, Austria, Italy, Bulgaria, Peru, Mexico, Jamaica and the Ukraine. Each of the guys has brought their own ideas and designs to the shop. Everybody has their own secrets, so it's like a melting pot here."

Most of the work at the shop is done by hand. Shifrin said some machine engraving is done, but even most of the engraving is handcrafted. Shifrin also recently purchased a machine that uses a laser to weld pieces together. Nothing,

however, replaces handmade work, Shifrin said.

"The quality of work and precision (of machines) is incredible," he said. "But it's limited in its creativity. Nothing can replace human hands. The trade has been around for thousands of years. It hasn't changed a lot. Basically, hand skills are still the most important."

Shifrin said his costs are kept low and the prices are competitive since most of the pieces in the store are made in the workshop. Custom pieces can be made at the shop, and the store will loan jewelry for special occasions.

The shop also repairs jewelry and watches, and customers can take comfort knowing their valuables will be secure.

"They don't go anywhere," Shifrin said. "They're not going downtown. They're not going to New York or Los Angeles. They go upstairs and then they go downstairs. They never leave the building."

North Star Jewelry is located at 137 N. Milwaukee Ave. and is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The store is closed Monday.

North Star Jewelry employee Mark Imkhanitskiy examines a ring.



Boston property group buys prime Wheeling site

10-9-04
BY LAURA GRANDT
Daily Herald Business Writer

Boston-based Cabot Properties Inc., a national industrial property company, has paid just less than \$12 million for

Hot properties

770 Acco Plaza Drive in Wheeling. The 345,000-square-foot industrial building is partially leased. Postal scanning, sorting and inserting equipment maker Böwe Bell & Howell occupies 100,000 square feet.

Meanwhile Acco Brands Inc., an office products maker and the seller of the property, will remain in its former building where it has leased 112,000 square feet, which leaves about one-third of the space available

for rent.

The original single-use building was redeveloped last year to allow for multiple tenants.

Dan Smolensky, Chris Reynolds, Scott Brandwein and Jim Whalen of CB Richard Ellis worked on behalf of Acco Brands in the transaction.

Timothy Gallagher of Gallagher Realty Inc. represented Cabot Properties in the deal.



MARK BLACK/DAILY HERALD
 Cabot Properties Inc. bought the partially leased building at 770 Acco Plaza Drive in Wheeling from Acco Brands Inc. for just less than \$12 million.

When will new chef come to Le Francais?

Owner says new hire will be made by year's end

10-10-04
BY JON DAVIS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The suburbs' premier French restaurant will have a new chef by Jan. 1, the owner of Le Francais said Saturday.

Michael Moran said the restaurant's original owner and chef, Jean Banchet, is helping "to find us the perfect French chef to help us take over the operation."

That search is taking place "on both sides of the Atlantic," Moran said.

The culinary changeover is prompted by the pending departures of current Chef Michael Lachowicz and his brother Tom, the restaurant's manager and sommelier, due to what they say are business-related disputes with Moran.

Michael Lachowicz Saturday said they have not set a departure date from Le Francais — a main course on Wheeling's "Restaurant Row" along Milwaukee Avenue — but are working to ensure a smooth transition.

Moran said the brothers "have assured me they will not walk out and leave me in the lurch."

Michael Lachowicz said leaving is difficult because "this was a dream, and we gave up a lot to come here. As did the Moran family," he said, adding the

"It was kind of a downward spiral out of the gate, which was tough."

Michael Lachowicz, current Le Francais chef

Morans always have supported the restaurant financially, especially as a startup.

Moreover, he said, business has grown since Sept. 1.

The breakup comes 13 months after Moran paid \$2 million for Le Francais, 269 S. Milwaukee Ave., and less than a year after they re-opened the restaurant with the aim of restoring its world-class status.

"It is my wife's and my favorite restaurant in the whole world," Moran said.

Lachowicz said problems began soon thereafter, and included disputes over marketing and an unfulfilled promise by Moran to give him and his brother a 49 percent ownership stake.

"It was kind of a downward spiral out of the gate, which was tough," said Michael Lachowicz, 34.

He said the Moran family has been supportive of the restaurant, and there were some good times, "but anything after that is hard to spin positively, so I don't want to say anything about

that."

The Lachowicz previously owned and operated Les Deux Gros in Glen Ellyn and Couchon Sauvage in Wheaton.

Michael Lachowicz said their next restaurant also will be French, but will be in a Chicago neighborhood yet to be determined.

Original chef/owner Jean Banchet opened Le Francais in 1973 and quickly earned a national and international following. In 1985, Bon Appetit magazine named Le Francais the nation's best restaurant. Four years later, Banchet leased the restaurant to Roland and Mary Beth Licionni. In 1993, Le Francais earned five stars from the Mobil Travel Guide, and two years later was included in the prestigious Relais & Chateaux/Relais Gourmand guide.

Banchet returned in 1999, but retired in February 2001 after selling the restaurant to Phil Mott and chef Don Yamauchi.

They re-opened Le Francais in March 2001, but closed it again in June 2003.

Teevans named new police commander

John Teevans was sworn in as the new Wheeling Police Department commander at the Village Board meeting held Monday evening.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered at Village Hall to witness the swearing in ceremony. Joining Teevans were his parents, wife and five children.

Teevans was promoted from the rank of sergeant. He was the safe communities coordinator for the department in that position, which included overseeing programs like Rockin' with the Cops and the Citizens Police Academies.

Teevans began his service with the Wheeling Police Department in 1984 as a community service officer. He replaces John Stone, who was promoted to deputy chief last month.

10.16.03

Festival of Lights to signal start of holidays

10-15-03
 The Special Events Commission of Wheeling will present the seventh annual Festival of Lights celebration this year.

This year's event will be held Nov. 23, starting at 6 p.m. at Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Holmes Middle School Chorus will perform music of the season, under the direction of Grace Sanchez.

Organizers will serve hot chocolate and cookies, donated by Wheeling's Market Square Restaurant.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be there to hear all the children's wishes for their holiday season.

The big event is the lighting of the holiday lights — there will be more than 75,000 lights turned on in the village at the same time that evening at the village hall.

The lights will be at the fountain at Northgate and Dundee Road, at Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The Wheeling Park District will also coordinate their lighting with the village.

There will be new decorations for the fountain.

All of Wheeling is invited to join the party.

For information, call Trustee Judy Abruscato at (847) 459-2666, ext. 4107.

Cole Taylor eyed as new village hall

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
10-16-03

The Village Board is considering moving much of village operations to the Cole Taylor Bank building on the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The move, if it is realized, could finally be the answer to crowded conditions at Village Hall on Dundee Road that study after study has shown to be too cramped for village employees.

Cole Taylor consolidated its corporate operations and support services from three locations, including Wheeling, to a new building in Rosemont last weekend. Village officials began inquiring about buying the building for a new village hall after word came that a deal with a commercial developer fell through. The Village Board has been discussing the issue since late July or early August.

Now that the bank has moved most of its staff, Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said officials need to make a decision.

"This met with some degree of approval in executive session," Douthwaite said. "We need to know if we should move along with negotiations to take over the building."

The real-estate deal is quite complicated. Cole Taylor sold the building in the late 1980s, but continued to lease the entire facility. According to the lease, Cole Taylor can buy the building back for \$7 million. However, Cole Taylor has the ability to turn the lease over to another entity, which could ex-

ecute a buy-back clause from the owner.

Bruce Taylor, president and chief executive officer of Cole Taylor Bank, said the deal would involve turning the lease over to the village, which would then buy the building for just over \$7 million. Taylor said the bank has agreed to put up \$3 million to bring the purchase price of the building in line with its market value. That money is not solely available to the village, though.

"Anyone who wants the building would have to buy it through a similar structure that was proposed to the village," Taylor said.

Taylor said the bank will sublease the top two floors to another business and keep the bottom floor as a branch office if it is not sold. Even if the village buys the building, it will lease the bottom floor to the bank to operate as a branch.

"Wheeling has been a very good market for us, and we want to stay," Taylor said.

Douthwaite said the bank is willing to sign a five-year lease with a three-year option for about \$100,000 a year to keep the branch open.

Trustees Robert Heer and Judy Abruscato said they were ready to move on the deal, which would allow the village to move its administration and finance offices from Village Hall, as well as the community development and economic development departments from the Wickes Furniture building, where it leases space. The police, fire and public works departments would stay at Village

Cole Taylor Continued from page 5

Hall.

"It's time to move," Heer said. "I think a transfer to Cole Taylor Bank would fit our needs."

However, Trustee Dean Argiris said he wanted to know more about costs of renovating the building and how much interest the village would have to pay once they borrow money to buy the bank building. Douthwaite estimated renovation and moving costs at \$1 million, but he had no firm figures.

"We don't know the rate of borrowing, and we don't know the renovation costs," Argiris said. "I want to know the bottom-line numbers."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann also questioned if the board wanted to borrow money for a building that did not solve all of the village's space problems. The bank building would do nothing to add garage space for the Public Works Department, which village officials say is desperately needed.

Trustee Patrick Horcher also questioned the logic of taking the building off the tax rolls, since it is in a prime location for a commercial enterprise.

"It would be a waste of a good commercial site," he said.

The village staff was instructed to get better information about the costs of moving and renovating the building and to report back to the board. Trustees said they expect to make a decision on the issue in the next few weeks. However, all agreed that the space problem needs to be addressed one way or another.

"Sooner or later, we as a board are going to have to bite the bullet to solve the space problem," Village President Greg Klatski said. "The quality of work we expect (from the staff) won't be there if we don't."

—E-mail Casey Moffitt at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

Village Continued from page 9

The majority of the remaining \$7.5 million total would be given to Smith as units in the 306-condominium project are sold and occupied. If Smith cannot complete the project, he will only get money for the units that have been built, plus the \$1.7 million he will get up front. That makes the village's initial investment its biggest financial risk.

The village would recoup its money as property taxes are paid on the units. The taxes will be significantly higher if the project is built than if the existing Simmerling Fence were to remain on the property.

Consultants with S.B. Friedman and Company, which reviewed Smith's TIF request, estimate the village would recoup the \$7.5 million in 12 years through property tax increments.

"I accept that our payback is in the increment," said Trustee Patrick Horcher. "I understand that we would be investing in the project. I want to maintain as much control (over the TIF money) as possible. I think when it's built, it will be a nice amenity for the village."

Trustee Dean Argiris, however, said he believes the \$1.7 million investment is still a fairly significant risk, considering the money is coming from village taxpayers in the taxing district.

"There is no security, and that's what worries me," he said. "It's not our money."

Early sales

Smith will build Prairie Park in phases, using money from sales of one phase to help fund subsequent phases of construction. A market study has not been done on the project, but few trustees are concerned about Smith's ability to sell the units at \$210 per square foot — a price never commanded in Wheeling for residential property.

"I've had customers calling me at the bank for the past year-and-a-half asking when they will be able to see something on that property (to buy)," Trustee Judy Abruscato said.

Smith said he has 20 reservations for sales at Prairie Park already, totaling more than \$6 million. He said he has not even begun his "media blitz" to advertise the development. The only advertising he has done for the development is putting a sign in front of the property.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the village has two options to acquire money for Smith. Officials can borrow

There is no security, and that's what worries me. It's not our money.

Trustee Dean Argiris

the money and pay it back with tax increments, or they can take money from the adjacent Crossroads TIF District and pay it back with North Milwaukee Avenue TIF funds at a later date.

The Village Board has aggressively been buying property in the Crossroads TIF District, which includes the area around the Dundee Road/Milwaukee Avenue intersection. Douthwaite said the Crossroads TIF has about a \$9 million to \$10 million balance that has been generated from rising property tax revenues.

Smith's hurdles

Smith said the property's soil conditions and potential for flooding are adding significant costs to the project. He said he will need to add 4 feet of soil in order to make the land suitable for construction. He also will have to build all the buildings and the entrance fountain on caissons. The concrete and steel caissons, which are placed in holes that can be 7 feet to 8 feet around, are drilled down to stable earth and support the structures above.

"You can imagine the costs (to build caissons)," Smith said. "If it were a good piece of dirt, these costs wouldn't be needed."

Smith also said soil would have to be drained to build much of the underground infrastructure, and that a soil engineer would be required to be at the site at all times during construction.

Smith said the soil conditions make private investors and lenders reluctant to invest in the project, which is why TIF money is needed to make it work. Attorneys for the village and the developer will put the language together for the agreement, which must be approved by the Village Board.

closing agreement

for development by allowing the money to pay for improved property taxes that come from properties in the TIF district off the loans.

The skeptical of giving Smith \$6 million and still want to have strict control over the \$1.7 million to minimize the risk. Heer said when asked where the

Village Board wants to ensure that money is used solely for improvements to the site. Trustee Horcher suggested the \$1.7 million be escrow account, with the village controlling the money. When the infrastructure is built, the money will go into construction costs.

(Continued on page 13)

Plan commissioners give Oktoberfest a thumbs up

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling village officials were pleased with the Ram Restaurant and Brewery's Oktoberfest celebration held Sept. 24 and Sept. 25, and said they are enthusiastic about letting the restaurant do it again next year.

This was the first year the Ram held an Oktoberfest celebration, and organizers said they hope it will bring in many visitors, just like Hans Bavarian Lodge once did before it closed years ago. The Wheeling Plan Commission wanted to have a debriefing hearing about the event after it passed to see what complaints, or compliments, came from residents.

There were very few complaints. Wheeling Police Cmdr. Teevans also reported one man was arrested and charged with battery the first night of the Oktoberfest. He commended the security staff at the event.

"Security was very professional, and they handled the situation well," he said.

Fetzer and Mark Fales, Ram general manager, both believe things will run smoother when they hold the event next year.

"It was a new experience for us, and there was a bit of a

The Plan Commission will allow the Ram to host Oktoberfest next year.

John Teevans said there was a complaint from a Shadow Bend resident living to the east about the noise from the music played outdoors under a tent. The entertainment consisted mainly of rock 'n' roll bands.

Plan commissioners said they were not surprised to hear some complaints about the music.

"Rock 'n' roll music is typically loud," said Commissioner

The restaurant hired a shuttle bus to bring people to and from the Riverwalk parking garage on the northeast corner of Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue. Fetzer said fewer people than expected used the parking facility.

"I think we may have had some delusions of grandeur," Fetzer said. "We thought it could have been like Hans', where buses of people were coming in. It didn't happen the first year, and it probably won't happen the second."

Ken Brady. "It's supposed to be listened to loud."

Brady, who lives about three-quarters of a mile south of the restaurant, said he heard some of the music during the event when he was outside. He did not hear it, however, when he was indoors.

Lanny Fetzer, head brewer at the Ram, said he did not hear any noise complaints from the event until the Plan Commission hearing, which was held Oct. 14. He also said organizers were thinking about changing the layout of the celebration next year so the public-address speakers would face north toward Lake-Cook Road, instead of south, where people live. He said that should reduce noise complaints.

(Continued on page 14)

business close to the restaurant for next year's event. They said they preferred to find a business within walking distance to the restaurant.

Plan commissioners agreed with that idea. They also had a few suggestions of their own to make the event more successful.

"It didn't seem to be particularly German," said Commissioner Steve Boime.

Fales said the organizers did not plan the event quickly enough to hire any traditional

No small plans for town center

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

OCT 23, 2003

Plans for a modernized commercial and residential corridor along Dundee Road are beginning to take shape.

Consultants from the Lakota Group and S.B. Friedman and Co. last week presented conceptual proposals to a special study committee made up of Wheeling elected officials, staff members and local business leaders that call for major redevelopment of three areas: The Metra train station, Community Recreation Center and Aquatic Center, as well as the areas surrounding them; the former Kmart lot and existing Lynn Plaza shopping center; and the Dunhurst Shopping Center.

The consultants and committee agree that the best plan for the area around the Metra station should be a giant leap in new development and intensity. The consultants presented a plan that includes new retail stores close to Dundee Road and a total of 520 new condominiums between Wheeling Road and Northgate Parkway. The idea is to attract train commuters to live, work and shop near the station.

The plan also shows an extended Northgate Parkway from its terminus behind the Recreation Center and a new road from Wolf Road that will lead behind the current Village Hall and connect with the Northgate Parkway extension and the existing Northgate Parkway. All agreed both roads are necessary to create easy access to the area.

"I would say you have to mandate (the new roads)," said Steve Friedman, a principal with S.B. Friedman and Co. "I say 'mandate' intentionally because it's a strong word, but I really think you have to find ways to move traffic in and out of here."

The plan also calls for the construction of a new village hall on Northgate Parkway east of the train station, an idea that divided the committee. Village staff members on the committee tended to favor that proposal since they are most affected by the cramped quarters at the current facility on Dundee Road.

Jan Buchs, executive director of the Wheeling Park District who also sits on the committee, favored it as well. She said it would be a good focal point for the entire project.

But other members said they want to see a tax-generating building in that area. And some said they were apprehensive to throw another possible village hall location on the table while the village is exploring the possibility of buying the Cole Taylor Bank building and turning it into village hall or expanding the current building.

Easing flooding

Flooding is a major issue for the area, and the plan shows all of the northern side of Dundee Road between the train tracks and the post office to be turned into water detention.

Committee members said they are not excited about the prospect of having what looks like a giant lake along Dundee Road. Plan Commissioner

Forke owned three buildings along Milwaukee Avenue. The other two have been torn down.

Trustees said it is not necessary to tear the building down right away and figured that delaying approval of the demolition bid would buy them more time to find a way to preserve it.

"Letting the building sit there doesn't deter the property from being sold," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "I don't feel it's necessary to take that final step now."

The Village Board has been working to improve Milwaukee Avenue, buying land and demolishing obsolete buildings as a way to attract developers. The small lots are difficult to develop, and the village is trying to make it easier by buying the lots and combining them into bigger ones.

sioner Ken Brady suggested finding water detention areas further upstream along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch so more commercial development could be put along Dundee Road.

"We're giving up a lot of property to detention," he said. "We don't have to use entire lots (for detention). It seems like a waste to give up all of that land."

Missing from the plan is the burying or moving of the Commonwealth Edison high-tension power lines on the west side of Wheeling Road. Trustee Trevor Lehmann, who sits on the committee, favors the eventual burial or relocation of the lines.

"It would really help clean up the neighborhood," he said. "It could be \$1 million per tower, but that's OK because we're talking about a 20-year plan here."

Kmart site plans

The committee instructed the consultants to draw up a "plan A" and a "plan B" for the Dundee

Road site formerly occupied by Kmart. One plan would focus on attracting one large retailer to use the space. The other would most likely include retail buildings along Dundee Road with more condominiums behind, which would better complement the town center around the train station.

"This is where the synergy (with the town center) is going to happen," Lehmann said. "We need residential to support the commercial."

Several proposals were presented for the area around the Dunhurst Shopping Center. The consultants presented a plan to make facade improvements to the center and move the International Furniture building closer to Dundee Road. That plan met with approval from some committee members.

"I think this is the easiest place to make changes, and we need to move fast on it," said John Flannagan of the Economic Development Commission. "If we spruce it up, I think it would make (developing) the east side (of the plan) easier."

Lehmann said the village should condemn the entire property and start over with a brand-new look. Consultant Friedman responded by saying he would build condominiums on the site if the village chose to condemn. That suggestion did not sit well with most committee members.

"Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue is all the commercial opportunities we have," plan commissioner Brady said. "We are really strapped for major street commercial areas. I don't think we can give up a prime corner like Dundee Road and Route 83 to condominiums."

The consultants will bring back more detailed plans to the committee next month. If those plans meet with the committee's approval, they will be forwarded to the Village Board and used as a guide for redevelopment.

The village is paying the consultants with grant money from the Regional Transportation Authority.

Contact Casey Moffitt at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

"I don't think we can give up a prime corner like Dundee Road and Route 83 to condominiums."

Plan Commissioner Ken Brady

Patrick Horcher

Trustee Horcher said, "But it's one of the few buildings left in the village that is significant to us."

Trustees also agreed to a request from William Hein of the

historical society to establish a preservation committee with the society and the Wheeling Park District. The committee would be charged with identifying buildings in the village that might be worthy of preservation.

Members of the Wheeling Park Board told historical society members at an Oct. 7 meeting that the park district does not have the money to move the Forke building to Chamber Park, where the historical society's museum and other historical buildings stand, and would only accept the building if a trust was established to help defray maintenance costs.

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Ambulance refunds being mailed out

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, said refunds to residents who paid money for ambulance fees can expect refunds to arrive soon.

Mondschain said requests for refunds have been coming into his office since the Village Board asked him to refund the fees, which should have never been collected.

According to the ambulance fee ordinance, the only money to be collected is to come from insurance companies, Medicare or Medicaid. Whatever amount insurance did not cover was to be waived. However, due to a miscommunication, the billing service was sending out balance-due bills to residents. Residents paid an average of \$79 per ambulance ride with out-of-pocket money. 10.23.03

Wheeling sues to acquire property for redevelopment

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer / 10.23.03

The village of Wheeling has filed a condemnation lawsuit against the owners of property on North Milwaukee Avenue in an effort to facilitate redevelopment of the area.

The village is trying to acquire the property at 597 N. Milwaukee Ave., now home to a warehouse building and a used car dealership.

The property owners could not be reached for comment.

The property sits in a tax increment financing district the village established in February

near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road.

Wheeling officials would like

to join the property with other parcels just to the north, forming a 20-acre site that could then be developed with shops and other commercial outlets.

The village is negotiating purchase prices with the other property owners.

"We believe commercial is the best use for that land," Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney said. "A strong commercial area would be to the betterment of the entire community."

A TIF district is a redevelopment tool that allows towns to freeze property tax levels in a designated area for up to 23 years.

As the value of the property rises, property owners in the district pay taxes as usual, but towns can use the amount paid

above and beyond the frozen levels to cover redevelopment costs.

Wheeling now has three active TIF districts. In addition to the North Milwaukee-Lake-Cook Road area, there is a TIF district near the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and one further south on Milwaukee near Hintz Road.

Next month, the village will hold a public hearing on a proposed fourth TIF district, which would be located around the Metra train tracks across Dundee Road. That hearing will be held Nov. 10.

All of the redevelopment efforts are designed to give Wheeling a strong commercial tax base and improve the village's image.

No small plans for town center

School Board said the board's approach is a more practical approach in part by man, in part by performed in Hebrew, "The spirit with songs the before," Clark done spiritual never a prayer Rabbi How. tion Beth Ju turned the "Hashivenu" prayer, "But some Jewish monies. "That is a

"I'm Goin' Up a Yonder," is described as an African-American spiritual song. Mical said the district agreed to remove "Hashivenu" from the program since the lyrics, which are in Hebrew, are taken directly from Lamentations 5:21 of the Old Testament — a passage used in Jewish liturgy.

Mical said after discussing the content of "Hashivenu" with attorneys and local rabbis, district officials determined the song is not appropriate for a public school choral program. "The intent was not to sing a prayer, but to sing the melody," Mical said. "But we can't base an argument on intent, and the meaning (of the song) is clear."

Supervisor Gary Mical said the district agreed to pull one of the songs from the program while leaving the other in, a decision Sherman supports. Both songs, which were originally scheduled to be performed during a concert Monday night, contain references to the meaning of the song.

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District agrees to pull song 'Hashivenu' will not be performed;

By Casey Moffitt, Staff Writer. Wheeling Elementary School District 21 officials and local atheist Rob Sherman have reached a compromise over the use of two songs in an upcoming choral concert, averting a federal lawsuit. Sherman threatened to file against the district. Sherman threatened to file against the district. Sherman threatened to file against the district.

Ray Levin works on one of his projects. Levin said he still spends an hour or two on his work each night before bed. He said he already has two projects he works on at once. "I get bored with one and go to another," he said.

Levin takes great pride in his work, but he also hopes to inspire others to pursue hobbies and activities, regardless of age. "I'm only hoping some old-timers like myself see that I'm

Levin likes the challenge of completing the family portrait. It took him more than two years to complete the family portrait. It took him more than two years to complete the family portrait.

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Trustees grant reprieve to old Forke building

By Casey Moffitt, Staff Writer. However, Trustee Dean Argiris suggested the board may want to create a partnership with the historical society and the Wheeling Park District, which helps support the society, to make sure the village is not erasing local history.

"I've been a pro clean-up-the-town guy," he said. "But to my amazement, I found out that building has got some history." Trustee Judy Abruscato said she did not see anything special in the building and is reluctant to spend money to have it moved or otherwise preserved, although she voted in favor of tabling the demolition bid.

"We're trying to clean up Milwaukee Avenue, and now at the death hour we're looking to save (the building)," she said. "There are different ways to do something unique. To me, that building is not unique."

Other trustees, however, said they believed it was worth the village's time to see how much it would cost to move or preserve the building. "It's not a monument, and it's not on any historical dockets," Horcher said. "But it's one of the few buildings left in the village that is significant to us."

Trustees also agreed to a request from William Hein of the historical society to establish a preservation committee with the society and the Wheeling Park District. The committee would be charged with identifying buildings in the village that might be worthy of preservation.

Members of the Wheeling Park Board told historical society members at an Oct. 7 meeting that the park district does not have the money to move the Forke building to Chamber Park, where the historical society's museum and other historical buildings stand, and would only accept the building if a trust was established to help defray maintenance costs.

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Trustee Patrick Horcher

Trustees eyeing the prize

Village Board moving toward buying Cole Taylor Bank building

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Negotiations are expected to move quickly now that a majority of the Village Board has publicly expressed a desire to buy the Cole Taylor Bank building.

Four out of six trustees gave their unqualified support last week to the purchase and instructed Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite to step up talks with Cole Taylor representatives so that the village can take over ownership of the building.

Douthwaite said he expects the negotiations to end soon.

"I'd rather get this done in two or three weeks, not two or three months," Douth-

waite said. Village officials may transform the bank building at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue into a new village hall, or they may market it for commercial development.

Those trustees who believe the village needs to purchase the building regardless of its future use include Trevor Lehmann, Dean Argiris, Patrick Horcher and Michael Horcher.

Trustees Judy Abruscato and Robert Heer are only interested in buying the property if the village uses it as a village hall.

The differences in opinion are obvious. "I'm in support of acquisition for a different use (than a village hall)," said

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Trustees Judy Abruscato and Robert Heer are only interested in buying the property if the village uses it as a village hall.

The differences in opinion are obvious. "I'm in support of acquisition for a different use (than a village hall)," said

waite said. Village officials may transform the bank building at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue into a new village hall, or they may market it for commercial development.

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Trustee Trevor Lehmann at the board's Oct. 20 meeting. "I think we should buy it for a commercial use."

"If we're not planning to move and we buy it just for an investment, then my vote would be against it," Abruscato said. "If we're not getting the building to move, then why buy it? There is no plan, so I don't know why we would buy that building."

Bank's move

Cole Taylor consolidated its corporate operations and support staff from three locations, including Wheeling, into a new building in Rosemont earlier this month. (Continued on page 15)

pointing to the 10-acre parcel at 77 Hintz Road the village bought in 2000 for \$1.35 million as an example of what a "good investment" will do for the village without a plan. The land is still vacant and no development plans have materialized.

Village President Greg Klatacki did not attend the Oct. 20 meeting, but he said during an interview Monday that he favors moving village operations into the building if it is purchased. He added that the Village Board must develop a plan either way if trustees vote to buy the property.

"If we purchase it, we'd better use it," he said.

Douthwaite pointed out that the building will not fulfill all the village's needs as a new village hall. It would not address the need for more public works garage space or truck space for the fire department. It would, however, consolidate the administration, finance, community development and economic development departments, which are split between Village Hall and the Wickes furniture building, where the village rents offices.

proposal hits another roadblock

forces developer to withdraw plans for northern Milwaukee Ave.

included the former Wonder Bread property and a vacant lot adjacent to it to the north. The new plan includes the existing AAA Auto Sales, which is adjacent to the Wonder Bread property to the south.

The proposal is considered a planned unit development, which requires a developer to begin the process with a Village Board workshop meeting. The Wheeling Plan Commission cannot begin another public hearing on the project until the Village Board gives its blessing for the project to continue in the review process.

"The petitioner has added land to the south side of the development," explained Jeff Harris, village planner. "All PUDs must be notified with a legal description. The original description for this development did not include the land to the south."

William Hein, representing Tantillo Homes, asked the Plan Commission last week to con-

"It's our property, and we have the right to develop it."

**William Hein,
Tantillo Homes
consultant**

tinue the hearing so new plans could be drawn or an amendment to the petition could be drafted. Plan commissioners, who had continued the hearing three times already, refused to grant another continuance.

Commissioner Stuart Shapiro tried to make two different motions to continue the hearing to the last two possible dates of the year, but fellow commissioners rejected both motions.

That left two options for the fate of the proposal: The Plan Commission could reject it or

Tantillo Homes could withdraw it. Harris said it could take the developer as long as a year to submit a new plan if the Plan Commission rejected the proposal.

Faced with the prospect of waiting that long, Hein agreed to withdraw the petition.

The developments frustrated Shapiro because he believes Tantillo Homes submitted a better plan at the urging of the Plan Commission by adding smaller buildings and a retail aspect to the project, and by including the southern lot.

Shapiro said the developer had done what was asked of him, and that it wasn't fair to turn him away.

"We asked him to include a commercial aspect to the plan and now he's wrong for doing it?" Shapiro asked. "You're trying to tell me that we're going to vote him down because he did what we asked?"

Hein was equally frustrated

by the new wrinkle.

"We're trying to suffice your wishes," he told the commission. "We took your comments and started putting them into this particular plan that you see now."

The Plan Commission's actions, however, are not deterring Tantillo from pursuing its development of the property. Hein said the developer will re-submit plans for the property, even though the Village Board has indicated in public meetings and through letters to the developer that the village would like to buy the properties and develop them to their liking.

Trustees have said they would like to see commercial development on the site, instead of residential.

"It's our property, and we have the right to develop it," Hein said.

Money matters

Argiris supports the village purchasing the building, but he also has questions about how the village would come up with \$4 million to buy it, and an estimated \$770,000 to move village operations there.

"I am concerned how to pay for it," he said. "In my mind, we have to do what's best for the residents."

The village could use reserve funds or borrow money for all or part of the costs. The building

'An accident waiting to happen'

Horchers, village say McHenry Road sidewalk a hazard that should be rebuilt



Traffic on McHenry Road passes by sloping pavement connected to the sidewalk in front of 910 McHenry Road.

By Casey Moffitt
STAFF WRITER

Michael Horcher believes a new sidewalk in front of his home and business invites trouble.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," said Horcher, a member of the Wheeling Village Board and co-owner of the family business along McHenry Road. "We're pretty upset about it."

Horcher said he has overheard young skateboarders say the sidewalk makes an ideal ramp for their wheeled exploits, a thought that immediately conjures visions of trouble. And he said the idea of installing a handrail along the sidewalk is not the answer to correcting the problem.

"A child can still slip underneath (a handrail)," he said. "I'd rather just see them take (the sidewalk) out."

Village and state officials disagree as to why the new sidewalk along McHenry Road was built with a steep incline, but they echo Horcher's concerns and agree something will be done to make it safer.

Crews from Gero Contractors, hired by the Illinois Department of Transportation, installed new sidewalks during the McHenry Road widening project. Tony Stavros, assistant engineer in Wheeling's Public Works Department, said the village requested the sidewalk installation, and officials don't like the finished product.

The sidewalk drops dramatically toward the street in front of Horcher's Flowers. Stavros said crews discovered a gas main while installing the sidewalk, and, instead of lowering the main, they poured concrete along the entire slope.

"Certainly, the village would (Continued on page 15)

Public can comment on taxing district

By Casey Moffitt

STAFF WRITER

Oct 30, 2003

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Mitchell said he did not know why the village wanted the walk moved closer to the road. Stavros said the walk was moved closer to the street as an alternative to building a retaining wall that was later determined to be too close to trees that officials wanted preserved.

Mitchell confirmed there have been discussions about a handrail along the walk, but he is unaware of any discussions about lowering any gas mains. He said the location of the mains did not inhibit the sidewalk construction at all.

Major construction on the widening project is complete and all lanes were opened to traffic Friday. Stavros said other than the sidewalk issue, the village is pleased to see the road widened from two lanes to five. There are now two lanes for traffic flow in each direction, with a center turn lane.

"It's going to be a great improvement for moving traffic," he said. "I think it will help, with the center lane, for people trying to into and out of Whippetree, Addolorata Villa and some of those other subdivisions without a traffic light."

Some lanes along the road may be closed occasionally over the next few weeks as crews finish small aspects of the project such as sealing or filling cracks. The entire project cost \$8.8 million.

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Public can comment on taxing district

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

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Accident

Continued from page 5

happy about (the slope)," Stavros said. "There's still going to be discussions about it (with IDOT)."

Stavros said village officials will ask IDOT to work with Nicor Gas to lower the main and replace the sidewalk without the steep slope. If that is not possible, Stavros said there has been some discussion about installing a handrail along the top of the walk.

"We don't think that's the safest either," Stavros said. "With the handrail, you're also talking about maintenance issues."

However, Craig Mitchell, area construction supervisor of IDOT's North Cook County Division, said the slope had nothing to do with the main, but rather with a village request to move the sidewalk away from the Horcher property line. There was no other way to stabilize the land running along the sidewalk without paving it, Mitchell said.

"We moved the walk where the village wanted," Mitchell said. "Since the (Horcher) property is higher than the road, there's no way of leveling (the sidewalk)."

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Trustees: Condos too big for lot

By CASEY MOFFITT
 STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Village Board is inclined to allow a developer to build condominiums on Hintz Road, but trustees would also like to see town houses or row houses included in the development.

L&K Development, a company that has never built in Wheeling, asked trustees for views on a 66-unit condominium proposal it submitted to village staff for a 3-acre parcel next to Lakeside Villas and west of Jackson Drive on the north side of Hintz Road. The developers wanted to build two, four-story buildings with access in between.

Trustees said the density of the project is too intense and asked the developer to scale it back at an Oct. 20 meeting.

"That's a lot of units to put into such a small space," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "I would like to see it scaled down, or single-family homes."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann asked if the developers could build town houses or row houses instead. If that's not possible, he asked if a combination of condos and town houses could be built. Other trustees agreed that such a combination could address the board's concerns about density. Village zoning allows for a maximum of 10 units per acre. The current proposal calls for 22 per acre.

"You could put 25 to 30 units there with town houses and still make (zoning) code," he said.

Trustee Dean Argiris said

(Continued on page 16)

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Daniel Schuler, assistant superintendent of planning for Wheeling Elementary School District 21, said he voted in

Condos Continued from page 5

OCT 30, 2003
the village needs more single-family homes and asked why the developer didn't propose such a development.

"Single-family is not feasible. I hear it over and over," Argiris said. "Why can't you do it?"

L&K's Robert Lohens said he would never try to sell single-family homes on a busy street like Hintz Road. He also said he would not make money on a single-family development because the land on which he wants to build is too expensive.

Lohens said the current property owner runs a storage business on the property for such large items as boats, trucks, trailers and other vehicles.

"He makes a pretty good buck off the land now," Lohens said of the owner. "The owner wants a lot of money for the property."

Lohens declined to say how much L&K is paying for the land.

The partnership proposed condominiums because of their popularity in Wheeling, and Lohens said the developers had not discussed the idea of mixing town houses with condominiums, a suggestion he did not oppose.

Trustee Robert Heer was the only trustee who objected to the proposal. He said he was concerned about the proposed use for multifamily housing and that it is L&K Development's first condominium venture.

Other trustees were more conformable with L&K after hearing what the company has built in the past. Lohens said members of the partnership have done subcontract work on condominium buildings in Chicago, and the partnership itself has already built single-family homes in area suburbs, including Park Ridge.

The Village Board asked L&K Development to reduce the density of the development before it grants a referral to the Plan Commission. Trustees also urged the developers to talk about the plans with neighboring Lakeside Villas residents to get their opinions and input. The developer will return to the Village Board for another review on a date that has yet to be set.

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneerlocal.com.

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Elbow grease flies at new police facility

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
OCT 26, 2003

Police officers, village officials and other volunteers are working together to spruce up a Wolf Road building in order to transform it into a community-centered satellite office for the Wheeling Police Department.

One of the Police Department's ongoing objectives is to increase its visibility in the community. So when the building at 99-101 N. Wolf Road became available, village officials decided to buy it and help the department reach its goal.

The Police Department will move its Crime Prevention Unit and its social worker into the building. A desk will be set up for those residents who take part in citizens patrol units, and a beat officer will be in the new office to take reports, said police Cmdr. John Teevans. Teevans said he expects the office will be open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

However, before anything can be moved into the building, it needs some work. Police officers have been working on the building after shifts for the past three weeks, replacing ceiling tiles, putting on a fresh coat of paint, removing the flooring and replacing bathroom fixtures. Police Chief John Popadowski said officers and other volunteers have been doing the work themselves to save money.

"The problem is, we were expecting to utilize a federal grant to pay for the renovations," Popadowski said at the building with a paint roller in hand, "but that fell through."

The department has been looking to its officers, as well as the business community and Wheeling residents, for help. Deputy Chief John Stone said employees of the village's Public Works Department have lent a hand, and local businesses have donated money to cover some of the renovation costs. Members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association have also donated time to work at the building.

"We have to live within our budget," Stone said. "We have to keep costs down."

Although the department is looking forward to opening the satellite office, officials are in no hurry to move in. Popadowski said the department would rather take its time with renovations to save money than open the office quickly.

"(Opening) is up in the air right now," Popadowski said. "The sooner we get people in here, the better we'll feel."

The village took over ownership of the building Sept. 18, said James Lang, Wheeling's public relations coordinator. The village bought two storefronts, with a three-bedroom apartment above, for \$255,500, Lang said.

'We have to live within our budget. We have to keep costs down.'

Deputy Chief John Stone

The building used to house a barber shop and jewelry store on the first floor. A resident in the upstairs apartment moved out at the beginning of the month.

Stone said the building's proximity to the Pavilion Senior Center and the OMNI Youth Services Resource Center will make it easier to work with senior citizens and families.

Teevans said the department is expecting a lot of public interaction in the building. Besides the services and units the department will move there, the upstairs will be used for Rape Aggression Defense courses and other public presentations.

The department is still seeking donations and volunteers to help get the office open. The department could use lumber, furniture and cash donations, as well as more volunteers to work on the building. Those interested in volunteering or donating should contact Teevans at (847) 459-2632.

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

ment plan for around Metra station

between Wolf and Elmhurst roads. The proposed district would include the Metra station property.

Village leaders believe that creating a TIF district in that area would help the village increase its sales tax base and upgrade its image. The TIF district also would be used to make important flood-control improvements. Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney said. In a TIF district, a town can freeze property tax levels for up to 23 years. As the value of the land rises, the amount of property taxes paid on the property above the frozen level is used to cover certain redevelopment and improvement costs. The village board could vote also

have a town CE

Police on special patrol this weekend

The Wheeling Police Department will be adding patrols this weekend to focus on drunk driving and other unsafe driving practices.

The department cited an increase in adults going to costume parties and other Halloween festivities over the weekend as part of the reason for the added patrols. Police Chief John Popadowski said it is more likely adults will be going to parties with alcohol available since Halloween is on a Friday this year.

Popadowski also reminded drivers to be alert for trick or treaters early Friday evening and to slow down as they approach groups of children.

The special enforcement is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety. Trick-or-treat hours set

The Wheeling Police Department has set the hours of 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for trick or treating Friday.

Deputy Chief John Stone said this is one hour earlier than usual. Schools are in session for a half day, Stone said, so the hours will let kids go out and get back home earlier and safer.

Wheeling board to discuss snuffed out smoking ban

By MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer
11-3-03

Wheeling trustees and health board members will sit down tonight to talk about a recently shelved proposal to ban smoking in public places.

It will be the groups' first face-to-face discussion of the issue, which ignited a small controversy a couple of months ago. No formal action will be taken at the meeting.

"I think the health board looks at this as an opportunity to reach some common ground with the trustees," said village health officer Michael Boyle, who serves as adviser to the volunteer health board. "Maybe the two can find a starting point for some kind of smoking law."

Continued from Page 1

ban would hurt business.

Village trustees, some of them surprised that the health board had drafted the law without consulting the village board first, said in September that they would not support the ban and canceled a public hearing that had been scheduled on the

Tonight's workshop will begin at 7:30 at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

In late August, health board members started preparing the final draft of a law that would have banned smoking in all Wheeling restaurants, bars and public places, and within 25 feet of the entrance or ventilation systems of such places.

As written, the law would have been the strictest smoking ban in Illinois.

Health board members planned to forward the proposed law to the village board for discussion. But before that could happen, the proposal sparked sharp criticism from restaurant owners, who said the

See WHEELING on PAGE 4

issue.

The experience left trustees and health board members feeling angry. Tonight's meeting will give the two boards a chance to talk and get on the same page, Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said. "I don't know that the trustees have any specific goals in mind, other than 'Let's talk about the issues,'" he said.

plan Village Hall move

owners will help the village buy the Cole Taylor building for use as a new village hall.

Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the village will petition to cover the purchase price of the building at venue and Dundee Road, and moving

ctor Michael Mondschain said the building will add just under \$1 million to the village's debt. The owner with property assessed will take over Cole Taylor's lease in Coilers, Bennett and Kahnwe owns the building. Cole Taylor will purchase of the building, with the million. Cole Taylor will rent the building after the village buys the facility. Mann was the only trustee who offered to buy the property and does not into the Cole Taylor building. te on the purchase was delayed. als could continue working on the age Board could vote on buying the

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneer-local.com.

The majority of village offices are now located in the municipal campus on Dundee Road.

Spratt takes department of public works reins

By MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer
11-4-03

Charles "Chuck" Spratt, a 25-year veteran of municipal service, is Wheeling's new public works director.

Spratt, who joined the village's staff in 1995,

has served as the acting director since Aug. 18. "I'm very happy to be named director, but also a little surprised at the same time," Spratt said. "I know there were a lot of qualified people up for the job."



Charles Spratt

Spratt said what excites him most about his new position is that it allows him to be involved in all aspects of the public works department. Prior to being named as the acting director, he'd spent most of his career doing fleet maintenance work.

In 1995, Wheeling hired him as a fleet services supervisor. In 1999, he was promoted to the position of building and fleet services supervisor.

"I always knew about the other things public works did, but now I can actually be part of them," he said. "That's exciting for me."

Spratt takes over a public works department that was reorganized this past summer. In August, trustees agreed to split the department into separate public works and engineering units.

Guy Kolberg, then public works director, was tapped to lead the engineering unit, leaving the public works spot open. "We have a great department, and right now I'm going to focus just on getting everybody on track," Spratt said.

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said Spratt is simply the right man for the public works job.

"Chuck is an extremely skilled public works professional, obviously familiar with the village and has the respect of the men and women in our department," Douthwaite said.

hearing delayed

Officials postponed a hearing dealing with the village's plan to install a sprinkler system in a building at McHenry Road. Sprinkler Appeals Board was set to continue the hearing for Michael P. Horcher after it opened the hearing Sept. 30. The Oct. 28 hearing was delayed because a new attorney. No new date has been set. Board members continued the Sept. 30 hearing in a hearing. After the inspection, two members of the board, and one of them stayed out for a few more weeks.

The Appeals Board is made up of Village President Greg Klutke, Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite and Trustee Robert Heer. Horcher's father and brother sat on the Village Board.

The Horcher case is the first heard by the Appeals Board, which was created when the Village Board amended its sprinkler ordinance in July.

Village officials refuse to issue an occupancy permit for the shed because they believe it falls under village requirements calling for buildings to have a fire sprinkler system. Horcher says the building does not need a sprinkler because it will only be used to store business records. Village officials, however, say the sprinkler is needed because the shed includes two offices and a full bathroom, features that indicate the shed will be occupied by people on a somewhat regular basis.

Spratt new public works director

Charles Spratt is the new director of Wheeling's Public Works Department.

Spratt, who was named to the position Oct. 16, has been the department's building and fleet services supervisor since November 1999, and has been the acting public works director since August. Spratt first joined the department in 1995.

Spratt replaces Guy Kolberg, who now directs the village's new Engineering Department.

Horcher hearing delayed

Village officials postponed a hearing dealing with the village's requirement that a sprinkler system be installed in a shed on the Horcher property on McHenry Road.

The Fire Sprinkler Appeals Board was set to continue the hearing Oct. 28 for Michael P. Horcher after it opened the hearing process Sept. 30. The Oct. 28 hearing was delayed because Horcher hired a new attorney. No new date has been set.

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Trustees plan Village Hall move

Property owners will help the village buy the Cole Taylor Bank building for use as a new village hall.

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite said the village will borrow \$5 million to cover the purchase price of the building at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, and moving

Finance Director Michael Mondschain said a loan to buy the building will add just under \$1 million to the village's debt.

The village will take over Cole Taylor's lease and buy it from Colliers, Bennett and Kahnwe

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ban would hurt business.

Village trustees, some of them surprised that the health board had drafted the law without consulting the village board first,

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See WHEELING on PAGE 4

Daily Herald Staff Writer 11-3-03

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Continued from Page 1

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tion and improper display of limited at \$600.

tion and "hoping for my sale return," Birman said he might think he didn't do much in the Navy. Their support made him realize "I had a very important job."

The ship wouldn't run without someone tending the ship's engines. "We control the air that goes up to the flight deck," he said. "We control the water and all the electricity for the computers."

Sailor Continued from page 7

See "Ving four years in the Navy was 'an experience,'" but one Birman doesn't want to repeat.

"It teaches you valuable life lessons," he said. "You have a job, you do it well. Do it right the first time. I'm happy because I made friends and I got money for college. I got to travel to cool places for free."

Bart Birman chose not to re-en

Is Wheeling meant to have a town center?

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents raise questions about development plan for around Metra station

Wheeling resident Laurel Anderson told village trustees Monday night that she doesn't want the village to turn itself into a copy of its neighbors.

Village leaders are considering a plan that would create a special taxing district to facilitate a "town center" development around the Metra train station south of Dundee Road.

The new town center likely would consist of a mixture of shops and residences similar to what towns including Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect have created around their train depots.

Anderson told trustees that by trying to keep up with neighboring towns, the village is in danger of losing its unique character.

"Wheeling was never meant to have a town center," she said. "It was not laid out to have a town center. Why do we have to be like every other town?"

Anderson spoke during Monday night's public hearing about the proposal to create a tax increment financing district along Dundee Road, roughly

between Wolf and Elmhurst roads. The proposed district would include the Metra station property.

Village leaders believe that creating a TIF district in that area would help the village increase its sales tax base and upgrade its image. The TIF district also would be used to make important flood-control

improvements, Assistant Village Manager Mark Rooney said.

In a TIF district, a town can freeze property tax levels for up to 23 years. As the value of the land rises, the amount of property taxes paid on the property above the frozen level is used to cover certain redevelopment and improvement costs.

The village board could vote

on the proposed town center TIF district as early as Nov. 24.

Other residents Monday night asked village leaders whether they plan to condemn any properties as part of the TIF plan. Rooney said the plan does not identify any properties for condemnation.

If approved, the town center TIF district would be the village's fourth active TIF district. The other three are located along Milwaukee Avenue.



Firefighters hose down a jet with foam to control a fuel leak. The jet skidded off the runway Tuesday at Palwaukee Municipal Airport during an aborted takeoff.

BRIAN KERSEY/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY HERALD

Plane skids off runway; no one hurt

11-18-03
BY NADIA MALIK
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two pilots realized during a takeoff Tuesday at Palwaukee Municipal Airport that they were experiencing problems — while traveling at more than 100 mph — and needed to stay on the ground.

While trying to stop, the plane skidded off the runway about 1:45 p.m., but neither the two pilots nor three passengers aboard were injured.

"Nobody was hurt, but they (the pilots) realized it was too risky to get the plane in the air," said Rob Mark, an airport spokesman.

He said the pilots were not

certain exactly what happened to the plane, specifying only a control problem.

"(The pilot) said they got to the point where the airplane should have flown and it just wouldn't fly," Mark said.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights firefighters were at the airport at the time for training and within a minute fire engines and ambulances were on the scene.

"There were five people on the plane; two pilots and three passengers," Wheeling Battalion Chief Charles Gallant said. "They were out of the plane by the time we got there."

The right wing of the nine-passenger plane had cracked,

Gallant said, and fuel was pouring out. Firefighters sprayed foam onto the leaking fuel to control vapors. The spilled fuel later was vacuumed up. The plane, a Cessna Citation business jet, was heading for John Wayne Airport in Orange County, Calif., Mark said.

It took the airport and firefighters nearly six hours after the incident to get the plane off the runway and into a hangar. The northwest runway, facing Wolf and Hintz roads in Wheeling, was closed for that time.

"The plane's not going anywhere for quite a while," Mark said. "It has some substantial damage to the wheels and right wing."

Trustees ready to create new taxing district

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
11-20-03

Wheeling trustees could officially create another special taxing district in the village as early as Monday evening.

The new tax increment financing district, which has been in the planning phase since May, would follow

Dundee Road starting at the Dunhurst Shopping Center to the west and spreading east to Wolf Road. It would also include land along Wheeling Road south to Mercantile Court, as well as the triangle formed by Old McHenry

Road, state Route 83 and Dundee Road.

The new TIF district, called the Town Center TIF, would freeze the amount of property taxes all taxing bodies in the village can collect from the district for up to 23 years. Property owners will still see property taxes go up as their land increases in value. However, any additional tax dollars paid, or the increment, would be put into a special fund and used for redevelopment and capital improvements.

The village wants to create the new TIF district to build a town center around the Metra train station and to alleviate flooding in the area.

The TIF will not give the village any more legal authority to purchase land, condemn land or make improvements, but it will give officials access to money outside of the annual budget to do those things.

The Village Board held a public hearing on the new TIF district Nov. 10. It must wait a minimum of 14 days between the public hearing and passing a resolution creating the district.

Three people spoke during the public hearing, including one resident — Laurel Anderson.

Anderson questioned the Village Board's plans to build more condominiums around the train station right next to Commonwealth Edison's high-tension power lines located across the street on Wheeling Road. She also said she feared the new town center would strip Wheeling of its charm.

"I don't see why Wheeling has to become a cookie-cutter town like Arlington Heights, Palatine, Mount Prospect, all the way down the line."

Resident Laurel Anderson

"I don't see why Wheeling has to become a cookie-cutter town like Arlington Heights, Palatine, Mount Prospect, all the way down the line," she said. "We have a unique

town. ... I don't see why we have to be like every other town."

Village officials are still working with hired consultants to finalize plans for the new town center. Trustee Trevor Lehmann said there is still time for residents to comment on those plans.

"I just hope all residents get involved so Wheeling doesn't become a cookie-cutter town," he said, echoing Anderson's sentiments.

Dan Ozanich, Wheeling's community development director, said the village will have more public meetings concerning the town center development, the next of which is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Community Recreation Center.

The Village Board will hear the consultant's recommendations at an upcoming regular meeting, where the public will also be able to comment.

"The trustees and the Plan Commission do listen; that's the main thing," Ozanich said. "Everybody has an opinion. The more opinions we hear, the better the chance we'll see what the population really wants."

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneerlocal.com.

Wheeling may buy

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer
NOV 14, 2003

Wheeling leaders believe the solution to the staff's space shortage could lie in a 66,000-square-foot building on Dundee Road.

Trustees are considering buying the building at 350 E. Dundee Road and using it to house several village departments. Buying the building,

which is now home to Cole-Taylor Bank, would cost \$5 million, roughly \$1 million of which would be used for renovations and furnishings.

Funding would likely come from a general obligation bond issue, which would then be paid off by Wheeling taxpayers via the property tax levy.

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said the purchase would cost the owner of a \$200,000

home about \$11 in additional property taxes each year. Trustees could vote on the purchase proposal as Nov. 24.

If the purchase is approved, four village departments would move into the building: engineering; community development; fire prevention and economic development.

Now, those departments reside in several locations

Man robs bank, turns self in

11-13-03
BY VERONICA GONZALEZ
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 25-year-old Wheeling man walked into a Mount Prospect bank Friday afternoon, handed a teller a note demanding money and walked out.

Minutes later, he did something rather unusual.

He called police from a pay phone in nearby Randhurst Shopping Center and turned himself in, said Mount Prospect police Sgt. Mark Bonner.

"It's not normal procedure for a bank robber to follow,"

Bonner said Friday night. "They don't usually give us a call after they commit their offense."

The FBI immediately took the man into custody, he said.

At about 2:20 p.m. the man walked into the Bank One at 55 E. Euclid Ave., a freestanding bank near Randhurst.

The man handed the teller a note and walked out with an undisclosed amount of money, then walked over to the mall, Bonner said.

Neither the man's name or the charges were available Friday night.

Solara adds

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Solara Tapas Bar is tempting to offer a variety of Tapas, or small plates, along Wheeling's famous cuisine. Portions are signed to be shared by people, said Eddie Lakin. "It's bar food," Lakin said. "It's not for large groups of people, passing around plates around."

Tapas plates are not set up like traditional entrees, where there is usually a starch, vegetable and a featured meat. Rather, tapas features either a starch, or a cheese, or a meat, or a vegetable on its own. Many tapas are also served in a specific

Touch of Spain

Lakin lived in Barcelona, Spain, for 10 months, and he said the time he spent there helped inspire the menu at Solara Tapas Bar.

(Continued on page 13)

Man robs bank, turns himself in

BY PAT KROCHMAL
STAFF WRITER
11-20-03

The FBI charged a Wheeling man with bank robbery Monday after he reportedly admitted he stole about \$800 from Bank One in Mount Prospect Nov. 14 — and then called police and waited to be arrested.

Justin A. Bordner, 25, of 1430 Sandstone, presented a note that read, "This is a robbery," to a teller at the bank located at 55 E. Euclid Road about 2:30 p.m., said an FBI spokeswoman.

The teller handed over the money, which was mostly in \$50 bills. About 10 minutes later, the man called the Mount Prospect police, identified himself by name and told them that

armed, offered no resistance. In fact, he told officers that the money was in his pocket, the spokeswoman added.

The officers returned Bordner to the bank, where the teller identified him as the robber. A surveillance camera also recorded a man matching his description in digital photographs.

Bordner identified himself as the robber in the photos, and gave a verbal, as well as a written, confession to the FBI agents, who are charged with conducting investigations of federally insured banks.

Why did he turn himself in? "We don't know," said an agent. "We really don't know."

"Most of the time, from my days in said."

Lakin volunteered restaurants a few days at a time eventually returned and began the kitchen of downstairs. He dishes, then cleans. He works hard making eventually ran himself.

Lakin said it hard as he can on authentic Spanish for all the like those he work in Barcelona. He ingredients from part of "When cooking layering flavor you skimp one after that is got something."

The almonds chokes and ric all come from pork at the r from Spanish Solara also and has an ex with varieties

Bank 'best option' for space needs

Many trustees see Cole Taylor Bank building as a temporary fix to problems

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER
11-20-03

All seven Wheeling trustees agree that buying the Cole Taylor Bank building is in the village's best interests, and most agree the building can help ease the space crunch in Village Hall to varying degrees.

The Village Board plans to buy the building at the intersection of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue and move six departments there. Those departments include administration, finance, engineering, community development, economic development and fire prevention.

"It's the best option at this point," said Village President Greg Klatecki. "I don't think we can build that type of building for the amount we're paying for it."

The village will spend about \$5 million to purchase the building and pay for the move. Cole Taylor, which moved out of the second and third floors of the building last month, is putting \$3 million of its own money into the purchase. The bank will lease the first floor of the building for \$100,000 annually in order to maintain a branch office there.

The administration, finance and fire prevention departments reside in Village Hall now. Engineering is located in the public works facility behind Village Hall. Community development and economic development rent space in the Wickes Furniture building next to the Community Recreation Center for \$50,000 a year.

However, community development and economic development may soon lose its home. Wickes has told the village it will not renew an annual lease in February, when the current



Richard Bajalich/Pioneer Press

Village officials are seriously considering the purchase of the Cole Taylor Bank building, possibly for use as a new village hall.

one expires, and instead offer a month-to-month lease to the village. Village officials said Wickes is entertaining offers for its building for redevelopment.

"I think that is part of the urgency to move," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "(Wickes) will be doing something there soon and then where do we go?"

'One-stop' service

Other proponents of the move say it will put many related departments in one building, especially those which deal with building permits. Currently, if a developer is seeking permits, they have to make trips to both Village Hall and

indeed take that course, even though he has heard nothing official regarding that possibility.

"There is no indication (the board) is not going to do it," he said in reference to annexing the residential areas. "It is possible in the face of the outcry

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Village officials say they are committed to making an industrial area now in unincorporated Cook County part of the village. They may, however, delay annexing nearby residential areas.

The Village Board is expected to vote on annexing the

Board of Appeals, Room 601, 118 N. Clark St., Chicago, or from Court House, 2121 Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows, from the Complaint forms also can be picked up at the Rolling Meadows Heights Road, can help property owners begin the process. The Wheeling Township Assessor's office, 1616 N. Arlington end at 5 p.m. on Jan. 2. The opportunity to file assessment appeal complaints will be denied property owner. A lawyer is not required to file on behalf of a resident. Latest property assessments to the board if they feel the amount houses, apartment buildings and businesses can appeal their Owners of single-family houses, condominiums, town assessments appeals complaints. The closing date for Wheeling Township property owners to file the Cook County Board of Review announced that Jan. 2 is

Assessment appeal period ends Jan. 2
2003.
He was hired by the Wheeling Park District in January. IPR annual conferences.

'(The village is) not in the real-estate business'

Trustee Judy Abruscato

the offices at Wickes.

"We'll have one-stop shopping at Village Hall," Trustee Robert Heer said. "People don't want to be told they have to go over to Wickes. It makes it more convenient."

Abruscato and Heer have been the biggest supporters on the board for moving village offices into the Cole Tay-

and a good retail location."

Commercial future?

Most trustees want to see a commercial development at the busy intersection. When village offices move into the building, it would be removed from the property tax rolls. In 2002, Cole Taylor paid \$377,000 in property taxes.

"I think it's a more valuable corner for something other than Village Hall," Trustee Patrick Horcher said. "I think we can get some type of shops there that could get both commercial property taxes and sales taxes."

Heer also said he would favor moving village offices back to Village Hall if it can be expanded. Only Abruscato is not in favor of selling the building for commercial development.

"(The village is) not in the real-estate business," she said.

Abruscato also said she is doubtful the flood issues can be resolved at Village Hall. She said conversations with former village staff indicated it would be near impossible to alleviate the flooding to the point Village Hall could be expanded.

"Even if we could, it would take five to 10 years," she said. "If it was so easy, why hasn't it been done yet?"

lor building. Both have been adamant about finding more space for village employees for the past few years.

Many trustees see the Cole Taylor building as a temporary solution to village office needs. They hope flood issues at the current Village Hall can be alleviated, which would allow for expansion. The probability of

Other trustees are confident the flood issue can be addressed. They believe the forthcoming study from consultant Burke Engineering will tell the village how to do it.

"I feel real sure we can do it," Trustee Michael Horcher said. "We can go up with it. We maybe can't go (out). We'll see what the footprint can be."

Money questions

Village officials are also struggling to find the best way to come up with the \$5 million for buying the building and moving in. The Cole Taylor building is in a tax-increment financing district, but the village cannot use TIF money to buy property for municipal purposes.

The possibility exists that the village will borrow the money and pay it back through increased property taxes. Finance Director Michael Mondschain estimated a property owner with a home valued at \$200,000 would see their tax bills increase by just under \$11 annually to pay off a \$5 million bond.

Trustee Dean Argiris said if the village is to borrow money, the time is now.

"I'm in the mortgage business, so I see the interest rates every day," he said. "We can't keep waiting for the day we can hopefully add to Village Hall. In-

flooding at Village Hall is high, and federal laws currently prevent construction there.

However, a flood study is coming, which may include solutions to help Village Hall with its flood problem, and then expansion can begin. Most trustees agree the Cole Taylor building would serve as a temporary home for village offices until the flood hazard at Village Hall can be reduced.

Once Village Hall is expanded, the village can then sell the Cole Taylor building for redevelopment.

"We have to look at (redevelopment) carefully," Klatecki said. "It's a major intersection

(Continued on page 11)

interest rates are under 5 percent. We should bond now before (rates) climb to 8, 9, 10 percent."

Michael Horcher said he is concerned about the village carrying more debt and having Wheeling residents foot the bill.

"That might be a real burden on an average working person in the village," he said. "We can always sell it and hopefully make some money, and end the bond quicker. But we'll still need money for (Village Hall) expansion."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann supports the purchase of the Cole Taylor building, but he does not want to borrow money or move village offices into the building.

"It's not responsible to take a building off the tax rolls and add to our debt for village offices," he argued.

Lehmann said he would rather see the village use TIF money to buy the building and immediately sell it to a developer.

Village and bank officials are still working on some language for the lease agreement between the two entities. That should be worked out fairly quickly.

Nothing about the prospective purchase or plans for the building are certain, however.


"Everything is speculative until we buy the building," Klatecki said.

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneerlocal.com.


the second and third floors of the building last month, is putting \$3 million of its own money into the purchase. The bank will lease the first floor of

Village officials are seriously considering one expires, and instead offer a

Don Parker, a young out-revenue in the area. boosts business and sale tax in the northern suburbs, which nomic engine driving tourism. Botanic Garden is a great eco-teers, Sutfeld said the



WHEELING



SCHAMBURG

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Pictureque pond, in unit laundry, Garage w/ storage, Great location! Close to Metro and same floor.
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because of lack of homes. Barrington Transportation Company will sponsor a bus to transport the sailors. The bus will pick up the boys at Great Lakes and bring them to the Barrington Park District parking lot by 10:30 a.m., where they can be picked up. The bus will leave the park district at 6 p.m. for the return trip. Those interested can call Beth and Phil Lageschnite at (847) 381-6869. The bus is limited to 50 sailors.

ON THE WEB: www.pioneerlocal.com

Board's annexation vote draws near

Trustees zero in on industrial properties in effort to improve village's appearance

11-27-03
BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Village officials say they are committed to making an industrial area now in unincorporated Cook County part of the village. They may, however, delay annexing nearby residential areas.

The Village Board is expected to vote on annexing the properties Dec. 8, but it is unclear if all the properties in question will be annexed. Trustees have talked since the summer about annexing seven areas of unincorporated Cook County within the village's borders.

The areas include Wolf Run Estates; Industrial and Sumac lanes; the area around Edward and Russel streets and Vera Lane; the Plum Creek apartments and Hunt Club condominiums; Jackson Drive; an area on Milwaukee Avenue just north of Hintz Road; and another area on Hintz Road just west of Milwaukee Avenue.

Village officials met with residents and business owners from the unincorporated areas in three meetings held Nov. 11 and Nov. 18. Residents filed Council Chambers at Village Hall Nov. 11 to hear what annexation will cost them in additional taxes and what services will be available to them if they are annexed. Many returned for a meeting held at Village Hall the evening of Nov. 18.

Business owners on Industrial and Sumac lanes constituted most of the attendees at a meeting held the morning of Nov. 18 at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

At the Palwaukee meeting, Assistant to the Village Manager Mark Rooney hinted that the Village Board may not annex all the residential areas. Village Manager Wallace

Douthwaite said the board may indeed take that course, even though he has heard nothing official regarding that possibility.

"There is no indication (the board) is not going to do it," he said in reference to annexing the residential areas. "It is possible in the face of the outcry

an issue in the residential areas, village officials said. But they are concerned that there may be soil and other contamination issues in the industrial areas. The village has no power to fix those problems, and Cook County code enforcement is nearly nonexistent, village officials said.

"It's an image thing. Those areas are seen as part of Wheeling."

Village Manager Wallace Douthwaite

we heard from some residents (during the meetings). At that first meeting, they asked if it was pretty much a done deal. Like I said then, it's never a done deal until the board passes it."

Village President Greg Klatecki said it is "a possibility" the board may not annex all the targeted areas at the Dec. 8 meeting. But he anticipates all the properties will be annexed — sooner or later.

Douthwaite said bringing the residential properties into the village will mean an increase in state aid of about \$108 per person who becomes a village resident through annexation. Douthwaite also said annexing the areas would allow the village to enforce village building codes in those areas and "clean up" some of those properties.

Trustees have complained that the look of some unincorporated areas, particularly those along Industrial and Sumac lanes, gives Wheeling a black eye to people who travel through the village.

"It's an image thing," Douthwaite said. "Those areas are seen as part of Wheeling."

Appearance is much less of

Douthwaite tried to alleviate residents' fears of a drastic increase in taxes and code enforcement when they met Nov. 11. Finance Director Michael Mondschain estimated those residents of unincorporated areas who own a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 would pay an additional \$312 annually in property and other taxes after annexation.

Business owners also were worried about increased property taxes. They will be hit harder because commercial and industrial properties in Cook County are assessed at a higher value than residential property. Code enforcement may also be a hardship for Industrial and Sumac lane business owners.

"What about parking (enforcement)?" asked Herb Behrenbruch, of Herb's Auto Craft Interiors. "The building owners could lose a lot of tenants (if it's changed)."

The owners of more than one auto body and auto repair service park cars on their properties and on the streets in the Industrial and Sumac lane areas, which is a violation of village code.

Rooney said the village

would send inspectors to the newly annexed areas and work with property owners on meeting codes. Issues that endanger the public health would be highest on the inspectors' lists to correct, Rooney said. Other issues, like parking, could be fixed over a longer period of time.

Douthwaite said more information will be provided to property owners Monday, when village attorneys and trustees hold a workshop meeting on

the annexation. Trustees expect to get their first look at the annexation ordinance Dec. 8. Both meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Klatecki and Douthwaite said they did not expect the Dec. 1 meeting to include discussions about which particular areas to annex. Those conversations would most likely take place Dec. 8, when the ordinance is officially before the board.



H. Rick Barriman/Pioneer Press

Holiday preparations

Wheeling building services crew chief Mike Bliefemich inspects electrical connections of the holiday display at Friendship Park, which is now in full illumination for the holidays.

Wheeling sets up tax district to create a downtown

MATT ARABO
Wheeling Staff Writer / 1-25-03

Wheeling, unlike many of its neighbors, doesn't have a downtown area, so village leaders will try to create one. Trustees on Monday night created a special taxing area along Dundee Road in an effort to turn it into a "town center." The town center project will be focused around the Metra train station south of Dundee Road. Redevelopment likely will consist of a mixture of shops and residences, similar to what was like Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights have done around their downtown train

deposits. The village plans to make important flood-control improvements in the Dundee Road corridor as well. To fund the improvements, trustees established a tax increment financing district that includes both sides of Dundee — roughly between Wolf and Elmhurst roads — as well as property south of Dundee where the train station is located. In a TIF district, a town can freeze property tax levels for up to 23 years. As property owners in the district pay more in property taxes as the value of the land increases, the amount paid above the frozen level is used to

cover certain redevelopment and site improvement costs. The town center TIF district is the second one created by the village this year, and is its fourth active TIF district overall. The village board approved the new TIF on Monday night by a 5-1 vote. Trustee Judy Abruscato was the lone dissenter on the board. She said she's worried the village is moving ahead with the town center project too quickly. "I think we have too many TIFs going on," Abruscato said. "We should finish with the ones we already have before starting with the town center." Trustee Patrick Horcher said

the TIF district provides the village with an important funding tool that will help property owners in the district upgrade or renovate their parcels. "For me, the benefit of this is that it allows us to give money back to the property owners, so they can make improvements," Horcher said. Wheeling's three other TIF districts are located along Milwaukee Avenue. One of them, located at North Milwaukee and Lake-Cook Road, was created in February. Village leaders hope the new TIF districts will diversify Wheeling's tax base and upgrade the village's image.

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Wheeling officials help solving flooding woes

Dec 4, 2003
BY KIMBERLY FORNEK
STAFF REPORTER

owned by the Horchers. Rooney estimates between six and 12 acres would be needed for the lake, which would not prevent the Horchers from developing the remainder of the property. Officials walked the farm with Michael Horcher, who said Monday that nothing is definite yet. Widening and deepening the Wheeling Drainage Ditch will be examined as another possible way to increase storm-water retention.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Balling said, "Everybody (at the Nov. 20 meeting) seems to have agreed to try and find new sites for storm-water retention, preferably in Cook County, so that Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve doesn't become a mud flat." For its part, Buffalo Grove will explore ways to increase the efficiency and flow of Buffalo Creek within its borders.

Wheeling's hopes "We didn't do it just to be magnanimous," Rooney said. Wheeling officials hope that if new storm-water storage areas are developed, the Army Corps of Engineers will redraw area flood maps, which currently designate areas around Wheeling's municipal complex and the train station as flood way and flood plain, making them unbuildable. If the those areas no longer were classified as at risk of flooding, it would make it easier for Wheeling to begin development of a downtown area around the train station south of Dundee. The Village Board just last week created a tax-increment-financing district to facilitate development of that area. Wheeling would benefit, communities to the south would benefit from the new levy, and the proposed expansion of the reservoir could be reduced and designed in a more environmentally sensitive way, Rooney said. While the newfound spirit of cooperation may be encouraging, it does not guarantee the problems are solved. "A couple of giant steps" must take place first, Balling said. Alternative storm-water retention methods must be engineered, and the money to acquire the farm property for the lake must be procured. They are "milestones" a committee of representatives from the villages and agencies involved will address, along with a consultant hired by the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the cost and practicality of other flood-control options.

Long Grove's fears The plan to enlarge the capacity of the Buffalo Creek Reservoir from 720 acre-feet to about 1,200 acre-feet seemed reasonable to Buffalo Grove officials last summer because the reservoir and the forest preserve that surrounds it on the northwest corner of Lake-Cook and Arlington Heights roads were established to provide flood-water control. Long Grove officials opposed the expansion because they fear it would destroy trails and wildlife habitat in the nearest forest preserve to their community. The Lake County Forest Preserve District, which owns Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve, also objected to an expansion that would harm natural resources and deprive residents of recreational activities during an estimated two-year construction period. The Army Corps of Engineer proposed the reservoir expansion to solve a drainage problem farther south. A flood wall, called Levy 37, has been designed to prevent the Des Plaines River from flooding Des Plaines River Road. "There's serious flooding in Prospect Heights and Mount Prospect right now

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Special taxing paves way for town center

BY CASEY MORFITT
STAFF WRITER
12.4.03

Only one trustee on the Village Board ed against creating a new special taxing district, which help officials build a new town center.

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Solving flooding woes

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Wheeling's hopes

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If the those areas no longer were classified as at risk of flooding, it would make it easier for Wheeling to begin development of a downtown area around the train station south of Dundee. The Village Board last week created a tax-increment-financing district to facilitate development of that area.

Wheeling would benefit communities to the south would benefit from the new levy, and the proposed expansion of the reservoir could be reduced and designed in a more environmentally sensitive way, Rooney said.

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Kimberly Fornek can be reached at kfornek@wvnet.com.

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Dec 4, 2003

By Kimberly Fornek

STAFF REPORTER

Local officials will look for places other than the Buffalo Creek Reservoir to provide storm-water storage, and one may be the Horcher farm in Wheeling.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' willingness to consider alternatives to a plan to increase the capacity of Buffalo Creek Reservoir by two-thirds was welcome news to Long Grove Village President Tony Dean, who opposed the reservoir expansion from the first moment he heard about it.

"It's too early to break out the champagne," Dean said at a Long Grove Village Board meeting last week. But Long Grove's "vociferous" objections to a larger reservoir "expanded the envelope of solutions" to reduce flooding from the Des Plaines River and its tributaries, he said.

Officials from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Long Grove, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies discussed alternative solutions at a Nov. 20 meeting in Buffalo Grove.

"The tone and style of this meeting was very different" from earlier meetings, Dean said.

"The general consensus (of the communities and the agencies involved) was to look at alternative sites for storm-water storage, so the Buffalo Creek Reservoir would not be the first and only choice," said Mark Rooney, Wheeling's assistant village manager. "We are willing to put our community into the mix."

Rooney said the storage area could possibly be built in Prospect Heights and along River Road.

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BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

2-4-03

ing one trustee on the Village Board against creating a new taxing district, which officials build a new enter.

see Judy Abruscato alone dissenting vote, the need to finish projects in the village establish another permanent financing district help develop a town

but she wants to make progress in other TIF districts in the village before working on the town center. She said she went back and forth on the new TIF district for 180 days before deciding

east to the eastern boarder of London Middle School to the west. It also includes land around the Metra train station along Wheeling Road and the triangular area cre-

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Road) TIF. ... Now we want a town center. I just think there are other things that need to be done."

"I tormented with it," she said. "But I said, 'No. We don't need another.'"

The new TIF district stretches along Dundee Road from Wolf Road to the

create a bustling, pedestrian-oriented town center.

Village officials, along with local business leaders, are working with consultants from the Lakota Group, S.B. Friedman and Co., and the Metro Transportation Group to come up with potential development schemes for the new town center. A grant from the Regional Transportation Authority is paying for the development planning.

The new TIF will also help the village address flood issues in the area. Many resi-

dents and businesses in or around the TIF are required to buy expensive flood insurance. Village officials are trying to find ways to create more storm-water detention, reducing the risk of flooding in the area.

Reducing the flood hazard will be necessary to build the new town center, but it will also benefit many residents and business owners.

The TIF freezes the amount of money in property taxes that can be collected by all taxing bodies from the district. Property owners still

see increases in their property tax bills as their property values increase, but the amount of money left after paying all taxing bodies is put into a separate fund.

The money from that fund can be used to acquire property or make other public improvements, like water detention and road construction. The TIF does not give the village any more authority to condemn or acquire property, but it does give village officials money outside of the annual budget to do so.

The Town Center TIF is

the fourth in Wheeling. The three others run along Milwaukee Avenue. The last one was created in February and covers areas along North Milwaukee Avenue up to Lake Cook Road. The TIF that covers the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road is set to expire in 2008.

Trustees approved the TIF creation with little discussion at the board's Nov. 24 meeting.

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Ringling up taxes for consumers

Exploding telecoms providing windfall for many village budgets

By PATRICK CORCORAN

STAFF REPORTER

Dec 4, 2003

When communities across the suburbs face revenue shortfalls, elected officials turn to local telecommunication taxes to bridge budget gaps.

With the state telecom tax set at 7 percent and local municipal taxes capped at 6 percent, Chicago suburban consumers are paying some of the highest fees in the nation for telephone, cell phone and other wireless services, according to industry and consumer groups.

In 2001, telecom taxes were collected from more than 9 million people and totaled \$430 million in revenue for Illinois municipalities, according to a 2002 Illinois Civic Federation study.

By 2010, mobile subscribers worldwide could total 2.2 billion people, according to the World-wide Mobility Report: 2003, by industry forecaster Telecompetition Inc. It also estimates total worldwide revenue for both voice and mobile data services to reach \$400 billion in 2003 and \$800 billion by 2010.

With economic factors wrecking havoc on sales tax revenues, local municipalities are eyeing a piece of the telecom pie.

Large population suburbs such as Schaumburg and Arlington Heights anticipate telecom tax revenues to exceed \$5 million. For Schaumburg, the telecom tax is one of the means for pulling the village out of a \$5.1 million budget deficit.

"States and cities across the country are facing budget crunches and this is one of the sources they start looking at for money," said Travis Larson, spokesman for the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. "I think wireless consumers are becoming more aware of the ridiculous and exorbitant fees and telecom taxes for wireless services."

For the average cell phone user, the tax could total up to \$13 on a \$100 bill, and it doesn't matter where the phone or service is purchased. It's all a matter of where the customer lives or does business.

State comparison

Local increases approved in 2002 and 2003 hit Illinois consumers and businesses particularly hard because of the state's

areas it's a home or a business.

Barrington Hills

Barrington Hills residents pay a 5 percent telecommunication tax, which includes cellular service. Village officials do not track what portion of the tax comes from cell phones.

Buffalo Grove

The village increased its telecommunication tax as of Jan. 1, from 3 percent to 6 percent. The increase went into effect for current fiscal year 2003-04.

The village budgeted about \$2.3 million in revenue this year from this tax, which applies to traditional telephone service, cellular service and "all telecommunication services" the state taxes. Last year, the village took in about \$1.8 million.

Palatine



Pioneer Press file photo

Cell phones and other telecommunication services are bringing in hefty sums of revenues for some villages through their telecom tax. Illinois' telecommunication tax — 7 percent goes to the state and up to 6 percent can be levied by the village — is one of the highest in the nation.

7 percent telecom tax, Larson said.

When the telecom tax is combined with the general business tax rate, telecommunication services are taxed 19.71 percent to do business in Illinois, Larson said.

Comparatively, only New York is higher, charging more than 20 percent in business and telecom taxes. Idaho is the lowest with a total of 4.27 percent. Indiana's total tax is 12.36 percent, Michigan's is 11.2 percent and Wisconsin's is 9.65 percent.

In 2001, Illinois' telecommunication tax hit its high point, generating \$675 million, according to the Illinois Economic & Fiscal Commission's annual public utility tax report. Revenues, however, have declined since, largely because of the increased use of DSL and cable modems for Internet access, which cannot be taxed at this point.

When the Illinois telecom taxes are combined with the local telecom taxes, suburban consumers are facing some of the highest telecom fees in the country, Larson said, and consumers may not know they are being affected.

Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association studies show that while prices for cellular phones and service have dropped by more than 30 percent in the last five years, taxes, fees, and other government-imposed mandates have countered those savings by as much as 20 percent in some

states during the same time period.

Cell phones play a key role in telecommunication tax, but local municipalities don't know how those numbers break down.

Under the Simplified Telecommunications Tax, as of Jan. 1 the state collects and distributes telecom taxes to local suburban governments.

"The state collects the tax in the same way they collect sales tax," said Sam Trakas, assistant to the Palatine village manager. "The village used to have to implement tax and maintenance fees and telecoms used to have to submit information to the village. The problem is there are too many telecoms, so now the telecoms submit a report with the rate to the state of Illinois."

Still, increasing public awareness of the steep telecom taxes is reaching the point where people are starting to feel gouged in the pocketbook, Larson said.

The fact that the telecom tax rates are significantly higher than other consumer goods and services that are taxed at an average rate of 6 percent is evidence of the disparity of the taxes and fees, Larson said.

Local taxes up

In 2003, Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows, Elk Grove Village and South Barrington all approved local telecom tax increases, and more communi-

ties are edging toward the state's 6 percent telecom tax cap.

Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove hit the cap last year when the two villages hiked telecom taxes.

For a tax applied locally for the first time just seven years ago, in 1996, suburban communities have come to depend on it.

Schaumburg's telecom tax, which brought \$4.6 million into the village, will increase to 6 percent on Jan. 1. It is projected to raise \$5.8 million next year. The village's telecom tax rate was 3 percent in 2000.

Hoffman Estates' telecom tax of 6 percent is projected to account for more than 11 percent of next year's general revenue fund. It raised more than \$3.2 million in 2003 for the village's general fund.

In some communities, the telecom's tax's history is even shorter. Neither Barrington nor Arlington Heights levied telecom taxes until 2000; however, Arlington Heights officials estimate its 6 percent tax generated \$5 million this year. Barrington will collect more than \$600,000 from its 3.5 percent tax in 2003.

Some communities, including Barrington and Elk Grove, restrict how the village can spend the telecom tax revenue, but other communities, such as Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg, do not.

For Elk Grove Village, an

Ringling Continued from page 7

original 3 percent telecom tax was created as a way to fund continuing improvements at the village's economic engine — the industrial park. Over the years, several million dollars in revenue generated by the telecom tax has been used to improve the aging industrial park.

Elk Grove Village Manager Gary Parrin said tagging those funds is a way to recognize the importance of the industrial park.

"The vitality of the park is tied to the vitality of the community. The tax is absolutely important to us because the general fund itself would not be able to support programs we had envisioned for the industrial park," Parrin said.

Hoffman Estates Village Finance Director Michael DuCharme said the telecom tax has become a valuable source of funding for the community.

Telecom tax by village

In the northwest suburbs, villages' telecommunication tax ranges from zero to the state limit of 6 percent, with some revenues totaling as high as \$5 million. Here's how some villages tax phone service, including cell phones.

Arlington Heights

Anticipating a budget shortfall last year, the Arlington Heights Village Board imposed a 6 percent telecommunication tax, which became effective Jan. 1. Annual income from the tax this year has been estimated at \$5 million.

"We really won't know until the end of the first year, but it seems to be coming in pretty close to that," said Finance Director Tom Kuehne. Land lines, as well as cellular phones, are subject to the telecommunication tax.

Money is collected based on the location of the address on the ac-

(Continued on page 20)

Consumers pay

Industry officials say, unfortunately, consumers are in a bind because their telecom taxes are levied based on their billing address, not where they buy their phone. The only recourse is to protest to local and state politicians, said Carolyn Schamberger, a spokeswoman for Verizon Wireless.

Schamberger said, right now, most consumers base their decision on phone service on factors other than the telecom taxes. However, she calls them an industrywide problem.

"So far, we've found that taxes are not a differentiator for purchasing a cell phone or service, but overall the telecommunication industry is very highly taxed and this may be an issue in the future. "The things that people look

the infrastructure and maintenance fund, and in 2003, about \$1.5 million will go to the telecommunication capital improvement fund.

Schaumburg

Schaumburg's telecommunication tax is 4 percent, but village officials have approved a 2 percent increase. The tax will be 6 percent beginning Jan. 1.

Finance Director Douglas Ellsworth said the tax brought in \$4.6 million during the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Revenue for this fiscal year, which began May 1, is projected to be \$5.8 million. The projected figure includes the increase in the tax to take effect next year.

The tax does include tax revenue on cellular phones.

Wheeling

these and other tails resolved

Cell phones and other telecommunications are yourselves would find hurtful."

The origins of the Golden Rule

Buffalo Grove/A recent letter to the editor claimed that "the Golden Rule came to us from Jesus Christ... To deny the Golden Rule is to rob it of any genuine and eternal authority." ("Free speech, except when it's religious?" *Countryside*, Nov. 27)

Without trying to start a religious war about it, the Golden Rule existed long before the birth of Jesus. According to the encyclopedia Britannica, the Golden Rule "also appears in the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Isocrates, and Seneca." The first three of which died hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus.

Confucius died in 479 B.C. One of the things he taught was, "Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you." The one called Buddha died around the same time as Confucius. One of the things he taught was, "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."

Any citizen who believes is scheduled for Tuesday. (also known as The Tax Relief and Waste Reduction Act of 2003). The County Board's vote is scheduled for Tuesday.

the Strogger administration's argument that a 2-percent reduction in a \$3 billion county budget will cause the loss of 3,300 jobs is being had. The county government, as we all know, is not, and never has been, a lean, mean, efficient governmental machine. In fact, many departments have become bloated, lazy and totally unchecked in the "private/tax/spend" habits, showing no regard for taxpayer's economic climate, or fiscal responsibility.

Now, it's the voters' turn. The opposition block has eight firm "No" votes in opposition to the Strogger tax-and-spend plan (Pete Silvestri, Carl Hansen, Elizabeth Gorman, Gregg Goslin, Tony Ferrara, Forrest Claypool, Mike Quigley and Larry Sutfredin).

We are in search of a ninth brave soul on the County Board. Won't you help us? Here is your chance to impact the process and the outcome that will have a direct impact on your pocketbook. It's your money!



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Barrington High School will
perform this Saturday.

How do you feel about tax increases?

Low Eisenberg

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whatsoever is not good for from doing unto another alone is good which refrains taught was, "That nature born. One of the things he of 500 years before Jesus was Zoroaster died a minimum

Real 'friends' would leave forests alone

Chicago/ am secretary of the Natural Forest Advocates, which is an organization that for many years has engaged in scientific research and public information concerning the "restoration" activities in the public forests in Illinois. Our research has resulted in clear evidence that the scientific assumption of the restorationists are not only faulty, but also contrary to the best interests of the public forests in Illinois.

Your recent articles concerning the Cook County Forest Preserve District quotes the representatives of restoration groups which filed a "report" concerning the status of the Cook County Forest Preserve District's natural areas. However, the report contained no scientific authorities, and when NARA filed a written response, which showed that valid scientific research was contrary to their position, the authors of the report failed to reply to our scientific

Commissioner 16th District Cook County Tony Ferrara

Board Room on Tuesday! See you in the County other tax increase. (312) 603-6398 and tell him or her how you feel about yet another tax increase.

Trustee Judy Abruscato cast the lone dissenting vote, citing the need to finish

to the best interests of the public forests in Illinois.

Wheeling works out logistics of annexations

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling leaders are working to make a recent series of annexations as painless as possible for the affected residents and business owners.

The forcibly annexed properties include nearly a dozen small residential and industrial areas around the village. The properties had previously been

part of unincorporated Cook County, and village leaders say many had grown blighted.

Now that they're part of Wheeling, the properties will be served by the village's fire and public works department. They'll also be held to Wheeling's building and zoning codes.

Wheeling officials are now taking care of all the logistical issues that arise when annexing property.

For starters, the village is preparing annexation documents that need to be filed with Cook County. The village is also changing its 911 databases, so that people in the annexed areas will reach Wheeling emergency personnel when they call for help.

Village Manager Wally Douthwaite said staff members hope to have these and other logistical details resolved by

the end of the year.

In light of the annexations, Wheeling plans to pay for a special census that will update the village's official population count. This census, which will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000, will result in about \$200,000 in additional yearly per capita income from the state, Douthwaite said.

The village also is taking extra steps to soften the transition for

residents and businesses in the annexed areas.

For example, residents with working wells will not be forced to tap into the village's water system. And the village board has decided not to use special service areas to pay for infrastructure improvements in the annexed neighborhoods; in a special service area, property

owners pay an additional property tax in return for local improvements.

"This board has agreed that if we have to improve certain areas, it will be done on our dime," Douthwaite said.

The village also plans to alter its zoning code to give annexed business owners more flexibility.

Despite these concessions, some residents and business owners in the annexed areas are uneasy about the change.

Brian Marks, a resident of the 2906 block of north Schoenbeck Road, said the financial impact

of annexation might force him to move elsewhere.

"I grew up in Wheeling, so I have no problem with the village, but I moved to this home specifically for budget reasons," Marks said.

Marks estimated that annexation will cost him \$1,000 in additional taxes each year.

Douthwaite said the impact will likely be less than that. He said the owner of a \$200,000 home will pay about \$380 more in municipal property taxes each year, minus what the owner previously paid to the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District. The net increase will be about \$130, he said.

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See ANNEX on PAGE 3

Continued from Page 1

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Wheeling grows overnight

Annexation of seven unincorporated areas seen as way to improve village's look

By CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling welcomed about 1,300 new residents last week.

They became part of the village after the Village Board voted Dec. 8 to annex seven areas that lied within Wheeling's borders but were technically considered to be in unincorporated Cook County.

Very few residents of the unincorporated areas attended the Dec. 8 meeting, although many attended three public meetings on the issue held by village officials in November. The ones that did attend the board meeting voiced their opposition.

Mary Godley of Jackson Drive represented her neighbors on the street and simply said, "We are opposed to it."

Jan O'Brand, a 25-year resident of the Plum Creek condominiums, said many of her elderly and foreign-born neighbors felt they had little voice in the board's decision. She was

also dismayed that only a half dozen of her neighbors attended last week's final meeting on the topic.

"I don't know how we can fight it with only six people," she said.

Residents and businesses in the annexed areas will now receive village services and pay property taxes to the village. The properties also will be subject to village zoning laws and other municipal codes. Trustees said annexing the areas will give the village power to enforce local codes, improving the village's appearance and image.

Village officials, however, are also sympathetic to the way many of the people live — and make a living. Some of them run home businesses, including plumbing and landscaping services, and small-motor repairs. Village officials believe there are about a dozen such businesses.

"You probably have the most sensitive board you can get on this issue," said Trustee Michael

(Continued on page 13)

Board annexes property

The Wheeling Village Board annexed several pieces of property into the village that were formerly located in unincorporated Cook County. Trustees believe the move will lead to an improved village appearance and image.



Some want more from planned town center

By CASEY MOFFITT
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Despite five months' work by professional consultants, some members of a committee responsible for planning a Wheeling town center say a more aggressive plan is needed.

Committee members are generally pleased with the concepts and designs consultants S.B. Friedman and Co. and the Lakota Group envision for the area. But they also want more.

"It seems the further from the train station they got, the less creative they were," said Trustee Trevor Lehmann, one of nine committee members.

Lehmann was particularly disappointed with suggestions for Lynn Plaza, Dunhurst Shopping Plaza and the former Kmart building. He said he would rather redevelop all of those areas with updated retail shops.

Consultants suggested "facade improvements" for Lynn Plaza and Dunhurst Plaza, and attracting another retailer such as Home Depot or Lowes to take over the 106,000-square-foot Kmart

building.

Village President Greg Klatchki, who also sits on the committee, said he believes a home improvement retailer would be "useful" for Wheeling. Lehmann agreed, but not at the Kmart site. He said he would rather see such a store at Dunhurst Plaza, on the outskirts of the new development.

"That entire (Kmart) triangle is the center of where everything is," Lehmann said. "I don't think we want a sea of concrete right in the middle."

The committee agreed to spend up to 18 months seeking out a single retailer for the Kmart site before considering tearing it down and starting from scratch.

The redevelopment plan, which focuses on the area around the Metra train station, calls for new multifamily housing and retail shops around the depot. The plan also extends west along Dundee Road and includes Lynn Plaza, the vacated Kmart building, the strip malls along Dundee Road and the Dunhurst Shopping Center.

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The Village Board is expected to make those changes to the zoning code in the near future.

Trustees said annexing the areas will allow the village to enforce other codes, especially in business areas along Industrial and Sumac lanes where there are concerns of soil contamination and other public health problems. Trustees have said that area in particular is a blight on the village.

The annexation also will boost village state aid revenues by about \$108 for each new resident. The village, however, needs to conduct a special census in those areas in order to collect the money. A special census cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

The annexation also forces the village to hire an additional full-time home inspector at an annual cost of about \$70,000, and three more police officers at an annual cost of \$197,000.

Police Chief John Popadowski said the department will wait a while before hiring the new officers. He said the department has analyzed the number of calls for service to the Cook County Sheriff's Police from the unincorporated area, but he expects the local department will get more.

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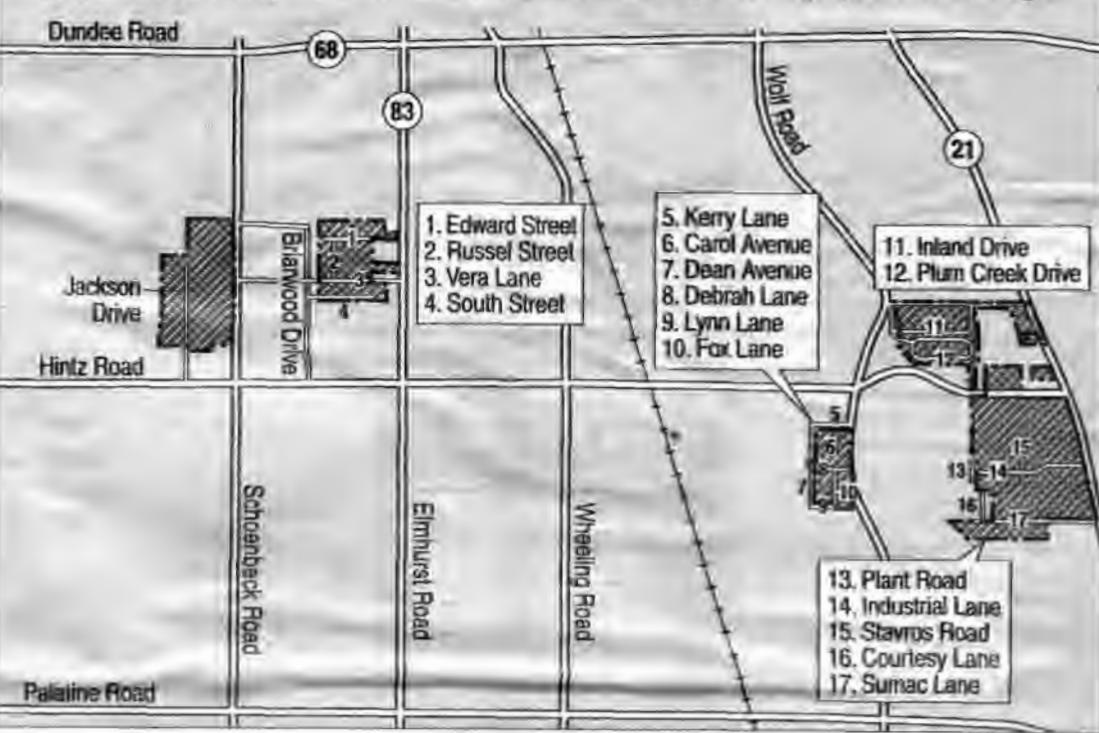
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Flower Press/UK

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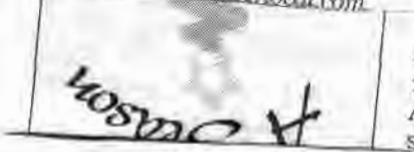
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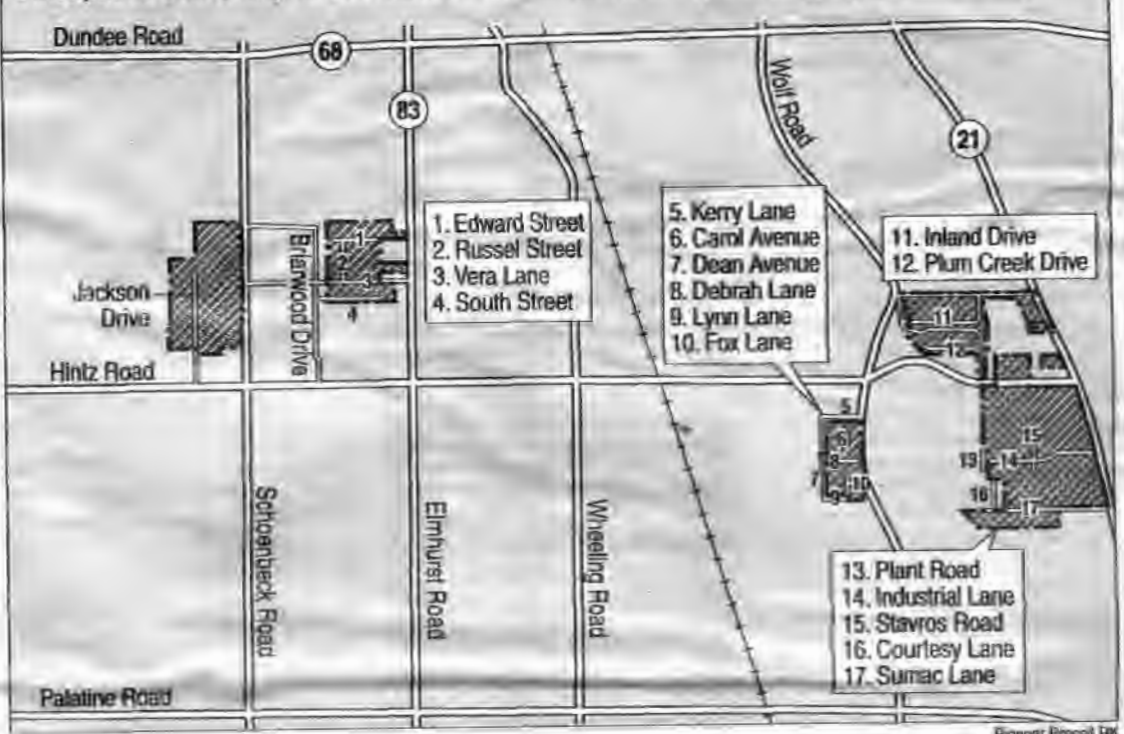
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Committee members are generally pleased with the concepts and designs consultants S.B. Friedman and Co. and the Lakota Group envision for the area. But they also want more.

"It seems the further from the train station they got, the less creative they were," said Trustee Trevor Lehmann, one of nine committee members.

Lehmann was particularly disappointed with suggestions for Lynn Plaza, Dunhurst Shopping Plaza and the former Kmart building. He said he would rather redevelop all of those areas with updated retail shops.

Consultants suggested "facade improvements" for Lynn Plaza and Dunhurst Plaza, and attracting another retailer such as Home Depot or Lowes to take over the 106,000-square-foot Kmart

building.

Village President Greg Klatecki, who also sits on the committee, said he believes a home improvement retailer would be "useful" for Wheeling. Lehmann agreed, but not at the Kmart site. He said he would rather see such a store at Dunhurst Plaza, on the outskirts of the new development.

"That entire (Kmart) triangle is the center of where everything is," Lehmann said. "I don't think we want a sea of concrete right in the middle."

The committee agreed to spend up to 18 months seeking out a single retailer for the Kmart site before considering tearing it down and starting from scratch.

The redevelopment plan, which focuses on the area around the Metra train station, calls for new multifamily housing and retail shops around the depot. The plan also extends west along Dundee Road and includes Lynn Plaza, the vacated Kmart building, the strip malls along Dundee Road and the Dunhurst Shopping Center.

(Continued on page 11)

Village sets tax levy increase

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling homeowners can expect to see a slight increase in the share of property taxes they pay to village government next year, according to estimates from village officials.

Michael Mondschain, Wheeling's finance director, outlined the village's proposed tax levy to the Village Board at a Dec. 1 meeting. Mondschain reported the village will collect about \$7.65 million in property taxes next year, compared to the \$7.45 million it collected in 2003.

That puts the net levy increase at 2.74 percent, Mondschain said. A taxpayer whose home has a fair market value of \$200,000 should expect to pay a total of about \$387 to the village, an increase of \$8.18.

Despite the tax increase, village officials are still expecting a \$1.5 million revenue shortfall next year that will be covered with money from the village's reserve fund.

Mondschain attributed the deficit to a decrease in revenue from sales taxes, state income tax aid and declining returns on investments due to abnormally low interest rates. Costs are also outpacing revenues. Salaries and benefit costs make up the largest spending increases, with health insurance cost increases averaging close to 20 percent over the past three years.

Mondschain estimated the village's reserve fund will total about \$13 million Dec. 31, the end of the village's fiscal year. Village savings will decrease to about \$11.5

million at the end of the next fiscal year, according to Mondschain's estimates.

Trustees asked whether it was prudent to use savings to offset next year's spending deficit. Mondschain said the remaining reserves will equal about 49.1 percent of the village's total operating expenditures. He said savings equal to 25 percent of operating expenses is considered a "healthy fund balance."

Trustee Trevor Lehmann asked if the village should increase its levy to cover the deficit instead of relying on reserve funds. Mondschain said adding \$1.5 million to the levy would have increased the village's tax request by a total of 20.1 percent next year.

Next year's tax collection does not include money that will be used for the probable purchase of the Cole Taylor Bank building. Village officials have indicated the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue facility will be used to house village offices once it is purchased. Officials expect to issue about \$5 million in debt for the purchase and move, with \$4 million going toward purchase alone.

According to a preliminary budget presented to the Village Board, the debt would have increased the levy to \$8.2 million. Mondschain explained the building will most likely be purchased after the new year, so the debt service will be moved to the village's 2005 budget.

Casey Moffitt can be reached at cmoffitt@pioneerlocal.com.

Plan Commissioner Ken Brady, another committee member, said he would like to see a name-brand grocer in the proposal. But Village Planner Jeff Harris said it might be difficult to attract one, considering Wheeling has four grocery stores already — Aldi, Fresh Farms, Garden Fresh Produce and Carriceria Jimenez — three of which are on Dundee Road.

"I think those are specialty stores in the eyes of many," Brady said. "With 600 (housing) units in the town center, they're going to need a place to buy groceries. If we don't at least put a name-brand grocery store in (the plan), they may not think we want one."

The housing units would be built mainly around the train station, according to the plan. Smaller retail stores would accompany the new condominiums, town houses and row houses, but most of those shops would be built closer to Dundee Road.

pete with Canadian National Railroad cargo trains on the tracks, and Metra must operate around Canadian National's schedule.

The consultant's draft proposal also includes construction of a new village hall in the area around the train station, an idea that has its supporters and detractors. The Village Board is working on a deal to purchase the Cole Taylor Bank building at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road to house village offices, with the hopes of expanding the current Village Hall one day.

However, William Whitmer, Wheeling's economic development director, reminded the committee that the proposal is a guide only, and suggested a village hall should be left in to "recognize it as an option."

All comments and suggestions made by the committee will now be put into the draft proposal and presented to the Village Board when complete. It

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Wheeling grows overnight

Incorporated areas seen as way to improve village's look

the Cook County Sheriff's Police from the unincorporated area, but he expects the local department will get more.

"We expect the expectations (for service) will be raised with being annexed," he said. "But I just want to say, we're going to be there for you."

The Village Board also said it would foot the bill to improve water mains, sewer lines and roads in the annexed areas, even though the village is under no obligation to do so. The Wheeling Public Works Department has estimated it could cost as much as \$5.5 million to improve the annexed streets.

The high costs are what prompted Trustee Judy Abruzzo to vote against annexation. She was the only trustee who opposed it.

"There are a lot of minuses," she said. "When you take the figures — who's paying? I don't think (the board is) wrong. It's just my feeling."

Village officials still have to finalize annexation documents and submit them to Cook County officials before annexation is complete. That may not happen until after the new year.

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that only a half-dozen neighbors attended that meeting on the only six people," she said.

and businesses in areas will now receive services and pay for the village. The zoning laws and codes will be subject to the village's zoning laws and codes. Trustees have the power to improve the village and make variance and image.

officials, however, are sympathetic to the way the people live — and living. Some of them are businesses, including and landscaping and small-motor repairs. Village officials believe Village officials still have to finalize annexation documents and submit them to Cook County officials before annexation is complete. That may not happen until after the new year.

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Annexation

Board an nexes property

The Wheeling Village Board annexed several pieces of property into the village that were formerly located in unincorporated Cook County. Trustees believe the move will lead to an improved village appearance and image.

Some want more from planned town center

building.

Village President Greg Klatacki, who also sits on the committee, said he believes a home improvement center when any work will be begun in the town center area, and the entire project could take more than a decade to complete. The consultants were paid with grant money issued by the Regional Transportation Authority.

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Metra trains currently come through the town center area, but the village is planning to build a new line of track that will allow for more trains traveling to and from Chicago, and village officials want to take advantage of more riders by offering commuters a place to shop or live close to the train station. The track should be operational by 2006.

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Trustee Trevor Lehmann asked if the village should increase its levy to cover the next year, compared to the million in property taxes Mondschnain reported the village will collect about \$7.65 Board at a Dec. 1 meeting. Mondschnain reported the village posed tax levy to the Village Board at a Dec. 1 meeting.

Michael Mondschnain, Wheeling's finance director, outlined the village's projected expenditures. He said savings equal to 25 percent of operating expenses is considered a "healthy fund balance."

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Village sets tax levy increase

By Casey Moffitt

STAFF WRITER

More than 1,600 people were packed into an auditorium, signed to hold 1,600. According to reports from that era, light set a stage curtain on fire. An asbestos fire curtain, v was to protect the audience in case of a fire, became stuck and was lowered, leaving the audience exposed to flames and smoke.

The fire spread rapidly. Panic ensued.

An estimated 600 died, most of them women and children.

Many of those in attendance that day were from the suburbs. If you know of any survivors or casualties and if you have any stories about their experiences that they may have told, please fax us at (847) 599-6902 or e-mail us at lake@pioneerlocal.com by Dec. 16. Leave your name and telephone and someone on staff will get back in touch with you.

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Assessment appeal seminar scheduled

Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Maureen Murphy will hold an assessment appeal seminar for Wheeling Township residents Monday.

The seminar will be held at the Wheeling Township building, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Registration is open at 6 p.m. and the seminar begins at 6:30 p.m. The seminar will cover topics such as gathering evidence for an appeal, procuring and filing out an appeal application, and discussing how long a Board of Review decision should take. Murphy said those who believe their property is assessed too high should appeal; there is no fee for the procedure. The deadline for filing an appeal is Jan. 2.

The seminar is sponsored by State Rep. Sidney Mathias, R-53rd, and Wheeling Township Assessor Dolores Stephan. Property owners who attend are encouraged to bring their tax bill, assessment notice or property identification number to the seminar to assist in completing a complaint form. Those wanting more information on the seminar can call the Board of Review at (312) 603-3644.

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trouble spots

Wheeling hopes to beautify areas

12-17-03
BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees on Monday brought a number of unincorporated properties under village control in an effort to beautify the community and improve its image.

The forcibly annexed properties include two residential areas west of Route 83, an area of smaller homes and businesses south of Hintz Road, the Plum Creek and Hunt Club condominiums and several industrial areas along Milwaukee Avenue.

Village leaders say the annexations will allow the village to make much-needed improvements on the properties, from fixing crumbling roads to eliminating eyesores.

The village board approved the annexations individually with 5-1 votes.

Trustee Judy Abruscato voted

of rockets outfitted with so-called dirty bombs — warheads designed to scatter deadly radioactive material — appear

CHISINAV, Moldova — Dozens

Baghdad Survey data said.

Shite Muslim south, the Gallup

were the Kurdish north and

Press. The bloodiest massacres

Monday by The Associated

according to a survey obtained

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Hussein's government may have

Report: Dirty bombs missing:

Baghdad Survey data said.

Shite Muslim south, the Gallup

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Press. The bloodiest massacres

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according to a survey obtained

condos not nailed down

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-22-03
Wheeling leaders continue to discuss how much money they should give a developer who plans to build a condominium complex in town.

During a recent workshop meeting, trustees tentatively agreed to provide up to \$7.5 million in assistance to developer Mark Smith for construction of the 306-unit Prairie Park condominium complex on Wolf Road near Milwaukee Avenue.

Under the tentative arrangement, no money would be paid up front; rather, the village would pay the developer only as condo units are sold. The payments would stop, though, after five years, regardless of whether the entire condo project is completed. The details of the financial assistance are still tentative. Attorneys for the village and Smith are working on a final development agreement for the Prairie Park project.

Assuming the village does, in fact, agree to provide financial assistance for the project, the money would come from tax increment financing revenues.

If the village doesn't have enough TIF funds on hand for the Prairie Park assistance, it can borrow the money and pay off the debt with future TIF revenues. Trustees are taking care to support the Prairie Park project, which they agree will be good for Wheeling, without putting the village at any financial risk.

Money comes with conditions

BY CASEY MOFFITT
STAFF WRITER

12-25-03
The Wheeling Village Board is willing to give a local developer money to help him build a 306-unit condominium project, but only after the homes are built and sold.

Mark Smith of Smith Family Construction hopes to get \$7.5 million from the village through the tax increment financing fund the board established in February near the

concerned with paying off debt. It's an added expense to taxpayers."

Village Manger Wallace Douthwaite said the village can expect to break even on its investment sometime between 2014 and 2018. He also said the village can expect to earn between \$16 million and \$24 million through property taxes from the project over the 23-year life of the TIF district.

Wheeling approves no-trills spending plan

Dec 24, 2003

BY MATT ARADO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling leaders have approved a budget they say will get the village through next year, but won't do much else.

The 2004 budget totals \$60.4 million. The general fund, which covers salaries and most day-to-day expenses, totals about \$23.5 million.

Officials described the budget as a "status quo" spend-

No new programs or staff included as village dips into its reserves

ing plan. It includes no new programs or personnel.

"Because of the economy, our revenues are not what they used to be," Finance Director Michael Mondschain said. "So this budget just allows us to keep operating at current levels."

Wheeling is collecting less revenue from sales taxes, the

state income tax and interest earnings, Mondschain said.

Overall, the village is taking in about \$1.14 million less than it did during the 2002 fiscal year.

Because of the decline in revenue, the 2004 general fund originally showed a deficit of about \$1.6 million. Village leaders decided to cover the

shortfall by dipping into reserves.

The good news is that even after withdrawing those funds, the village's reserves will still be healthy, totaling about 50 percent of the village's operating costs, twice the targeted 25 percent level.

"Those reserves are allowing us to get through the period

we're in without relying on big tax increases," Mondschain said.

The 2003 property tax levy is 2.7 percent higher than the previous levy. Mondschain said most homeowners in town will pay \$5 to \$10 more to the village next year.

The 2004 budget takes effect Jan. 1, marking the first time

Wheeling has had a January to December fiscal year.

To make the switch, the village approved an eight-month interim budget to cover the period from May 1 through Dec. 31 of this year.

Though the budget approved, trustees in January will discuss the possibility of shifting funds around so more is provided to social services agencies like Omni Youth Services.

Police to document all stops in 2004

New state law aimed at determining if racial profiling is at play on our roadways

By KAREN BERKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

12-25-03

Starting Jan. 1, police officers will be required to record the race of each driver they stop and whether the motorist is ticketed, searched or sent on his or her way, under a new Illinois law aimed at identifying patterns of bias in policing.

The information will be collected through December 2007 and forwarded to the state periodically as part of a four-year study to determine whether members of minority groups are pulled over in disproportionate numbers and treated more harshly than whites.

About 1,000 police agencies will file the data with the Illinois Department of Transportation under the new law to measure the extent of racial profiling. Illinois is the 14th state to require statewide data collection.

"Every black male you speak to will tell you he has been pulled over, stopped, searched and had his car

searched — then told to go on his way because nothing was found," said state Rep. Monique Davis, D-27th, of Chicago, who championed the bill for five years in the Illinois House.

"This will require police to document why they stopped the driver, whether there was a traffic violation, whether the car was searched and whether further action was taken," Davis said.

Disparity in police stops will be analyzed both in the context of the community's census counts and the population that travels through the community.

Five categories

At the time of each stop, police officers must make a subjective determination as to the race of the person stopped, selecting from one of five categories: Caucasian; African-American; Hispanic; Native American or Alaskan; and Asian or Pacific Islander.

According to IDOT, racial

Racial profiling checklist

Police officers throughout Illinois will be required to file information on all traffic stops, even those generating only a verbal warning, under a new law aimed at detecting bias in policing.

- Date, time and location of stop, including police beat
- Officer's name and badge number
- Driver's name, address, birthdate and gender
- Driver's race, as subjectively determined by officer
- Reason for stop: Moving violation, faulty equipment or license plate/registration irregularity
- If stop was based on moving violation, what kind?
- Was the result of the stop a citation, a written warning or a verbal warning?
- Was the vehicle searched?
- Was the driver searched?
- Were the passengers searched?
- Was contraband found?
- Were drugs, alcohol or paraphernalia found?
- Was a weapon found?
- Was stolen property found?



Source: Illinois Department of Transportation

Pioneer Press / chic

profiling studies are based on the officer's visual determination of race, since perception is the basis for profiling. Moreover, "if the officer questions

the driver about his race, the driver may become confrontational or think his rights are being violated," noted IDOT. The data will be analyzed by

the Center for Public Safety at Northwestern University, which has conducted similar analyses for states and local ju- (Continued on page 12)

risdictions, including one for the city of Highland Park under the terms of a consent decree.

Alexander Weiss, director of the Center for Public Safety at Northwestern, said about 5,000 law enforcement agencies around the country are collecting race data on traffic stops.

"For the most part, agencies (elsewhere) are finding there is no disproportionality in traffic stops," Weiss said. "On occasion, what they find are pockets of a few officers engaging in some kind of race stops, but no agencywide or systemic problem."

However, the picture changes when agencies look at the traffic stops resulting in searches of the driver, the passengers or the vehicle.

"It doesn't appear that race entered into the decision to stop the person, but that minorities are more likely to be searched than whites," Weiss said, speaking of the findings of other analyses.

While Illinois is not the first state to analyze racial data in traffic stops, the new law represents the largest statewide data collection, "so that makes it unique," Weiss said.

For each stop, police will record the alleged violation that led to the stop, such as a broken taillight, expired registration or turning-signal violation.

The officer also will record whether the stop resulted in a traffic citation or merely a written or verbal warning.

The information also will include whether the driver, occupants and vehicle were searched and whether the search was consensual or based on "reasonable suspicion" or "probable cause."

If a search is conducted, police must report whether any drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or weapons were found.

Sensitivity training

The racial profiling law calls for police officers to receive sensitivity training toward racial and ethnic differences.

Edwin Yohnka, director of

racial profiling. But the only way to test that and to check it is to have some measurement on the street.

"This simply gives law enforcement a tool for ... determining if there is any corrective action that needs to be taken," Yohnka said.

Passage of the legislation during the spring 2003 session marked a long-awaited victory for supporters, including the ACLU. Similar measures had met with defeat in four previous legislative sessions.

"It took that long for us to get our legislators to internalize what a person feels like once this has happened to them," Davis said. "They feel demeaned. They feel like less than a citizen of the United States of America."

For the accused, "it feels like there must be something wrong with me for me to be treated this way," Davis said.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police was among the police organizations that initially opposed the law but participated in negotiating the final version.

"Our first concern was we did not want to ask the violator his race," said Laimutis Nargelenas, manager of governmental relations for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. That concern was addressed by both Davis and state Sen. Barack Obama, D-13th, of Chicago, the bill's key supporter in the Illinois Senate.

"Now we are going to merely guess at the race of the individuals. Much of the time we may be completely off," Nargelenas said, noting that one test pointed to an error rate as high as 30 percent.

However, "If the officer perceives the person to be a minority, it doesn't matter what race they are. If they are treated differently, that is what matters."

While some police officials have complained about the extra work involved in documenting stops involving a verbal warning, the chiefs association concurred with sponsors on the importance of documenting all stops. A compromise was struck limiting the work to three

ations for new law began months a

system, the village's Management Information Systems Department created software that would allow input of additional data in a format that can be forwarded to the state.

At this point, police authorities don't know how much more time recording the additional information will take or how much extra work it will make for records department.

"It's a mandate, so we have to follow it," Husak said.

Patrol officers do not make a lot of traffic stops that they do not already document, either because they issue a ticket or a written warning "to educate the driver," Husak said.

Currently, if an officer stops a driver and then lets the motorist proceed with only a verbal warning, no report is filed. Husak believes "the vast majority

of stops by Buffalo Grove officers result in some sort of documentation.

Whether the data will be revealing or useful depends on what Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety finds.

"It will be interesting to see," Husak said.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief John Stone said following the requirements of the new law and documenting all stops on paper for the Illinois Department of Transportation will be "no big deal" for officers.

"We've been working for two months now to prepare," he said. "We went to a meeting with IDOT, and they answered all our questions."

Stone said the department already reviews arrest information to determine if racial profiling is occurring. He said a

new computer program they are hoping to introduce will help with those efforts.

"You need to be able to put statistics up yourself," he said. "Other departments having had lawsuits filed against them. I evaluate yourself, you're open to self up."

Wheeling police already have racial and ethnic sensitivity training, and Stone said the department comes the increased training in the new law.

"The only difference is that officers must receive it in basic training. They get it now, but not more of an extension."

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Pioneer Press / chc

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If a search is conducted, police must report whether any drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or weapons were found.

Sensitivity training

The racial profiling law calls for police officers to receive sensitivity training toward racial and ethnic differences.

Edwin Yohnka, director of communications for the American Civil Liberties Union in Chicago, said similar laws in other states have "been a great tool for law enforcement leadership to ensure that they are protecting against any kind of profiling."

"We believe that most law enforcement agencies do not want and do not (practice)

racial profiling. But the only way to test that and to check it is to have some measurement on the street.

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For the accused, "it feels like there must be something wrong with me for me to be treated this way," Davis said.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police was among the police organizations that initially opposed the law but participated in negotiating the final version.

"Our first concern was we did not want to ask the violator his race," said Laimutis Nargelenas, manager of governmental relations for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. That concern was addressed by both Davis and state Sen. Barack Obama, D-13th, of Chicago, the bill's key supporter in the Illinois Senate.

"Now we are going to merely guess at the race of the individuals. Much of the time we may be completely off," Nargelenas said, noting that one test pointed to an error rate as high as 30 percent.

However, "if the officer perceives the person to be a minority, it doesn't matter what race they are. If they are treated differently, that is what matters."

While some police officials have complained about the extra work involved in documenting stops involving a verbal warning, the chiefs association concurred with sponsors on the importance of documenting all stops. A compromise was struck limiting the extra work to three pieces of information that could be completed in 30 seconds.

"The minority legislators felt the most egregious things were taking place during those stops that were not documented," Nargelenas said. "We didn't have a problem with that."

ations for new law began months ago

system, the village's Management Information Systems Department created software that would allow input of additional data in a format that can be forwarded to the state.

At this point, police authorities don't know how much more time recording the additional information will take or how much extra work it will make for the records department.

"It's a mandate, so we have to follow," Husak said.

Patrol officers do not make a lot of traffic stops that they do not already document, either because they issue a ticket or a written warning "to educate the driver," Husak said.

Currently, if an officer stops a driver and then lets the motorist proceed with only a verbal warning, no report is filed. Husak believes "the vast majority"

of stops by Buffalo Grove officers result in some sort of documentation.

Whether the data will be revealing or useful depends on what Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety finds.

"It will be interesting to see," Husak said.

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief John Stone said following the requirements of the new law and documenting all stops on paper for the Illinois Department of Transportation will be "no big deal" for officers.

"We've been working for two months now to prepare," he said. "We went to a meeting with IDOT, and they answered all our questions."

Stone said the department already reviews arrest information to determine if racial profiling is occurring. He said a

new computer program the department is hoping to introduce will enhance those efforts.

"You need to be able to pull (the statistics) up yourself," he said. "You see other departments having problems with racial profiling, and you see the lawsuits filed against them. If you don't evaluate yourself, you're opening yourself up."

Wheeling police already receive racial and ethnic sensitivity training, and Stone said the department welcomes the increased training mandated in the new law.

"The only difference is that new officers must receive it in basic training," he said. "They get it now, but not a lot. It's more of an extension."